

## CHIEF G. C. CHIDOZIE PhD, KSJI 'Ichie Oku n'eye ife Ojoto'

**H**onest, brilliant, influential, and intellectual are a few words that readily come to mind when describing the Late Chief (Engr.) Godfrey Chira Chidozie, Ichie Oku n'eye ife Ojoto. A true role model on how to live a life of integrity. He was a loving husband, a caring father, a doting grandfather, an indulgent brother, a wise uncle, and a trusted friend and colleague. How lucky we all are to have known this amazing man.

Starting from very humble beginnings as a village boy in Ojoto, he overcame great odds to pursue a first-class education that propelled his illustrious career in the Nigerian civil service. An avid sportsman who was active in every community he lived in and even in retirement, he continued to pursue interests in education and remained very influential and instrumental to the development of his community.

### Early Days

Godfrey was the first child of Nwokafor Uduezue Chidozie and his wife MaryRose Nwaku Nwamelu Chidozie of Ezieke village. Uduezue was quite successful by village standards, he was a prominent farmer with significant yam barns, lived in a 4-bedroom zinc house and owned a bicycle. Uduezue and MaryRose would go on to have 5 additional children: The late Mr. Michael I. Chidozie, Mrs. Obiageli T. Ekwosiobi, Mr. Alochukwu A. Chidozie, Mrs. Nwanneka R. Ojialor, and Mrs. Ifeyinwa C. Obiasor; all of whom were sent to school, boys and girls alike.

Godfrey started school in 1948 at St Odilia's Catholic Primary School Ojoto, where his brilliance as a student showed early. He regularly won prizes for weekly Friday tests, and by standard four, he was routinely being called upon to solve arithmetic problems in standard five classes. It was his performance in a parish level examination that earned St. Odilia's primary school the creation of the sixth standard in 1953. Up until then, the school stopped at standard five, making him one of the first pupils to study in standard six at the school. No stranger to responsibilities as a first son, he developed a sense of leadership early taking care of his younger siblings. He was also very generous with his knowledge and his father's house in Ezieke village became a study centre for other boys who gathered there to do their homework under his supervision.

His academic performance at St Odilia's primary school soon caught the attention

of his headmaster Chief James O. Okigbo who recognized he was material for Government College Umuahia, a famous school that was not in his sights. The headmaster got him registered for the examination which he sat for. However, after not receiving his result, he assumed he had failed the exams. But for his destiny helper Mr. Oli of Oba, a known figure in Eastern Nigeria, whose son Johnny also sat for the exam and received a fail, queried the results and demanded that the scripts be brought out and scrutinised. Low and behold it turned out Johnny took 1st position followed by a Godfrey Chidozie in 2nd position! That was how his journey to Govt. College Umuahia began in 1955.



### Old Boy Govt. College, Umuahia

Going to college was never a given, he was lucky to be born into a family that believed in education enough to pay his school fees. Nwokafor Uduezue his father, paid his 1st term fees to Govt. College Umuahia before his merit scholarship from Onitsha Northern District Council worth £30 per annum kicked in. His annual school fees then was £35 per annum, the balance came from another scholarship from Ojoto Improvement Union (O.I.U).

At Umuahia, he was about the only one who had come from such a remote village, but despite that, he made his mark and continued to excel both in academics and sports. He excelled in maths and became well known for his boxing skills. In fact, regardless of how angry you were with him, you could not pick a fight, as he was the best boxer in the class, eventually becoming boxing captain of the school for many years. Board games were his thing, and he was an expert monopoly, draft, and scrabble player; he was so good at monopoly it earned him the nickname "Rustler". His very good friend and classmate Eugene Ibe called him a maverick in their class of 1955 brochure, noting that he was argumentative, with his own brand of philosophy: "Nnamua is a mammal. A goat is a mammal, therefore Nnamua is a goat" - Nnamua being a wicked senior at Umuahia who dealt with the junior students.

For saying this, he was made a bell ringer, the most dreaded punishment which required that he wake up before everyone else to ring the



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# Biography

IN LOVING MEMORY

morning bell. It was a huge responsibility to be the school timekeeper and quite scary to navigate the dark paths leading to the school bell late at night or early in the morning. He spent a total of six years at Govt. College Umuahia and upon graduation had earned his WASC and HSC, awarded by the University of Cambridge, and a GCE awarded by the University of London. In the 9 months between finishing at Govt. College and going to the University, he taught Mathematics at Enitona High School in Port Harcourt.

## Becoming an Engineer

In September of 1962, he left for Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria to study Electrical Engineering. ABU was the best Engineering School in Nigeria at that time and was comparable to elite engineering schools in the UK. He had won the very comprehensive Federal Government Scholarship that provided for full boarding, tuition, books, good pocket money and other allowances. The provision even covered transport to and from University. He graduated in June 1966 and had offers from Shell Oil Company and Electricity Co-op of Nigeria ECN (old name for NEPA) among others. He opted for ECN over Shell because the Shell job required him to know how to swim and importantly, the pay at ECN was better. He joined ECN headquarters in Lagos in September 1966. As a newly minted engineering graduate with a solid job, he was able to secure a loan to purchase a Peugeot 404 which he returned home with when he was transferred to Enugu in November of 1966. The purchase of that car was very timely as the Biafran war broke out not too long afterwards in 1967 and the car served him through the war.

As the war progressed, he was transferred from Enugu to Afam Power Station near Port- Harcourt in 1968 and in April of the same year he narrowly escaped death when Port Harcourt town fell to the Federal troops. He left Port Harcourt with only the clothes on his back and upon returning home, he served in the Biafran unit of Research and Production (RAP) that converted a palm oil mill into an oil refinery for the purpose of refining crude petroleum for the war effort. He was stationed at St. Peter's Primary School Akokwa.

In the middle of the war, he took a leave of absence to return to Ojoto to wed his beautiful bride Helen Chidozie (Nee Okigbo) in May of 1969, she joined him at Akokwa where they both remained until Biafra fell and the war ended in Jan of 1970.

## An Illustrious Career

Shortly after the war ended, Godfrey was re-absorbed into ECN and was posted to Onitsha in February of 1970 as a Reconstruction Engineer where he oversaw the rehabilitation of damaged power networks. By September of 1970, just three

months after the birth of his first son Chike, he moved his young family to Owerri to assume a new role as manager. Godfrey and Helen welcomed a daughter Amaka and another son Chukwuma during their time in Owerri. A career highlight was the construction of a 33kv power line linking Owerri to Aba.



In 1974, with his career on the upswing, Godfrey was posted to Aba, where he continued to grow the power base in the region, he oversaw the construction and commissioning of a 6 km 11kv power line extension to Umuoba railway junction about 23 km from Aba. In July 1975, his 4th child Ngozi was welcomed into the family.

Next stop was Ibadan in 1976 where he spent 3 years as a district engineer supervising the expansion of power distribution around Ibadan and surrounding areas. While in Ibadan, Chinelo his fifth child was born.

In recognition of his work in Ibadan, he was posted to Calabar and promoted to District Manager, one of the youngest in NEPA at the time. Calabar was experiencing significant population growth and more power capacity was needed to meet the growth. By the end of time in Calabar in 1982, he had grown the installed power capacity by over 200% and more than 30,000 consumers had been connected to the system. Chukwuemeka, his 6th and youngest child was born in Calabar.

His career successes brought on new responsibilities, this time it was to run the Ikeja district in Lagos, which was virtually the most complex district in the country and catered to about 45% of the entire Lagos load demand. This district has since been split into 3 autonomous districts for easier management of the workload. For his years in Lagos, he oversaw over 32 substation installations and extensions and was responsible for the entire country on distribution and planning. In 1997, after 30 years of service at NEPA, he retired from a multi decade career arc that reflected the hope and promise that was post-independence Nigeria. A career that was marked by service to the nation and community building.



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Electrification of Ojoto

After a career building power stations and electrifying communities, it only made sense that he would wish the same for his hometown. He had worked tirelessly over years to overcome all the obstacles in the way, and finally in December of 2000, Ojoto Unoh was hooked onto the National Grid. His chieftaincy title Ichie Oku n'eye Ife Ojoto reflects the appreciation the people of Ojoto have for the work he did to bring power to the community. This was truly the cherry on the cake that was his career. Even in retirement, Ichie's brain was still as sharp as ever, and he was full of energy, so he pursued a master's degree in Technology and Development of SMEs in 2000. He continued his quest for knowledge and in 2009, he earned a distinction on his doctoral thesis on strategic management for which he was awarded a PhD.

## Entrepreneur

Ichie Oku was an entrepreneur at heart. He believed in investments and encouraged everyone to set aside some of one's income for investments in blue chip stocks in the stock market and some for investing in real estate. His advice to his mentees upon getting their first jobs is to unfailingly save at least 10% of every paycheck for long term investments. If a career in Engineering had not worked out, he most certainly would have made it as an investment manager. His mind was constantly in motion for the next challenge and evaluating business opportunities. He was not just a thinker, he put a lot of those ideas to work and started a few businesses, most notably a soap making business and candle business, because he knew there was always a market for items used in everyday life.

## Community Involvement and Philanthropy

Having benefited tremendously from the Ojoto Improvement Union (OIU) scholarship in the early 1950s, he was interested and participated actively in the planning and execution of development projects in Ojoto and was the chairman of Progress Union of Ojoto in Lagos for several years. In Ojoto, as Ichie Ezieke, he was a very senior Ichie in the cabinet of Eze of Ojoto and his impact was felt with the numerous monetary contributions he made towards projects at the primary school, church, and various community projects. He was a benefactor to scores of Ojoto children and youth, paying for tuition and books; his only ask was if one was willing to go to school, and if yes, the fees were taken care of, in many situations up to the university level.

## Social Life

Ichie Oku was a very social person evident in the ease with which he could navigate a room making small talk; he could strike up conversation with just about anyone. He

has always been that way, right from his primary school days as a member of St. Odilia's primary school 1st -11 football team whose archrival was St. Theresa's Catholic School, Obosi. He loved the camaraderie of sports and in college he played table tennis, lawn tennis and was a long-distance runner. He used distance running to build up stamina for boxing. He understood the importance of sports to human well-being and always incorporated sports into his daily life. He joined the prominent sports club in every city he lived; in Port Harcourt, he was a member of Port Harcourt Sports Club, in Owerri, it was Owerri Sports Club, in Aba, Aba sports club, same thing for Ibadan where he played tennis at the Ibadan Recreational Club. In Calabar, Calabar Sports Club played host to his tennis tournaments and Ikeja Country Club was his sports home in Lagos. When Country Club became too long a drive, Ikoyi Club 1938 became the spot.

He also belonged to several social clubs, joining the Rotary Club of Aba in 1974, People's Club in 1981, and was a member of the Ojoto Social Club. The one thing that was clear in all his interactions was that regardless of all of his life successes, he remained very humble and accessible.

## Faith

His faith was at the centre of his life and provided a moral compass for his interactions with the world. He was very involved in the church in Ojoto and was chairman of annual church bazaars from early 1970s; in fact as soon as the war ended, he became a popular candidate to chair the annual Thanksgiving and Bazaar at St. Odilia's Church. In 1975, he journeyed to Rome and Lourdes on a holy pilgrimage, a journey he spoke about often. He was a member and Grand Patron of Catholic Men's Organisation at St. Odilia's Parish Ojoto, a Knight of St. John International, a Grand Patron of the Man of Order and Discipline (MOD) at St. Odilia's and CMO Onitsha archdiocese, and Grand Patron of Catholic Women's Organisation, Umuoji zone.

## Family Life

He was a partner in every sense of the word to his wife Helen and was very supportive of her interests. After she graduated with bachelor's in education from the University of Calabar, he encouraged her to pursue a master's degree which she did at the University of Lagos. He wanted her to reach the pinnacle in her chosen area of expertise and was



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behind her all the way. She was his confidant, and he truly valued her opinion. The two of them were a formidable force and created a stable and loving environment to raise their children.

As a father, Ichie Oku was loving and involved in his children's lives, he was always available to help with homework and had the patience of a teacher. During cross country site visits that he conducted for work, he would often stop and surprise them at boarding school with a visit, bringing with him an extra supply of provisions and pocket money. He was also a favourite with his grandchildren whom he adored and would often share his meals with. He would also pepper them with questions and give cash prizes for correct answers.

### Final Years

Ichie Oku suffered a stroke in February 2017 that kept him in a wheelchair, it limited his mobility but not his spirit or humour. His quick wit would always show up now and again to remind you of whom you were dealing with. He took things easy and got to spend quality time with his grandchildren, several of whom are now in the University.

He passed away surrounded by his children on Thursday, November 4, 2021. This was a day after he was given the last sacrament by a priest, so he was fully prepared for the final journey. He now rests in the Lord and is survived by his wife Mrs. Helen Chidozie (Iyom Akubugwu II), 6 children Mr. Chike Chidozie (Ichie Owulu Ojoto), Mrs. Amaka Udeze, Mr. Chukwuma Chidozie (Nnanyelugo), Ms. Ngozi Chidozie, Mrs. Chinelo Chidozie Egbuna, and Mr. Chukwuemeka Chidozie (Onochie); 5 sons and daughters in law; Chiedozi Udeze, Amauche Chidozie, Ikenna Egbuna, Awele Chidozie and Etana Chidozie; 11 grandchildren Kamsi, Kosi, Adaobi, Chiedozi, Uzoamaka, Ebubenna, Nathan, Ngozi, Nnamdi, Owen, Ifeanyi, and Justin; one brother Anthony Chidozie (Ugodinobi) and three sisters Mrs. Obiageli Ekwosiobi, Mrs. Nwanneka Ojialor, and Mrs. Ifeyinwa Obiasor.



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## The husband of my youth, my very good friend

**M**y husband Goddy Chidozie, also known by such other names as Nwoye Udezue or Nwoye Mkpume was a legend in Ojoto. As a young lad, he was famous even beyond Ojoto because of his academic prowess at St. Odilia's Primary School and became a champion of sorts in many areas of school life.

He was an ardent sports lover and a member of the football team which caused him to be loved by the headmaster and his teachers. He was also the first and only boy from St Odilia's to gain admission into Government College Umuahia in 1955; one of the foremost exclusive Colleges for the exceptionally brilliant. Goddy continued along this path and gained admission on full scholarship into Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria to pursue a degree in Electrical Engineering, graduating in 1966.

Goddy appeared on my scene in 1966 and started to show an interest in me. You see, I grew up quite cloistered, with adoring brothers and cousins and parents that were both loving and strict. I did all I could to discourage his interest – I hid from him whenever he was around, and I refused to give replies to his many letters. He did not give up, he pursued me for two and half years and in that process, converted every member of my family to a Goddy-advocate. I remained clueless to what they saw in him but on a whim decided to initiate a 9-day Novena to the Holy Spirit for guidance. The rest is history and till date I thank the Holy Spirit for His enlightenment which enabled me to make the right choice.

I also thank Goddy, my quintessential tough guy of sterling quality for his patience and understanding - I was young and naive. In the words of the songster Marvin Gaye, I sing "how sweet it is to be loved by you", among all the eligible girls, you found me worthy. You promised me a beautiful wedding and a trip around the world. Alas, the Biafran war arrived in 1967 intent on scuttling our plans, but my father in his wisdom advised us to wed. It was indeed a beautiful wedding by war-time standards - my wedding gown was a hand me down from my elder sister Patricia who had wedded two years earlier. Mrs. Onwuamaegbu, the wife

of Justice Onwuanaegbu, then Attorney General and Minister of Justice for Biafra, baked our wedding cake. Your friend, Engr Emeka Onwuegbusi supplied us the Golden Guinea Lager beers we served at our wedding. These were all scarce commodities during the war!

We started our lives together and learnt from one another. Ab initio, we built such confidence in each other that we kept people guessing at such immediate and complete trust. To some, it was the wife who was in-charge - that domineering girl from the Okigbo clan has come to mellow their brother! while others supposed that Goddy had totally captured this girl and fit her into his pocket. Like many marriages, ours was real, we quarreled, disagreed, exchanged hot words, and made up. Goddy forgave easily and I loved him greatly for this.



Goddy had so many great attributes – he was humble, kind, and unassuming. He had no affectations. He agreed or disagreed with you based on principle, it was never personal. He was also trustworthy. I tell people that in all the years of our marriage, he never told lies. He did not engage in idle talk and did not encourage gossip. My husband feared God and loved his fellow man, he truly lived out his name Godfrey, which means at peace with God. He chose this name for himself at the age of 7, during his baptism.

During our marriage, I often used to remind him in jest, of his promise to take me around the world – he would chuckle and remark that he took me and the children around Nigeria, referring to his frequent work postings and transfers that happened like clockwork every three years whilst he was still in active service. He was indeed a faithful husband and a committed father

For you my dear husband, no work, no challenge was insurmountable. We nurtured our children, and they have all grown to become our



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source of joy – All of them remind me of different facets of your character. Some remind me of your impressive fashion and style, others remind me of your strong personality, yet others remind me of your kindness, all of them remind me of your intelligence. I now reminisce and remember the ease with which you coached every one of them in Mathematics, Additional mathematics, or Physics. You taught for hours, patiently, almost seeming to enjoy the lessons more than your students.

Goddy was a beautiful dancer and took after his mother, Nwaku Nwamelu in that regard. Nne Nwamelu was considered a wonderful dancer among her peers. Goddy tried to teach me many European dances, the waltz, the fox trot, quick step and tango and we used to be regulars at dance parties and weekly Sunday jumps – those were truly beautiful times.

Goddy also made his parents proud. He truly epitomized the ideal of a first son – trustworthy and responsible. As a young adult, Goddy had taken over the sole responsibility of providing for his mother and siblings - he provided portable water for Nne Nwamelu, which meant that she never needed to worry about fetching water from the local streams. His siblings and cousins benefitted immensely from his kindness, paying for school tuitions for those desirous of an education became a non-issue.

My husband Goddy was my king. To honour him, I took the name 'Dibueze', translated easily as 'husband is king' at his installation as a high ranking Ichie of the Igwe council in Ojoto. He, in turn, was very happy with me and gave me the name Ugodie, signifying 'her husband's pride.

Today, I do not question God for your passing. No, not at all, you had always said you wanted to go before me. In this, our God answered your prayer and gave us ample time to prepare – you dealt with the impact of the stroke for almost 5 years, and we

used that time wisely. I thank Rev Frs. Paul and Mathew of the Catholic Church of Transfiguration, VGC for their weekly visits and Rev Fr. George of the Catholic Church of Divine Mercy, Lekki for the gift of a final blessing.

This piece is an ode, a song about the man I loved, respected, and trusted. It is a synopsis of a story of my journey of almost fifty-three years with my friend and the husband of my youth. Continue to rest in peace my darling, my champion, my 'Odogwu' in all ramifications.

Your wife,  
Nellie



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## Ichie Oku na Enye Ife! Nnam Odogwu! Nnukwu madu!

I miss you so much already. The psychological security you assured, our deep debates on a vast majority of topic, your exceptional intellect, your loving sarcasms, your sense of responsibility, are very special spaces you occupied in my life Ichie oku.

You were and will continue to be my champion original. You were that pillar that held everything together. Ichie Oku, you taught me to be responsible and independent from an early age. You allowed me a good deal of independence while keenly watching and gently nudging me away from danger. Though firm and not very emotionally expressive, my siblings and I were never in doubt that you loved us deeply and dearly.

To you, family comes first and I totally agree. With your unique humor, you taught many life lessons, like the difference between "what matters and what appears to matter", He importance of deferred gratification and the virtues of humility, integrity and honesty. You lived by these all through your life.

Ichie oku, you were exceptionally successful in every manner yet always understated and modest in posture. You believed that deeds were better advocates than words. You were a man of faith, a loving husband to our dear mom and an excellent dad. Your kindness reached beyond your immediate and extended family to the community and the society at large.

I may not have said it in plain words, but I am forever grateful for the privilege to have had you as father. I am super, super proud of you and will always be. The shoes you left for me are huge, but I promise to do my utmost best to fill them.

We are all mortals on a conveyor belt, some day each person's time will come.

Ichie Oku nnam... Rest in peace dad, until we meet to part no more.

Chike C Chidozie (Owulu)

*Son*



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Ichie oku n'enyefe Ojoto

## My father, my hero

**T**hursday November 4th 2021 is a day I will never forget because it is the day my dearest dad departed this world to be with his maker. I had spent Wednesday afternoon with him in the hospital, and although he could not say much, he looked deep into my eyes while I sang songs of praise to the Lord. I am so thankful for the privilege of spending those hours with him. He looked happy, and this gives me joy because he was cheerful until the very end.

As his first daughter, my dad and I had a very special relationship and he always paid attention to everything that concerned me; I actually do not remember him refusing any request I ever made. He was a great mathematician and my personal teacher, even with his very busy schedule, he made time to teach me. I remember the many maths lessons we had in preparation for my JAMB examination. He made solving maths problems seem so easy so much so that even when I copied a question wrong, he was able to give the right answer to it and show what the error in the question was.

When it came time for me to get married, even though he wanted me to marry a man from Ojoto so he could keep a close watch over me, he gave me his full blessing when I found my happiness in Neni. Dad loved his grandchildren and we all looked forward to our Sunday visits after church. He would make them line up from oldest to youngest asking questions which were followed with monetary compensation for the best answer. It was such a treat for the kids and there was never a dull moment with him, he seized every opportunity to ensure all around him were in good spirits.

I have such fun childhood memories of watching masquerades at Egwu Eke festival in Ojoto and of the annual church thanksgiving and bazaar. He ensured we built close relationships with our cousins and extended family members through our frequent visits to the village.

The last five years were not so easy because of his health, but he fought till the very last moment. We are thankful for the life he lived and the many lives he touched. He will forever remain in our hearts until we meet to part no more on the resurrection day.

Good night, Daddy.  
Love Always

Amaka  
*Daughter*



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## An incredible man

**M**y father was an incredible man. He epitomized my ideal of a family man, one who cared for his family dearly and effortlessly prioritized their needs.

I also have great pride in my father, particularly his resilience, which saw him achieve profound success in both big and little ways. In big ways because he impacted his community and served as a guide, leader and teacher to many who came in contact with him. In more subtle ways, because his template for family living has guided us his children in the way we should go.

Ichie, I will miss you immensely. Your humor and your smarts. I will miss your argumentative views, sometimes. All the time, I will miss your presence.

You were a one in a million father and my wish is to achieve a little fraction of what you accomplished in your time with us.

Chukwuma  
*Son*



## A daughter's tribute

**M**y father was many things to many people. He was a son that made his parents especially proud. He was the brother that was mindful of his siblings and showed care, the uncle that was very affable and approachable, the in-law that was well loved and respected, the community icon that people looked up to and wanted to emulate and the family man that was greatly loved by his wife and children.

He in turn loved his family dearly as family was very important to him. My father loved his wife Nellie deeply, the wife of his youth. She was 22 years old when she became wife and 23 when she became a mother. My mother was his anchor and partner in all things - his ride or die. She always had a calming influence on him and no matter how worrisome a situation appeared, when she was near by, all was well.

Nellie was my father's perfect 'hype man' - in their almost 53 years of marriage, for her, the sun shone through the lens of Ichie Oku. Indeed, I am yet to see a wife more proud of her husband and of his achievements than my mom. To her, ichie was next in perfection only to our Lord Jesus Christ.

My father also loved us his children. All six of us. Chike is his pride and joy, his first child who has lived up to every father's expectations of a first son. One who is effortlessly leading and directing the family in the way we should go. He is doing this masterfully.

Amaka, his first daughter was very special to my father. Growing up, we all felt he was partial to Amaka because she had her ways with ichie and always got what she wanted. In adulthood, we have come to realise the inherent wisdom of being super attentive to your girl children, especially as they navigate the terrain of young adulthood. Amaka is an effective 'ada' and takes her role seriously.

Next in line are Chukwuma, Ngozi, Chinelo and Emeka. Chukwuma reminds me a lot of my father. His natural intelligence, but even more interestingly, his style. My father was a very stylish man in his youth and Chuma remains the most stylish among my siblings to date.



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Chukwuma was also the one that argued the most with my father in our youth. They were so similar in character that they pushed each other's buttons with such ease.

Chinelo epitomized my fathers easy effectiveness without calling much attention to herself. Till date, we call Chinelo our best and brightest, a title we can just as easily use interchangeably for my father.

Emeka is the last child of my parents and he gave the least trouble as a young lad. From his youth, he was meticulous and organized. In adulthood, we now see that emeka is a planning guru - he clearly inherited these traits from Ichie.

I had a very special bond with my father and we were especially close to one another. For one, among my siblings, I lived at home the longest and that enabled me to know him quite well as an adult. For another, I was also the nearest to him during his later years. I was with him when his health started to fail, I was with him when he had that first critical stroke in February 2017 and I was also with him when he took his last breath in November of 2021.

My father used to say to me that I was very much like him in many ways - he particularly liked my spirit of contentment which he claims I inherited from him. According to him, his favorite thing about me was that i was largely unimpressed by things that many people found impressive. He said I danced to the beat of my own drum and he derived so much joy from that. I reasoned that he enjoyed this character trait so much because it resonated so closely with how he viewed himself, but I suspect it also gave him comfort that I will be ok in a world that seems to elevate the practice of herd mentality or the band wagon effect to an art - someone that has a mind of her own should certainly be able to pave a way for herself, no?

My father also had some wise sayings, one of which I have now claimed as my own. For example, telling lies was a taboo when we were growing up and he would always say that 'if you would lie, then you would steal, and if you would steal, then you would kill'. He referred to this as the natural progression of evil. Till date, being lied to is one of my biggest peeves!

I feel that my father lived a rewarding life, one that was in equal parts fulfilling and impactful. He impacted the lives of kith and kin in ways that are evident, he was very involved in community life, especially in all matters concerning Ojoto his ancestral home. He lived a fulfilling personal life, enjoying his propensity for sports, a good



beer and a successful home front.

I remember Ichie daily and I pray for him. I will miss him and cannot wait for when we will all re-unite at the resurrection.

Ngozi  
*Daughter*



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## Me and my dad

**F**or the first few weeks after my dad passed, I carried around this tightness in my throat. It felt like I had a ball in there and I would literally swallow to try to get it down. I initially wasn't sure what it was, but I now recognize that it is grief that lumped up in my throat; it is the love I have for my father but can no longer show him. I miss him.

Growing up, my dad was my north star, that stable and dependable figure in my life. He was present, engaged, and accessible to me, and was sort of like my personal encyclopaedia- there to define words I did not understand, or concepts that did not make sense to my young mind. His favourite thing to do was to teach, he would deconstruct complex problems and present them in bite sizes for easy understanding. JAMB and WAEC prep in maths and physics with him were a rite of passage for all my siblings and me. Now when I teach my son maths, I remember how patient my dad was with me.

He was a gentleman, especially in the way he loved my mom. Their marriage showed me the most important qualities in sustaining relationships:

- Kindness, you can tell a kind person by how they treat people when there is nothing to be gained.
- Respect, you should be with a person who values you and your input.
- Responsibility, a responsible person is accountable and does what they say they'll do.

The most special thing about my dad was how he made me feel about myself. He was a proud father who championed me my whole life and gave me the confidence to know that I am enough, exactly as I am. I could not have asked for a better dad.

Chinelo  
*Daughter*



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enyefe Ojoto

## A true father

**G**odfrey Chidozie was the definition of a true father, and I am so proud to be his son. He was a leader, who catered for his family by providing financial, moral and strategic support. He was one of the smartest people I knew – his general knowledge was vast and was very passionate about engineering. He also had a caring heart and was so giving with his time. He was loved by many within his community because of these traits. He was a loving and committed husband to my mother, Helen Chidozie for 52 years; their unity and respect for each other provided the foundation for a blossoming, tightly knit family.



The biggest gift he gave me was access to sound education through my formative years that has provided me the platform to compete in a challenging world as an adult. He was also a great instructor. As an engineer, he had a strong aptitude for mathematics and the sciences – I still remember so vividly the many times I spent with him in his study room during my high school and university years - he would take the time to explain various engineering concepts that made it easier for me to understand the subjects. He taught me the importance of hard work and integrity – he exemplified these every day he went to work and through his interactions with his peers and colleagues. He taught me about the importance of being financially independent and the need to always save for the rainy day. These are tenets I abide by till today.

Father, you came into this world and left a lasting legacy in our family, the community and the world. I know you have gone to a better place. Until we meet again. Adieu!

Chukwuemeka  
Son

## To my Father in-law, Mentor and Partner

**M**eeting Ichie Oku for the first time in his house in Gbagada was by chance as destined lead me looking for his daughter, Amaka. A knock on the door, Ichie Oku opened and asked us to seat and wait. Right there we started our first discussion which will culminate into many more worthy of a memoir.



Our relationship positively progressed and formed into a tradition of visiting him with my family every Sunday, after church service. There were some intimate conversations I shared with him when the children went up to their aunt's room and Amaka went to with her mother those are some of the best conversations I had with him.

It became habitual, just receiving advice from my father-in-law over a glass of chilled beer. He shared my love for the game of tennis, so we often engaged in petty squabbles over who the better tennis player was i.e Rafael Nadal (as was my view) or Roger Federer (my father-in-law's #1 player)

When his health began to fail, I paid more regular visits to his home in an attempt to remind him of old habits. When diabetes began taking a toll on him, our tradition of conversing over a glass of beer transformed to slow but equally important chats without beer or a shared bottle (in hiding)

My father-in-law, Ichie Oku was many things to so many people. I am so glad to have been accepted into his family because the memories, lessons and experiences I have gained from him are ones that are now leading me into the man I will become I am comforted by the truth that he continues to live vicariously through every of his family. Mummy with her level-headed advice, Chike with his calm personality, Amaka with her meticulous reasoning, Chukwuma with his swagger that never dies, Ngozi with her hardworking mindset and Chinelo and Chukwuemeka with their intellectual capabilities.

In dying you live with the angels looking over us directly. As the years go on, we your children will experience your angelic presence in our lives in fulfillment of our discussions which started that very 1st day I knocked on your door in Gbagada.



Chiedozie Udeze (Arc)  
Son-in-law

Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n' enye ife Ojoto

## Ichie Oku na enye Ife...One for All

Three scores and ten says the Holy Book.  
You had an additional decade and two years. How blessed you are.  
While we may wish to have had more of you, it pleased the Lord to call you home at this time.

I recall the first day I met you, I felt welcomed and till your very last breath, you never gave me a reason to doubt that.  
In your passing, I called my dad to break the sad news. His silence was too loud, and I got scared for SMC who is always quick to speak.  
I guess he not only lost his “Ogo”, brother knight, but a friend too.

Ichie Oku, I celebrate you today for who you are and all that you stood for. You were candid, fair, kind, just and open-minded.  
You were never quick to judge or hold biased views. Anyone with you knew where he or she stood with you and could take that to the bank.

I honour you for your doggedness and the unique lesson you left behind; the idea that at whatever age or phase in life, to have a go at our dreams and aspirations is an ever present possibility. This you did too by pursuing a Ph.D. degree in your seventies, graduating as the best student.

While the sun has set on the journey of a great mind, we must not forget the things we learnt from your life, and continue to learn from life itself. The truth:

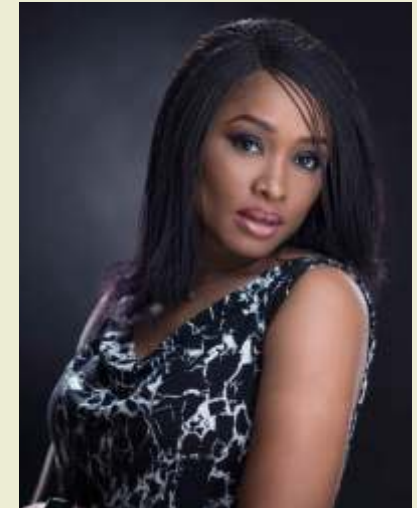
That life is a journey, a gift and tomorrow is promised to no one;  
That we must focus on what truly matters and not what appears to matter;  
That humility is a virtue and it conquers all;  
That excellence is possible if we make it a habit;  
That we are nothing if our gifts end with us;  
That we fail ourselves when we fail each other;  
That we must strive not to give up on one another however hard it is;  
That in living, we must be present today and also plan for tomorrow;  
That a man's faith and fate are only in his or her maker;  
That we must not forget our roots in all our explorations and sojourns;  
That wisdom is in finding the balance in all of life;  
That true fulfilment is in enjoying the process of reaching towards our goals, purposes...never in the destination;

That we must seek peace and understand that family is everything;  
That when we go astray, we must stop and trace back to our bloodline;  
That we are individually and collectively responsible for the legacies we leave for the next generation;  
That we are of many parts and we must not limit ourselves but rather reach for more and preserve all of who we are capable of being like Ichie Oku, who was a great scholar, boxer, tennis player, teacher, Chief, leader, Ichie, community advocate, man of God, devout christian, brother, uncle, husband, father, Ogo, father-in-law, grandfather and friend. All these he was and they have produced diverse pleasant experiences and memories we all hold dear today.

I thank the Lord almighty for your life. I will keep the best of your memories.  
I am glad my children, met and knew you personally.

Ichie Oku, gaa nke oma. Continue to rest in peace. Amen  
Always,

Amauche L. Chidozie (Ugegbeze)  
*Daughter-in-law*



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n' enye ife Ojoto

## A great man



**I**CHIE OKU. A great man full of strength and wisdom is no more. You were a dad so special and very much loved who brought joy and happiness to the many hearts you touched. You were always kind and caring too. When you spoke, one listened because you had so much experience and wisdom. Indeed, your presence and speech commanded attention. Ichie Oku you were a man of knowledge who was always ready and willing to proffer solutions and even solved problems. You were such a devoted husband, father and grandfather. Indeed, you showed such a loving example for everyone to emulate and follow. Ichie Oku, you are admired for raising a great and closely-knit family. I am lucky and proud to be part of your family.

Thank you for leading with strength, wisdom, and love. We will miss you, but you will always be in our hearts. Continue to rest in the bosom of our Lord.

Awele Vivian Chidozie  
*Daughter In-law*



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enyè ife Ojoto

## I am his first grandson

**M**y grandfather commanded the respect of everyone who knew him be it family or friends. My mom shared countless stories of his adventures and escapades as a young man.

As a child, we always spent our sundays with my grandfather - It used to be in Okota, but transitioned to V.G.C when he moved houses. Those were really fun and enjoy able times.

I grew particularly close to Ichie Oku when he fell ill and moved to Spain for treatment.

I would visit him on occasion and there witness how much of a fighter he was, as he strove to get better daily.

I would take him for walks and have the most random discussions to catch him up on mundane issues-tennis was our favorite topic.

also tried unsuccessfully, to teach him a bit of Spanish.



I will miss my grandfather sorely because he was a pillar in my life and I held him dear to my heart.

May his soul rest in Peace

Kamsiyochukwu Ozo-Udeze  
*Grandson*

## My grandfather

**I**chie oku has passed away but my memory of him lives on. Most of my memories of ichie oku are from when he first got. He was getting treatment in Valencia, so I visited him weekly with Kamsi. Prior to this, I'd see him 4 times a year because I was always away in boarding school for huge portions of the year.

During the months he spent in Valencia I got to see a side to him I'd never seen before. The vulnerable and softer side; as he was now dependent on others for things he could no longer do for himself. I also saw a determined and persevering willing to at his recovery.

I believe that everything happens for a reason, and although Ichie has now passed on, I am thankful for the extra moments I got to spend with him.

Kosimelum Ozo-Udeze  
*Granddaughter*



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enye ife Ojoto

## My Grandfather Ichie Oku!

To live long enough to see your grandchildren and also share special moments with them is such a blessing. This blessing, my grandfather Ichie Oku (as we all call him even as little as we are), I must say had a lot of. I am personally grateful for having met my grandfather and having had special memories to hold on to and share today.

Ichie Oku brought warmth, wisdom, and love to every soul that he touched. He was such a knowledgeable man. As a child back then, I always wondered how he had an idea or two about most things. He was also always willing to share his knowledge at the slightest prompt (though sometimes I must admit, as a child then, I only wanted to listen in for a little time and preferred to run off to play with my cousins). He would argue with my dad, who also loved to argue like Ichie Oku. It appeared they just loved to have opposing views and would never agree on one point. These experiences taught me a lot about how to think and to see things from different perspectives.

I will never forget all our Sunday trips to V.G.C, where he would sit my brothers and cousins down for us to talk about our week and all we had learnt in school. While we took turns to tell our stories, my grandmother would whip up one edible thing or the other to share to us. In doing this, she would have this smile on her face and when leaving, she would hail my grandfather saying “Ichie Okuuuu”. Looking at my grandfather's face, you would also notice this funny smile and pride in response to the hailing. Back then I wondered what all that meant but growing up, it became clearer by the day.

Ichie Oku, my grandfather always encouraged us to be our best both at home and in school. He had different ways of motivating us to be better. If we were good, he would give us a small cash reward. He would say: “Adaobi take one thousand naira”. If you complain that he has given maybe an older cousin a lot more, he would respond – “what do you know”? Some other times, he would take us to his office upstairs and give us groundnut and make us promise not to tell our mum. If we were excellent, he would add lots of praises and end it with a chilled bottle of Fanta for each person. This was the ultimate gift because in VGC, we were all used to sharing a bottle of Fanta with some special cup my grandmother bought when she travelled. (lol)

I would never forget those times in V.G.C when we sat in front of the television to watch our favorite cartoon shows. He would criticize all of the characters with this seriousness and say they are silly. This made us laugh and wonder why he thought so. I really, really had so much fun memories with Ichie Oku, my grandfather.

Although his last moments on earth were a bit of a struggle, he was always strong. That is why I have chosen not to mourn him but to celebrate him and the life he lived. Though Ichie Oku is gone in flesh, I know he is in a better place and he would forever be alive in my memory and in my life.

Rest in Peace Ichie Oku. It's such a blessing to have had you as a grandfather.

Love,

Adaobi Chidozie  
*Granddaughter*



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enyefe Ojoto



## His legacy lives on

**M**y grandfather was many things to many different people, he was role model to us all who looked up to him, the lessons he taught me and wise words he gave to me will be used for the rest of my life, he was funny and a joy to be with. My mum will tell us stories of how humble and disciplined he was when she was young, I can only wish to follow in his footsteps, his legacy will live on forever and he will always be with us.

Dozie Ozo Udeze  
*Grandson*



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enyefe Ojoto

## A great man with a big heart

**I**chie Oku, as he was fondly called by most, was a great man with a big heart. Those that knew him can attest to the fact that he was very generous. I remember vividly my weekly trips to V.G.C. on Sundays, after church. I always went empty handed but came back home with so much: not just the monetary reward he gave my siblings and I for doing well in school, but also the knowledge gained from spending hours with him in his little office and complaining about how different the groundnut he ate was from the one I ate at home (you know how white the groundnuts around V.G.C. can be).



Ichie Oku has taught me many lessons in this life through his daughter, my mother. She never fails to tell us all the things Ichie Oku did for them as a child. She uses it as a method of imparting in us the training he inculcated in her and her siblings.

I always enjoyed down in front of the T.V. watching shows with my grandfather because he always had a lot to say about the actors and the movie plot. There was a time when Ichie Oku stayed with my family and I for some months. I spent almost all my time watching different series about anything and everything with Ichie Oku and he would always say: 'Amaka, what are you watching? This is stupid.' and I will always laugh and explain the drama plot to him. Fun times

I know it seems as though Ichie Oku has suddenly disappeared, but I see him and hear him in some things that I do. Always there, always around, talking to me like he used to and I am comforted by it. He will always continue to live on in our hearts forever. For now, we can only pray that his soul may rest in perfect peace. Amen.

Uzoamaka Ozo Udeze  
*Granddaughter*

## In Loving Memory Of A Grandfather!



**I**chie Oku, the sad news of your passing came to me during my mid-term break and since then the thoughts of you, the times we spent together, our 2010 Christmas South Africa trip and your words have continued to be present in my mind.

Words cannot describe the grief in my heart. It is really difficult to find the right words to describe this loss. Ichie Oku, you were a role model to me not just because you are my grandfather but because of your exquisite intellect and mannerism. I enjoyed your company so much and with you, I knew I was safe and no one could hurt me

You impacted my life in ways that are too numerous to count. You were a man of your words. You always kept your promises to reward us when we did well in school was always eager to visit you in V.G.C because I knew I would come back home at least one

thousand naira richer.

You always emphasized the importance of family, keeping good friends and doing the right things. What about your words of wisdom Ichie Oku? You shared too many to count. Even as a little boy, you told me things, proverbs I only understand now as a teenager.

Ichie Oku, I remember when we showed up to VGC unannounced and we apologized for the short notice. You said- “Nonsense! You don't need permission, after all this is your house too” and immediately we all burst into laughter especially because of how you said it. I remember how we used to silently disappear into your office. Ohhh I loved it. It was a goodies escape place. You kept all kinds of things as if you were expecting us to come for a feast. Thank you for all these. These and many more are memories I will never forget.

It is sad that you have passed on but to be frank, you only ended one journey and begun a better one.

Ichie Oku... Your legacies and everything you stood for will live on and prevail within the hearts of all of us. You will truly be missed.

Continue to rest in the bosom of the Lord.

Ebubenna A. Chidozie (Ezenwa)  
*Grandson*

## To my grandfather, Ichie Okunenyefe

**I**'m still in shock that you are no longer with us. I have many fond memories of you, especially of watching television with you. It did not matter what we were watching, you just made it more fun to watch with your commentary. You listened to my tales from school, about who I played with on that day, and you would tell me stories too. I am sad I won't be able to tell you any more stories, but I find solace knowing you're resting with the Lord.

Nathan Egbuna  
*Grandson*



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enyefe Ojoto

## My strong grandpa

**O** ichie oku, my strong and admirable grandfather. I am so glad that I got to create good memories with you before your passing. I remember when you would gift me money because I got high scores in my exams, you also shared your meals with me often. I knew that was a big deal because you like your food. We have so many memories together. I always looked up to you because you taught me a lot. One of the things I learned from you is that even in old age, one can still study to achieve ones goals not surprising therefore that you obtained your pat in your old age. I will always remember you Ichie oku. May your soul rest in perfect peace, Amen. I love you, grandpa.

Ngozi Emmanuella Chidozie  
*Granddaughter*



## A Tribute to my dear Grandfather

**I** chie Oku was a great father and grandfather. I was named after him- Godfrey. I knew him as a brave and wise person. I feel sad, a person as good as him is no more. I miss him but we cannot change the past.

Visiting my grandparents in V.G.C, I used to play a lot with him. I remember when Ichie Oku and I played Lego game together. There were no other games we could play with so I had to resort to the Lego games. It was fun. I created new interesting structures and gave it to Ichie Oku so he could exercise his hands. He loved it as he smiled while playing with it. I remember his handshakes too. They were firm and long lasting.

I remember our Ojoto visits when Ichie Oku would call me to greet his friends at the seat-out in front of the house. At those times, he would give me groundnuts, peanut butter with garden egg, meat or something nice to eat. Those were fun times.

Catechism thought us that we are created by God to know Him, Love Him, serve Him and be with Him after our life here on earth. I know Ichie Oku is with the Lord now and in a better place because he lived a good life and received all his sacraments.

We will always remember you, tell your stories, the great life you lived here on earth and the great person you were. Now that you are in heaven, please keep praying for us here on earth.

May your soul rest in peace Ichie Oku! Amen  
I remain

Nnamdi Godfrey Chidozie  
*Grandson*



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enyè ife Ojoto

## I am his newest grandson



## To my dear brother

I heard you were sick, but getting better, so I was sad to receive the news of your demise.

Goddy, you accommodated and cared for us your younger ones. I wish that old stories and fond memories of you will bring you back to life, but God knows the best.

Ichie oku, your transition to glory came as shock to us but we take solace in the faith that God taketh, we cannot question him.

We know you are in the Lord's bosom, so mark attendance for us, we will be there but not soon.

We love you but God loves you more.

Oke osisi adaa!  
Adieu brother Goddy!  
Adieu ichie okunaenye .

Obiageli Ekwosiobi  
*Sister*



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enyè ife Ojoto

## My Beloved Brother

**I**chie oku n'enyefe Ojoto, as painful as your death is, God in His infinite mercy gave me the grace to recall the blessing and progress that your birth brought to the family of Chief Okafor Chidozie (Uduezue) and Mrs Mary Chidozie (Nne-Nwamelu) and the entire Chidozie family. Our father named you Chukwurah, meaning God protect you that you brought light and also transformed our family.



In school, you were too brilliant that our home got turned to a house of evening lessons. In primary six certificate exam, you made distinction and also in Catholic cert exam you made distinction. You also excelled in Electrical engineering in your University days in 1966. Later you obtained an Msc, and PhD You were indeed a great scholar.

My ever-loving brother, you were peaceful, kind-hearted, honest, straight-forward and God fearing and you were also a great man. You fought very hard and made sure we all went to school.

Ichie Oku led a good life, having seen his children become what he wished for every young person, fulfilled and accomplished professional with the highest regard for family values, love and trust in God.

Dear brother, I believe that death is real as it pleased the Lord to call you now. I cannot say no because the word of God is true. The bible says there is time for everything under the son (Eccl 3:1-8) Sleep well my brother in the presence of God.

Anthony Chidozie (Ugodinobi)  
*Brother*

## In loving memory of my dear brother, Ichie Oku

It broke our hearts to lose you.  
We stand motionless,  
consumed in grief.

We stand sorrowful  
And motionless  
We're gathered here,  
to mourn and cry.

Our questions are  
Why did you go,  
why did you leave,  
Life without you,  
is so hard indeed

We shall miss you,  
much more than dearly.  
For having you in our lives,  
we've all been blessed.

However, now is the time  
for you to rest in the bosom of your maker.  
We promise to cherish,  
our memories of you.

You shall live in our minds,  
and all that we do.

Goodnight my beloved brother  
Till we meet on resurrection.

Nwaneka Rose  
*Sister*



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enyefe Ojoto

## The only father I knew

**I**chie Oku though the eldest son of my parents was the father I knew and lived with from infancy to adulthood. He and his wife (Mummy), Mrs Helen Chidozie took me to the city after the birth of Chike (Owulu 1 na Ojoto) their first child. My stay with him gave me a very good exposure in life. His transfers to major cities within the country by the then National Electric Power Authority (NEPA), where he worked, afforded me the opportunity to travel far and wide within the country and attend the best schools those days. I had the privilege to be driven to school in company cars. I also was opportuned to intern at NEPA and African Continental Bank (ACB) just by his influence. What a father!



Ichie Oku was a good sportsman. His favorite game was lawn tennis. I can still picture him in his white trousers and white t-shirts which I would always wash and iron for him, with his shiny white canvas and racket bag hung over his shoulder, he would leave for the club. Mummy then will call out to him admiringly “ A Goddy Boy” and he would always reply “A Helena Baby”. He was always a fun person to be with. Ichie Oku was a music lover. Our shelves then at Aba were filled with a lot of country music records. On many Christmas vacations in the village, he would set a dancing competition and I remember that Brother Tony always came first.

Daddy lived a good Christian life. His service to God and humanity earned him a knighthood in the catholic communion. He was among the first set of people to travel to Rome on a pilgrimage. By just mentioning his name, we (his siblings) were able to scale early through many difficult situations that might have lingered for a while. He lived a good and simple life helping and giving advice to people around him, his relatives and kinsmen in general. About five years ago, daddy fell ill, but he fought gallantly and bravely until he finally answered the call.

Ichie Oku na enye ife is gone, our Iroko tree has fallen. He fought a good fight and he finished well. He gave us time to be consoled and finally took the holy communion and slept.

Good night Chief Dr. Engr G.C Chidozie, the Oku na enye Ife 1 of Ojoto. Give a hug to “Brother Mike” and Nne Nwamelu. Tell “Nna” that you completed his work excellently and we were all well taken care of.

Rest on Daddy.

Mrs Ifeyi Chidozie Obiasor  
*Sister*

## My brother in-law, A great man

**G**. C. Chidozie, my favorite brother-in-law was such an embodiment of many virtues and he had so few vices he left a legacy that is worth emulating and must be preserved by his family, relatives, and acquaintances. What an Eldorado we would have if we could produce one more person like Ichie Oku, the trail blazer who was instrumental to Ojoto getting Standard Six in 1955, being electrified in 2000, and Ezieke Village getting two tarred roads, among other things.

I truly believe that a good man becomes better or worse through his wife and life partner. In Goddy's case, he was already a good man when he wedded my sister Helen Amaechi Okigbo on 18th May, 1969. He exuded so much goodness my father Ezeafulukwe, in the excitement of this God-ordained union, did not cash the dowry cheque of Twenty Biafran Pounds. We may want to renegotiate the current value of that uncashed cheque with Ichie Oku's children and grandchildren.

There was no doubt that Goddy was a goodman as a bachelor. It was obvious that he became a better man in marriage, and he remained so up to his passing into eternal glory on 4th November 2021. His “better-manness” was evident in his devotion to his wife, family, friends, and indeed, all humanity, without reservation or exception. He loved higher education, making money, commercial real estate, trading in stocks and shares, industrial manufacturing, importing goods from India, and praying the Rosary – not necessarily in this order. But what he loved even more was getting others to out-do him in each of these endeavors. He was a generous man beyond measure.

Goddy's generosity knew no bounds, even in death. He took ill on 28th February 2017, and he generously allowed us a long goodbye up to his transition on November 4, a total of 1,710 days (four years, eight months, and seven days). My family members visited him multiple times from the US, and each time we regaled ourselves in old jokes, bantering, puzzles, and of course long arguments about every imaginable subject, especially Ojoto development, Nigeria's electricity wahala, and global political affairs. On one such goodbye visit, I had asked him what subject he would study now if he were a young undergraduate at a Nigerian university. Without hesitation, he replied: “Computer



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enyefe Ojoto



Science.” This is not surprising for a village boy, who by dint of hard work and determination had acquired a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from ABU, a master's in Business Technology from Ogun State University, and a doctorate at age 70 from European American University.

There is no good time to die, but when Ichie Oku breathed his last on November 4, surrounded by members of his family, many of us were happy that he left the way we would like to go when our number is up. It was with utter joy and complete contentment, the same way Ezeafulukwe had left on September 23, 1959 at the Military Hospital in Awka Etiti, singing “Nunc Dimmitus”, with my sister Helen by his bedside.

At the end of the long 48-month goodbye, Goddy became a best man. He had moved from good to better, and now finally he became best in death. He has metamorphosed and spread his sterling values and virtues to his wife and children, who are continuing to show as much love and care for others as Goddy tried to do in life. He is now with the saints, and his peculiar aura will continue to be with us. His ideas will continue to guide us in all our dealings with each other, everyday until we join him and the other saints in the eternal reunion, which is our faith.

We have all become better people because we associated with this uniquely good-better-best man. His legacy lives on in the charitable endeavors he started, which his family will build on so that he will always be remembered for who and what he was: one of the best that ever came from Ojoto. We must try to follow in his footsteps. There is no better honor and accolade than that.

Charles Chiedu Okigbo  
*Brother in-law*

## An honest man

A phone call from Iyom Akubugwu at the early morning of February 18 2017 saying “Ichie Oku has a stroke, we are at the hospital” still echoes in my ears as if it was yesterday. Chiedu and I were shocked with the news and kept wondering how Ichie oku -- who used to be a wrestler, a boxer, an active tennis player -- could have a stroke. I immediately recalled a story from my in law, Dr. Obiora Ogbuawa, about his experience boxing with Ichie Oku during their days at Government College Umuahia. According to him, Ichie Oku was the only reason he quit boxing; he underrated how strong Ichie Oku was because of his smallish stature at the time. During their boxing match, Ichie Oku knocked him out. That is why days after getting the shocking news, I kept pondering “Ichie Oku, has a stroke?!” For such an active person to have a stroke was utterly shocking, but a lesson for all.

Since the day of the incident, Ichie Oku received the best medical treatments and unimaginable support from his loved ones in the form of prayers, fasting, and booked masses in churches located in all corners of the globe. This final chapter of his notable life was a journey that took almost five years. In all those years, Ichie Oku remained strong, compliant, humorous, and full of hope. His faith was intact, never shaken, and he was prayerful to the end.

Ichie Oku was a nifty mathematical problem solver. There was nothing he enjoyed more than talking about and solving mathematical problems; so, it is unsurprising that discussing mathematical problems was the beginning of my strong and endearing relationship with him. In the early 1990s, I was a graduate student at UNILAG completing some graduate level courses in mathematics and statistics. Whenever we would meet, Ichie Oku would always inquire about the advanced mathematics topics we covered in my coursework. Occasionally, I would present him with some complex problems. He would relax, take his time, analyze, and inevitably offer solutions. It always blew my mind how he related every mathematical problem we discussed to real life situations before attempting solve it. We often agreed on the solution path, however, there was one particular day when we disagreed on a solution. Unable to let it go, the following day, Ichie Oku came to our home in Anthony Village to convince me that he was correct. Since that day, I learned not to



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enyefe Ojoto

t o

disagree with him on any mathematics problems.

Ichie Oku had a genuine love for his family. He built and left behind a home of unity where love transcends and everyone looks out for each other's welfare. He paid attention to his children's education and he took particular pleasure in teaching them math himself after paying for external lessons. He did not believe that success comes by chance, but rather, through hard work, perseverance, and painstaking. He instilled that principle in his children. During one of my visits to Nigeria, I spent extended time with Ichie Oku in his residence office at VGC. The office was filled with piles of old files containing documentation of shares and stocks, each properly labeled with names of every member of his family. He not only initiated and taught investment principles and practice to every member of his family, but he actually invested on their behalf and bequeathed the investments when they reached a certain age, irrespective of their gender. He was a meticulous entrepreneur. It is not surprising that most of his children are now successful entrepreneurs, and even the few that are succeeding in the corporate world are applying Ichie Oku's entrepreneurial principles in their workplaces.

In my 36-year relationship with Ichie Oku and his family, I have not seen a couple as deeply in love with one another as Ichie Oku and Iyom Akubugwu; they could never fault each other. In one of my usual happy discussions with Ichie Oku, I made a comment that he was a lucky man to have married Iyom Akubukwu, and his response was “o my wife? Impe” implying that his wife is impeccable. Similarly, Iyom can engage anyone in hours of conversation, talking about the positive qualities of Ichie Oku. To her, Goddy could never go wrong. Besides God, Iyom Akubugwu thought of nothing else but Ichie Oku. This was evident in one of her letters to her younger brother, Chiedu when he was a student in the United States. She had ended that letter in these words “may Goddy be with you”, intending to say “may God be with you”. Their love for each other was unimaginable.

Ichie Oku was dear and beloved to the Okigbo family in general and the Afulukwe's in particular. He was more than an in-law, he was truly a heartfelt member of the family. My husband never tires of telling me positive stories about Ichie Oku. He talks particularly about his role in my mother-in-law's health without which Mama could not have lived to the age of 101. Chiedu thinks of him and will always consider him a dear brother. Ichie Oku extended the love he had for his wife to the rest of Afulukwe's family including us who married into the family. To this day, my sister-in-law and I still answer to the loving nicknames he gave us; Aunty Christy (Iyom Nwanyelueze) whom he lovely called “Ah-Christie-Bebe” and he called me

“Ah-Caro-Wey”.

Ichie Oku was a man of strong faith. He attended to religious and spiritual affairs with the conviction of an engineer and a scientist. He lived a fulfilled life and died peacefully in grace. I am convinced that he is with his creator in heaven and we shall all unite on the last day.

Adieu Ichie Oku, you will always remain in our hearts.

Carol Okigbo



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enyè ife Ojoto



## Ichie Oku N'enye Ife Ojoto

*Like lightening you shone in the dead of darkness!  
Smouldering in daylight like the smith's furnace  
Touching lives and soothing pains of humanity  
Your footprints in the sands of the ancient Ojoto  
Kingdom,  
echos even in the silence of the night!  
A tailored life you lived even as mere sojourner on transit  
But those years were not without your remarkable  
achievements.  
Sadly, today, we are faced with the stark reality of the emptiness of this world!*



Ichie Oku, the news of your death came to me as a rude shock!  
In my widest imagination, I never dreamt you will leave us so soon even as you fought death with equanimity and vigour, giving hope to us daily.  
In my nostalgia, I feel the emptiness of this world again. The true meaning of 'vanity upon vanity' only but dawned on me remembering that we will never meet again.  
Your ever jovial smiles and jokes gone with the wind!  
You touched my life and that of my family with love and care!  
Nna m, as I bid you farewell, I pray your gentle soul will continue to rest in the bossom of our Lord, just as I ask God to give your wife, my own darling Sister-in-law and children the fortitude to bear this irreplaceable loss.  
Ojoto has lost a gem!  
Rest in peace.

Lady Christy Adaeze Okigbo (Iyom Nwanyelueze)

## Uncle Goddy

The news of the death of “Goddy” Chidozie, Ichie Oku, was to my mind, the end of a 5-years sojourn with the incapacitating hands that held him down. He was finally set free to commune with his forefathers! “Uncle Goddy” as we fondly called him was a phenomenal man, always prepared to engage you in any conversation at any level. He was witty, brilliant, proud but humble, a deep thinker, disciplined and so much more. He was the first person I knew as an electrical engineer, of course, I was probably 8 or 9 years old at the time. He was also the first person I knew that worked in NEPA. Meanwhile, his entire career was in NEPA.

Uncle Goddy personified humility and it guided all he did throughout his life. He was God-fearing but also respected tradition. He believed in education and made sure those around him benefited from it. He was a product of Government College Umuahia, the Class of 1955. His brilliance at St. Odilias primary school, Ojoto led him to Umuahia, a secondary school known at the time as the “Eton of the East.”

His death is a major loss to the Chidozie and Okigbo families. We can only hope that his legacy will live on. To his wife, Auntie Helen (née Okigbo) and his children, we offer our thoughts and prayers for the repose of his soul.

Requiesce in Pace (Rest in Peace).

Pius Okigbo, Jr.  
(Ebekue Dike II)



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enye ife Ojoto

## Eternal Relationships: A Tribute to my Uncle Goddy

**M**y father's siblings are peas in a pod, one person's headache is everyone's migraine. They extend this familial love to their in-laws. As such, we (their children) grew up knowing that these uncles and aunts were like our biological parents. Although we all lived in different parts of the country, our parents ensured we grew up together. Every holiday was spent in Ojoto and, when night fell, and I was not in Ire, it was assumed I was in Ezieke or Nnobi. Sometimes, in Umuoji, my mother's village.

My earliest recollection of Uncle Goddy – my Aunt Nelly's husband – was when I was maybe 6 or 7 years old. I remember my parents giddy as they awaited his visit and the excitement that greeted his arrival. Every visit from my Uncle Goddy was an experience. Besides the fact that he came always bearing gifts, I loved the long raucous conversations he had with my parents. They got animated, outlining their best points. Ever so often, my mum would intone, “A-Goddy-Boy,” and ever-smilingly, he would respond, “A-Christy-Bae.”

My later debates with Uncle Goddy stretched my thinking because he knew a lot about a lot of things. For example, he could authoritatively discuss philosophy, engineering, economics, strategy, foreign affairs, the stock market, tennis, or Ojoto culture and traditions. He was always eager to engage in some intellectual sparring. He was fascinated by ideas and analysis. Often you will find him arguing for and against a position just to sustain debate.

His intellect was an inspiration, aspiration, and a challenge to us. From the elite Government College, Umuahia, to the university, his entire education was based on academic scholarships. The only degree he paid for was to obtain a PhD in Strategy at 70 years. By the way, he was the Best Graduating Student in his class. What a man!

My uncle's generosity is legendary. As a kid, I knew that hanging around Uncle Goddy meant that I would leave with money in my pocket. Any errand to buy him a pack of cigarettes meant that I could keep the change. Around Christmas, we would hit him up so many times with “Uncle, Gbalu m Christmas”, and he always handed out some notes. Much later in life, Uncle Goddy stepped in and provided much-needed pocket money.

His homes in Lagos became our home. Many school holidays saw dozens of us sharing the available rooms. We played video games for hours, ate to our fill, and slept wherever we found space. My uncle was gracious. I remember one holiday in his home on Salvation Road in Ikeja, Lagos. We were roughhousing around the living room, and I fell and broke the glass centre table. I was so terrified. All day long, my stomach was in knots. Yet, he waved it aside when he came home and said we should be thankful that no one was hurt. On the same day, he packed us into his car and took us to the amusement park in Apapa.

Uncle Goddy modelled for us the responsibility of a son, husband, brother, uncle, and friend. Over the decades, I observed and learned as he played those roles. I saw how he cared for his mother and siblings. I learnt from his relationship with my Aunt Nelly. I remember how my grandmother, Oliaku, held his hand as they sat, head-to-head, in private conversation. He was a rock and trusted confidant to my father and his siblings. To Ndi Ojoto, for whom he was always eager to respond to the many needs, he was “Oku na-enye ife.” He brightened the lives of all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Uncle Goddy's memories will continue to cameo in our conversations and reminisces. Though death, by its nature, places a distance between people, it does nothing to the sacred places we keep those we love. Mitch Albom said, “death ends a life, not a relationship.” Similarly, William Penn was right when he said, “death cannot kill what never dies.” Therefore, my relationship with Uncle Goddy will remain eternal.

Ka chi fo until we meet again.

Patrick O. Okigbo III (Ekenwofia)  
*Nephew*



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enye ife Ojoto

## Ichie Oku, my uncle

**D**eath is inevitable, it is a journey that everyone must take. Often times we wish death wasn't a part of life, we wish we would just stay alive on earth with our near and dear ones not dying. But unfortunately, we cannot. Our prayer is that we fulfill our days on earth and grow old before our time is up.

God saw that he was getting tired so He put His arms around him and whispered, "Come with Me." Although we loved him dearly, we tried our best but we could not make him stay. A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands to rest. God said it's time to take His own back home and in God's case, there's no appeal.

Ichie Oku was a great uncle, a jolly good fellow just like my dad, Akunnia. He was so intelligent especially in scientific matters, an engineer par excellence, so dedicated to duty. A lovely father and husband and a welcoming uncle. Your home at VGC Lagos has always been a beautiful shelter whenever am in Lagos. You will be greatly missed. Indeed a great iroko has fallen.

My condolences to my most cherished auntie Nellie and my amazing cousins. It is well with Ichie Oku, having the rare grace of receiving the last sacrament. His soul is at peace with his maker. To God be the glory.

May the soul of Engr. Godfrey C. Chidozie(Ichie Oku Ojoto) rest in perfect peace. Amen.

Chukwuka Patrick Okigbo (Rev. Fr.)  
*Nephew*

## A great friend and in-law, Nwoye Uduezue

**I**t was with great shock and heartfelt grief that I received the news of your death. Your death reminds me of the death of my brother and friend Ifeanyi Okigbo.

Nwoye, our relationship dates many years past when we were in elementary school at St. Odilia's Primary School, Ojoto.

You left for Government College Umuahia after which you gained admission to Amadu Belo University Zaria to study electrical engineering. Nwoye, you left a record in the school as the best graduate in your class to which other graduates aspired to.

The then E.C.N picked you up to work for them as a young electrical engineer, a cheque of One thousand pounds (£1,000) was given to you for a car. Two of us Nwoye and Ekegbo went to S.C.O.A motors at Moloni Street Lagos. As young as we were then, the sales Manager could not attend to us until you presented a cheque from E.C.N to him. It was then he gave us a nice look. Before we left for a road test, he gave us some bottles of Fanta for initially ignoring us.

Nwoye Goddy Chidozie, you were good to many, always truthful outspoken. "As a man born of a woman can never change destiny" said Late Ozumba Mbadiwe.

Ichie Oku, you will remain evergreen in the minds of many for your friendliness, consecrated sense of humour, conviviality generosity and humility. St. Odilia's Catholic Church, Ojoto has lost a pillar in the Church for your contribution.

Nwoye! Sleep well. May your gentle soul rest in peace.  
Amen.

Ekegbo Okigbo



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enyè ife Ojoto

## Ichie oku a man of honour and integrity

**T**he World belongs to achievers, they are the brains and the energies of human survival and happiness. They keep on recreating and making this world a place of joy and bringing in new meaning to human existence.

Precious in the sight of the lord is the death of his faithful ones; because they don't die in the real sense, but they transform and assume a life everlasting. Indeed Ichie oku was a great achiever in all ramifications. Uncle served humanity with cords of kindness, ropes of love and generosity. He taught us to commit ourselves to constant self-improvement, hence his continuous studies after his retirement. You and your wife, auntie Nellie instilled in your children the spirit of oneness, love and respect for family values and selfless service to humanity as a whole.

Little wonder they paid you with great love especially during your sick days, May God reward them abundantly. Ichie Oku your contributions towards human/community development in Ojoto town and beyond cannot be over-emphasized.

As we mourn your demise we pray, God gives your beautiful soul eternal rest in Jesus' name, amen.

Goodnight Ichie Oku na-enye ife!  
Adieu my beloved Uncle Goddy!  
Kaa chi foo!

May-May Ada Uzoegbo (Mrs.)  
*Niece*

## Tribute to my uncle

**N**obody is ever self made. We are a harvest of the gracious tending by scores of people; a push here, a pull there, a word, a hand, a shelter, a warm blanket, a hug, a signature on a form. These words best define the person and characteristics of Uncle Goddy Chidozie.

You were always known as a bundle of energy, someone who never surrendered to situations. Many people rule this land and think of themselves to be kings, your kindness and love to me and my family will never ever be forgotten. Ichie Oku ruled the hearts of people around him and will do so in heaven too.

The sparkle of your eyes, the brightness of your smile, your kind words, humour, honesty, the goodness of your soul will always stay in our hearts because you were one of a kind. God has a beautiful reward for you.

Ka Omesia.

Chike Charles Okigbo  
*Nephew*

## Like a vapour

**L**ife is like a vapour, when it appears in a moment, it vanishes away. There are no words to describe what you add for me by employing me in NEPA as a permanent staff, where I worked and retired from as a supervisor.

It was your brotherly love and kindness that made me what I'm today.

You always forged ahead where others gave up and your success was never in doubt.

My cousin, you touched the lives of all the citizens in Ojoto uno by making sure we had electricity.

The memory of your positive impact on us will forever remain in our hearts.

Death is a price we all must pay.

I wish you eternal rest in the bosom of the Lord.

Mr. Benedict Nna Chidozie  
*Cousin*



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enyne ife Ojoto

## A great man and philanthropist

**E**ngr. G.C. Chidozie, popular known with your titled name, ICHIE Okunenyefe 1 of Ojoto. The title you earned for yourself is due to your effort in restoring electricity in our community and your love to see people around you happy.

You are indeed the epitome of love. Your love for everyone around you has no boundary. You never discriminated against anyone no matter their social status, despite your high social status in the community. That was seen in large numbers of people who always visit you each time you visit home.

Your love for God and humanity was seen both in your contributions to the church, community and your willingness to assist people around you. This made you adopt me and volunteer to sponsor me in the Seminary school. The plan was endorsed by your supportive wife and my Auntie, Ugodie. The journey kicked off but unfortunately, couldn't go beyond Junior seminary-level due to some reasons (many are called but few are chosen). am sure that God recorded it for you in His heavenly register. No wonder your love for God and me never went sour till your demise.

As you journey to give your stewardship account, I believe that heaven has already recognized you through your good works while on Earth. There, you will remain and await us on the last day.

Okoye Peter Chidozie.  
*Nephew*

## The man I call daddy

**I** call him daddy because I lived with him for a number of years, and he played a fathers' role in my life for those number of years that I lived with him up until his demise. Each time we saw, he will follow-up on me to know what Is going on with me and what I have been up to.

In his house, there were no boundaries from his children and the other people living with him. During his spare time, he will call you to bring your Mathematics to the dining table so he can help you resolve your challenges with the subject. His type is rare. It is very difficult to see a "Rich Nigerian Man" who will call his house help to come to the dinning so he can teach him/her. He did this for virtually everyone who lived with him. I always tell anyone who cares to listen that he was the reason I passed my WAEC Examination while staying with him.

Ichie Oku was a great child of God. He Loved God and served him with every member of his household. I have not met anyone who has any negative story about him. For the exemplary life you lived on earth, we are not in doubt about your destination for we are sure you are with the Lord. You will always be in my heart, prayers and my thoughts. I pray God to grant your Soul eternal rest. Amen.

Adieu Ichie Oku na-enye ife na Ojoto.

Nwanneka Obikwelu Okafor.  
*Niece*



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enyefe Ojoto

## A Quintessential Icon

**I** find it a difficult task to write this tribute; where to begin, what to write or how to phrase this tribute? However, I have just realized that death is the door to eternity.

The demise of Dr. G.C Chidozie was a colossal loss to the entire people of Ojoto and Ezieke village in particular. Ichie Okuneyeife was a role model to a vast number of Ojotorians and beyond including my humble self. His sterling qualities as one of the foremost learned persons in Ojoto, as well as, the first graduate of Electrical Engineering from Ojoto inspired many people to embrace education. He was one of the selected few intelligent persons that benefited from community sponsorship programme in those days.

Chief Engineer G.C Chidozie, was the brain behind the electrification of Ojoto-Unoh in the late 1990s (precisely in 1999). He brought in his wealth of experience, position and network to bear in attracting electricity to Ojoto-Unoh. He liaised with Late Dr Pius C. Okigbo, when certain political odds and policy changes of the Government, were militating against the installation of the electricity. The policy change skyrocketed the amount Ojoto-unoh was required to pay then, to a level of unaffordability. His effort and that of Dr. P. C. Okigbo made us to overcome that great hurdle. His outstanding contribution in this regard earned him the award/title of Ichie Okuneyeife, Ojoto.

Ichie Okuneyeife was one of the founding members of Ezieke village meeting at 16 Nathan Street, off Ojuelegba, Lagos in the 1980s. He actively helped to nurture the meeting to maturity stage. A lot of issues were amicably resolved in Ezieke village through the initiation and intervention of the Lagos branch meeting of Ezieke village. Long live Ezieke Village Meeting Lagos Branch.

Engineer G.C. Chidozie was a humble, social and an unassuming gentle man. He believed in equality and never discriminated against the young and old, the rich and the poor, the educated and the less educated. Whenever he was in any gathering, he blended perfectly with the group and used the forum as a means to advance the message of peace, progress and development of both the individuals and the society.

He was a Knight of Saint John's International and a great pillar of the Catholic Church. He contributed immensely to the renovation/facelift of St. Odilia's Catholic Church, Ojoto which still looks like a modern Church at the moment. His

influence and quest for development also led to the construction of the first asphalted road in Ezieke Village, Ojoto. Thanks to Chief Chike Chidozie, the chip of the old block, as he has perfectly succeeded his iconic father.

Sir, Goddy Chidozie was a jolly good fellow, my mentor and wedding sponsor. I am greatly indebted to him for the fatherly and intellectual pieces of advice he was regularly offering to me during his life time. His cordial relationship with my family was amazingly good.

Ojoto had lost a tested, seasoned, professional electrical engineer who served in various capacities/positions in the Electric Power Sector of the Nigerian economy. He started with Electricity Corporation of Nigeria (ECN) in the 1960s, which later metamorphosed into National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) in 1972, to Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) in 2005, and to what we now call Electricity Distribution Companies (EDCs). He served as manager, regional manager, chief engineer and director before he retired meritoriously with his full honours and benefits. He came, he saw and he conquered. He was a Guru in the power industry.

Dr. G. C. Chidozie was blessed with a humble wife, Chief, Mrs., Helen Chidozie, who has always been behind him, providing the needful support and encouragement. May God grant her the fortitude to bear the loss. The Lord has blessed him with good children who are already the chips of the old block.

His family, the relatives and the loved ones should take solace in the following words from the Bible: "Therefore you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you" (John 16:22); "The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:8); "For the Lord will not reject forever, for if He causes grief, then He will have compassion, according to His abundant loving kindness" (Lamentations 3: 31-32).

It is my fervent hope and prayer that the Almighty God would grant his gentle soul eternal rest in heaven, Amen.

Godfrey C. Ezenwakwelu  
Ezieke, Ojoto.



**Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'eye ife Ojoto**

## In-law of over 50 years

**W**hen Uncle Goddy Chidozie (as we fondly called him) became our in-law over 50 years ago; he became an important and close member of our large family until his death. His role in our family increased from that of in-law to that of affectionate friend, a colossus, a man of many parts and seasons, adviser, exemplary leader, mentor and a loyal family member. In retrospect, we couldn't have asked for a better in-law. We are truly grateful to God for the opportunity of knowing you. Uncle Goddy Chidozie was an encyclopaedia to us. This is why the news of his death on 4th November, 2021 reached us as a big shock and even a bigger shock to OJOTO community as a whole.

Though we are saddened by his death, we are heartened by the huge impact he had made in the field of achievement. Ichie Oku was a great achiever; he was empowered to empower others very early in life. Uncle Goddy was always welcoming, kind hearted, a peace maker, outstanding role model, mentor, an epitome of fatherhood, man full of potentials, confidence and vision. During the long service he rendered to the public generally and his immediate family in particular, he excelled; in supporting young families, he shone; in his extended CHIDOZIE family and afar. Uncle Goddy was a distinguished academician with a productive mind-set. His contributions are immeasurable not just as an Engineer, but in all aspects of human life. He was indeed a great and accomplished man whose achievements will always speak for him. Ichie Oku gave his life completely to humanity.

His fulsome life on earth confirmed to me, of our Lord's promise in Psalm 92;12-14 which says "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree, he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that are planted in the house of God shall flourish in the courts of God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing" Ichie Oku you flourished till the end. In your immediate family, you teamed up solidly with your impeccable wife, IYOM AKUBUGWU II and produced the best children – men and women in Nigeria, who were taught early in life the need to be steady fast in the Lord; you both raised them with strong Christian values; you held them in the highest esteem. You gave them the best education money could afford, never lacked giving them unflinching support, listening ears and the encouraging words, whenever needed. And in return, your wonderful teamed family members cared for you unconditionally before and throughout your ill-health period. Ichie Oku was a gift indeed to us all.

Furthermore, when we attended his 50 years wedding anniversary in November 2019, despite his ill-health, he exhibited the ability to provide welcoming and ever

listening ears to all that came to greet him. His daily concern over people was indeed overwhelming.

Thank you, Ichie Oku for sharing your knowledge and time with us.

Ichie Oku, the OKIGBO family is missing you; the Ezieke family to, which you played the noble role of a father is missing you. Humanity is missing you. What of your UGODIYA? You will forever live in our hearts.

At this time of great sorrow, I will not forget to send my heartiest sympathies and condolences personally to your wife. UGODIYA, DIBUEZE, IYOM AKUBUGWU II, be you reassured that we are all in it together. Don't also forget the wordings of the song writer Civilla D Martins "do not be dismayed, whatever betides, God will take care of you"

But, Wait a while! Ichie Oku, now that you are no more, who will be giving us light? Who will we be reporting our transformer problems to? Who will be giving us the lengthy lectures of the historical background of the areas in questions? And who will stand in the gap in our electricity project?.....And who will.....the questions are endless. This however epitomised the kind of person you were.

Today is the day, let us all remember that eternity begins for every individual the moment he/she closes his/her eyes in death. It comes without warning; to the old and to the young; to the rich and to the poor. If therefore you are still in sin, let today be your day of SALVATION, REPENT and RESOLVE never to go back to sin, for it is appointed onto man once death come judgement.

All I have to say to you is "REQUIESCAT EN PACE" Ichie Oku

Adieu our worthy and courageous in-law  
Adieu Ichie Oku 1 of Ojoto  
May Almighty God grant your gentle soul  
eternal rest AMEN.

Mrs Loretta-Christy Mojekwu



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n' enye ife Ojoto

## My tribute to Engineer Goddy C. Chidozie

It is with a rude shock I received on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 news of the exit of an icon in Engineering profession. It is true that life is usually expressed starting from the day one is born till the day one draws the last breath, but it is equally true that this space of time brings with it loads of good and bad memories and stories of the persons by those he left behind. His or her interactions with people, achievements, lives touched, commitment to service, strategic development of the young ones that crossed his or her part, calmness irrespective of his/her disposition and many more societal accolades. Many a time at times like this these review jump into the minds of those that know the deceased intimately. I am one of those that met Engr G C Chidozie at my younger age in 1979 in Calabar District of NEPA where he was the District Manager (DM).

I arrived Calabar NEPA office August 1979 for young Engineers' pupilage training programme for six months and reported to the DM. Little did I know that God had positioned a Mentor for my Career development. He not only tutored me in the Engineering Practice in the Distribution value chain of the Electricity Power Sector of Nigeria but followed me up with his focus on my progression until I became the Operations and Maintenance Superintendent (OMS) in ISLAND DISTRICT of NEPA in Victoria Island 1985. Engr. G C Chidozie provided a good comfort level and played a major role in laying foundation for what I later became in the Power Sector especially in NEPA/PHCN.

I am therefore bold to acknowledge that he touched my life positively and takes pleasure in sharing knowledge and his work experience. He exposed me early in my chosen profession to project implementation. One of those was my Historic first assignment to design and install a 7.5MVA 33/11KV Injection Sub-Station at Ikom Army Barrack Cross River in 1980. It is Historic for me because it was my first LIVE practical project after I left Engineering Faculty of University of Lagos in 1977. He personally used this project to launch me to many other but bigger capacity Injection Sub-Stations taking me through Planning and Construction of Distribution networks, Protection, Control and Metering.

Obviously, there is no doubt that his lovely wife Helen, his very enterprising children that were very close to me then but grown up with their individual families now, his friends, his colleagues and my very self will miss him. However, I take solace in the God Almighty knowing fully well that Engr. G. C. Chidozie my own BOSS was a devoted Christian that accepted the blood of our Jesus Christ early enough in his life. Although, he has left us here on earth God Almighty will open the gate of Heaven for him to enter and lie in his bosom

GOOD NIGHT

Engr. Reuben O. Okeke FNSE, FAEng

It is with a broken and heavy heart that I write this tribute to an icon in Ojoto community. I felt like the world had come to an end when I saw the announcement on the facebook of passing of a man I looked up to, Engr. Chidozie was a man that made all that came in touch with him feel very welcome and their problems taken care of satisfactorily. He was the chairman of the defunct OPU, that metamorphosed into PUO Lagos branch from mid 80s to early 90s. I was fortunate to serve the organization as secretary under him until 1990 when I resigned to pursue other goals in my life. He was always ready to listen to everybody on different issues at all times. He did not discriminate against anybody based on class, religious doctrine or any other basis.

As District manager of the defunct NEPA, Lagos branch, his doors were always open to everyone. I remember once we had a disconnection problem at our house at Mafoluku, Oshodi, we went to his office. He went out of his way to assist us get reconnected. He would welcome all and sundry to his home and entertained you like you were in the same class.

Ichie Okuneyeife, as the chairman of OPU, helped reunify Ojotorians living in Lagos during that period of the Igweship tussle between Igwe Obidiwe and Adirika and did a lot to electrify Ojoto, hence the title Ichie Okuneyeife.

He was a good family man both as father and husband. May his gentle soul continue to rest in peace in the bosom of our Lord till we meet again to part no more.

Chukwudum Okoye



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enyefe Ojoto



## A beautiful soul, most humourous bossom uncle goddy.

**H**ow wonderful it is, how pleasant when brothers live in harmony for harmony is as precious as the fragrance anointing oil that was poured over Aarons head and ran down his beard and onto the border of his robe. Harmony is as refreshing as the dew on mount Hermon (psalm 33). It is always the case when mortals run into Angels, just like a dream, before you know it, it is dawn. I would be misunderstood if I don't put anything in writing as a tribute to my beautiful Uncle, neither him nor I or anyone else close to him knew the end was so near.

The mystery of human life makes it that many events leave unpleasant memories and yet, such happenings are inescapable. Death is one of such happenings that we never seem to desire but would continually stare us in the face as a reality that highlights the finitude of human life. It is truly a call of the Divine Master which my uncle, Ichie Oku n'enyefe has finally answered.

My first home in Lagos was APCON HOUSE, Anthony Village Lagos with Uncle Chinedu Okigbo, when he relocated to Kenyan, Uncle Goddy's house on Lanre Awolokun Gbagada Lagos instantly became my next home. On retirement from (NEPA), we moved down with him to his family house at house 3/5 Baba\_Ewe street Ago\_palace way Okota Lagos, a home away from home. Your house was a beehive where everyone felt welcome, free and well relaxed, a place to be reckoned.

Uncle's worth was never in material things or in his fat bank account, rather it was in the positive influence he had on others. He gave the needed morale a listening ear, a guru in stock exchange. He had a great impact on my life with words of encouragement and advice that transformed people's Outlook. He was sensitive to people's circumstances, a devoted Christian, and a knight of St John International.

He maintained a very cordial relationship with his brothers\_in\_law late Chief Patrick Ifeanyichukwu Okigbo and my beloved Daddy, late Chief Anthony Okechukwu Okigbo. of blessed memory. Ichie Oku n'enyefe accepted his illness in good fate and never complained. My last visit to him was November 2019 with my beloved mom Late Patricia Adaobi Okigbo for thier 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Uncle Goddy, you have gone before us to enjoy the eternal bliss but surely you live on. Though we are denied of your physical presence, the sweet memories we hold of you is surely perennial. You lived in the world and now you live in us your family whose lives you affected positively.

Ichie Oku n'enyefe you showed that God's grace was not in vain.

Adieu Great Uncle Goddy  
Adieu Ichie OKUNENYEIFE

Ifeomachukwu Ella Akunnia Okigbo.  
*Niece*



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enyefe Ojoto

## Ichie Okunenyefe N'ojoto

It's like I've known Ichie Okunenyefe practically all my life. I grew up knowing him. His wife is not just my relative but a big sister to me, and her father's house was my second home growing up in Ojoto. It was a home where I was well received and well treated as a child. I was like a little pet to her father whom we all fondly called Papa Ezeafulukwe. So I began to see Ichie Okunenyefe when marriage naturally drew him close to this home of love, industry and discipline.

Engr. (Sir, Dr., Chief) Godfrey Chira Chidozie meant different things to me at different stages of my development, but they all culminated into friendship, and he remains the one man I called and truly regarded as my mentor. I held him in high esteem from the beginning to the end. Indeed, I literally idolized him – and for good reasons.

We enjoyed each other's confidence to the extent that I could be my authentic, original self before him, without inhibitions or trepidation. It happened rather naturally, probably because we shared a few attributes in common.

Ichie Okunenyefe was what I choose to describe as a 'natural' man. He was always himself and would never play to the gallery. He always said it as it was, or rather as he saw it, irrespective of who was or were involved. To him, things were either white or black, and he would not try to cast them in more brilliant colors.

Ironically, however, it is common knowledge that most people are humored by lies and deceit, even when they know them for what they are, and would vehemently oppose whoever doesn't serve them that dish. Ichie Okunenyefe would, of course, never serve it. He would tell you the bitter truth, even about yourself, without necessarily detesting you. However, this attribute made him a few enemies.

Okunenyefe was a committed friend and ally to all irrespective of class or status. His circle of friends didn't recognize class. He was as much at home with the wealthy and powerful as he was with the poor and downtrodden. He would drink with both and eat with both whatever their environment; he met them there and hobnobbed with them right there in their hood. That was quintessential Engr. Chidozie!



He was as compassionate as he was courageous. He was not one to hear about a person in need and look the other way. He was a generous man, much as he would never condone laziness. He was a man who would readily deny himself some comfort just so he would bail a distressed person out of difficulty or lack. He always felt fulfilled to do that. That saw him sow into the lives of a number of struggling folks just to liberate them from poverty. It didn't matter to him if such people were related to him or not. There are a number of such people in Ojoto today. Unfortunately, though, there are also instances of some of them who turned to bite the finger that fed them.

As a senior manager of note in the defunct National Electric Power Authority, NEPA, Engr. G.C. Chidozie was instrumental to the employment of a number of Ojoto people in that establishment. He deployed his influence there positively to facilitate the connection of Ojoto-Uno to the national grid. Past executive officers of the Progressive Union Ojoto, PUO, will readily attest to this fact.

His belief in education as a catalyst for personal advancement as well as development at local and national levels was second to none. He encouraged every young person who got close to him to focus on getting a good education. He was ready and willing to assist to achieve that in whatever way he could. It was a cause in which he would invest without counting cost.

It was, consequently, not at all surprising that Engr. Chidozie studied and bagged a doctorate degree from the University of Lagos even when he had retired from service and was already advanced in age. That feat should speak eloquently about the man of honor and integrity whose mortal remains were interred today.

My heart goes out to your immediate family, especially your wonderful children and my Big ter, your adorable wife of 52 memorable years. One can only imagine the turmoil of emotions they're understandably experiencing at this time. While I feel their pulse, Right now I can only say



Sis

Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'nye ife Ojoto

May the Lord console you all and make it easy for you in the best way only He knows.  
Ndonu. Ndonu, biko.

As we bid you farewell, my mentor Ichie Okuneyeife n'Ojoto, I want to remind you that you are not only appreciated and treasured for diverse reasons, but you are also loved today and forever. As George Elliot said, our dead are never dead to us until we have forgotten them. Unforgettable, Ichie Okuneyeife, that's what you are!

May our compassionate God grant your caring soul eternal rest in His bosom. Naa n'udo, ezigbo mmadu pulu iche.

Chief Dozie Kaidi Obiaku, Ichie Ugo Ojoto

## Okunanyeife Na Ojoto

You were a great achiever  
You were a strong and positive personality  
You were a fantastic uncle  
You were a visionary teacher  
Actually you were a very handsome man  
You were my hero and you were my mentor

I will definitely miss you Ichie  
Okunanyeife na Ojoto, nwafor Ezieke  
from chief Nwaokafor Udezue of  
Chidozie dynasty of Urowelle Kindred

My specially condolences goes the your family members you left behind,  
May God continue shower his love to you all.

You will always be remembered in any social palace by your popular saying  
onyenujue must go (if you a tipsy you must go)

Ichie Okunaeyeife na Ojoto, Onye udo blessed Good Night

Engr Chinedum Ejiofor and Family



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'eye ife Ojoto

## The Light

**Y**ou were like a lamp in the middle of a room but its light is the midst. You were everywhere saturating the atmosphere like a lovely perfume. ICHIE OKUNENYE IFE OJOTO, The life you lived we cannot forget in hurry. I thank God that you lived a fulfilled life. I also give God the glory for giving you a wonderful family, for if money and love could preserve someone's life, you would not have died. They indeed did their best to take care of you till the end.



On the day of your demise, your spirit visited and I remembered you immediately and started sharing with my wife your good deed and some of my encounters with you. I got to know you even before you married as you were very close with my late uncle Andrew Okoye (Oluolie). You were also very close to my maternal uncle Willie Esimoneze (late), of which it was the love you had for him that you transferred to me. Thank you for all the advice you gave me when I was the chairman of PUO. You were always there to make sure I did the right thing. You loved me so much, hence the "Nwadinwan'ime". You contributed in making my tenure a successful one. I was in so many Ojoto Committees with you ranging from Electricity Project, Mmili John Project. One of the meetings at Late Chief Ugokwe Onuona's house, while going home after the meeting, my vehicle spoilt in the middle of the road at night, we pushed it from almost Ogudu GRA to Gbagada your house then, myself my wife and late chief Mike Okoye slept in your house. We also had Electricity meeting with the Late Chief Dr. P.N.C Okigbo. You almost single handedly supervised and brought light to Ojoto.

I remember travelling with you to Ojoto on 2 or 3 occasions from Lagos, to have meetings for the welfare of our town. You lived a life worthy of emulation. May your gentle soul rest peacefully in the bosom of the Lord. Till we meet in that resurrection morning.

DADDY KACHIFO  
GOOD NIGHT SIR  
JEE IJEGI NKEOMA ICHIE OKUNENYE IFE OJOTO  
ADIEU GREAT MAN

Mr. Uche Okoye (Onye lua olie)

## A unique personality

**H**e came, he saw and he conquered! OKUNENYEIFE Ojoto was a consummate and thorough professional engineer that deployed all his time, talent and treasure to the service of God and humanity

As a strong lover of education, he trained all his children, siblings and others. He acquired a PhD at an advanced age as a testimony of his love for knowledge. For this he became my mentor. At a time, he did promise to sponsor my PhD studies if I was willing to pursue it. This could not be because I had to work to help train my younger ones.

OKUNENYEIFE OJOTO, as a community man was instrumental for the electrification of Ojoto and employment of some of her citizens in the then NEPA

He spearheaded the formation of the new PUO in 2005, by mobilizing the Lagos branch and prevailing on me to head it after the death of the mother body during Ichie Ogidi's regime.

He also midwived the reactivation of Ojoto Akanasator Union with Professor Victor Anosa after the crisis of Late Chief Tony Nzelu regime

Oku Ojoto as fondly call lived a very impactful life with his footprints on the sands of time. I mourn his demise, because I will see him no more. But surely his legacies will forever live in the hearts of those of us whose lives he touched. I pray that the family should immortalize him by setting up a foundation that will take care of any indigent Ph.D student in Ojoto.

Adieu nnugwu mmadu bu nnugwu alusi.  
May your good works of charity merit you a place in the bosom of the Almighty God  
Amen

Engr. Fidelis Nna Ochili  
Ichie Obataobie Ojoto



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enyefe Ojoto

## My friend and colleague

**W**ords can never really be enough to express how I felt at the news of the demise of my friend and colleague, Engr Sir Goddy Chidozie, Ichie Oku. A vast emptiness just descended and enveloped me!

Goddy and I first met in 1963 at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. We were in the same department studying for a degree in electrical engineering.

We herded together throughout the years at ABUZ and, upon graduation in June 1966, went on to join the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria ECN, later named NEPA, and much later PHCN, and stayed on with that same employer until voluntary and/or mandatory retirement.

Goddy and I practically grew up together from boys to men, and from men to fathers and unto grandfathers. We remained friends; our wives became friends and remained friends; our children joined, became friends and remained friends.

Goddy lived a good and purposeful life characterized by integrity, competitiveness, sportsmanship, loyalty and friendship. I, nay we, are already missing him and his wise counsel. May God grant Goddy eternal rest, and comfort and strengthen his wife Nelly, the children, family and friends.

Adieu, my friend.

N'aga, ayi n'abia n'oge nke ayi lue. Ayi enwero mgbaha!

Engr Sir Eddy Okoye  
Ogbuefi Nnanyelugo n'Oraifite.

## Ichie okunenye ife ojoto

**I**related very well with Ichie Engr. Godfrey Chidozie for more than half a century; from student years to retirement from active life. He was a wise and highly discerning, highly organized and a down – to – earth Ojoto intellectual. He was humble even as a High Chief and Ichie Ezieke; Ezieke the village of the traditional scepter fame. Ichie Godfrey Chidozie culturally and aptly titled as okunenyeife Ojoto, is a man that will be remembered for as long as electricity and light remain vital in many communities where he was opportuned to serve humanity. I used the word 'is in present tense capital letters deliberately for emphasis, because he still lives in the hearts of those who love him for his contributions to their power supply systems.

Apart from the cultural earlier referred to; he participated actively in Ojoto Social and development affairs. Between 1985 and 1988, he served briefly as Vice Chairman of Ojoto Akanasato Union Lagos (I was Chairman). He was an excellent co-worker. Members were restless over frequent changes in meeting locations. There were sterile talks about having a hall for our meetings. It was his thought and question: “How can we be thinking of a hall without money in our account?,” that triggered debates that led to the decision to invite Ijele Dance Group to Lagos, to teach us Ijele dance steps. The dance was later formally performed to the public. This dramatic move eventually yielded money for a land and a land for a hall. Ideas are masters in deed. Ichie Engr. Godfrey is unforgettable.

May Almighty God accept his soul and give him eternal rest.  
Oku – nyelu – ayi – ife. Fare thee well.

Nnanede Charles Obianyor  
Ezennanede II Ojoto



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enyefe Ojoto

## A Tribute to Ichieoku Engr. G.C. Chidozie

A light from our lives has gone  
A voice we loved is still  
A place is vacant within our hearts  
Which can never be filled.  
Although we cannot hear Ichieoku's voice or see him smile no more,  
his memory will always remain with us.

Ichieoku, I remember how you and my sister, Helen, stood by me when I  
lost my husband 10 years ago.  
I remember your spirit of resilience and good humor.  
Conversations you could hold with a 1 year old child as well as a 100 year  
old adult.  
Your scholastic nature always amazed me.  
You touched and enriched lives in so many different ways.

Thank you for the kindness you showed me and my family,  
I feel honored and privileged to have known you.  
God Almighty is always there to bless your family, to give them strength to  
recover from the deepest sorrow.

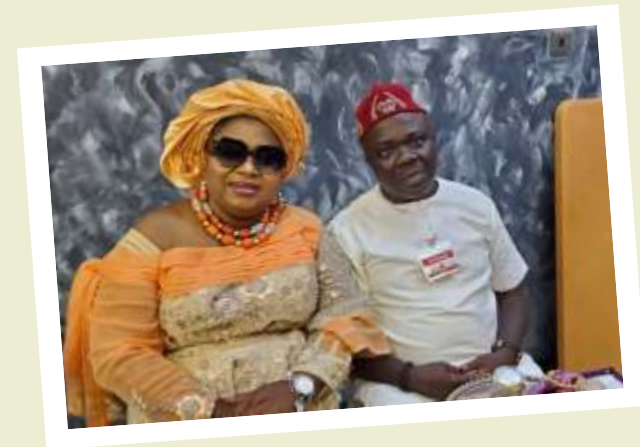
Rest in Peace, Ichieoku  
Thank you for all that you've done.  
I know God has given you the crown you've truly won.  
Your vacant place, no one can fill.  
We miss you now and we always will.  
Adieu Ichieoku

Mrs. Catherine I. Ogbonna

## A hero of Ojoto

**W**e have all learnt, life is fleeting and the idea is to make and leave as many  
positive memories as possible. That you have achieved in your humane  
nature, kind and easy going personality. Chief Engr G.C Chidozie (Ichie  
Okuneyeife Ojoto) we know you have finally found the purest form of peace  
which even life itself could not give. Sleep well sir till we meet again in the after life.

High Chief Sir. Donatus Anozie  
Ichie ezemadike Ojoto  
President general O.A.U



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enyefe Ojoto

## Ichie Okunayeife, Phd of Ojoto

**O**n behalf of my immediate family, I chief Dom Okuzu wish to commiserate with the Chidozie family on the passing into glory of their beloved husband, father and grandfather.

Indeed the death of Ichie Oku of Ojoto is a great loss not only to the Chidozie family but to Ojoto community as a whole including we the inlaws, he was a great iroko tree in Ojoto a man endured with great knowledge, wisdom and high determination.

A man who played a dominant role in giving his town electricity which earned him Okunayeife of ojoto (the light that electrified his town).

Ichie oku you came, you saw and you conquered. You are an all "round player", in the politics of Ojoto you did wonders in the tradition of Ojoto, you were excellent in the culture you were a major consultant and in your marriage life you were fabulous, infact the bond between you and mummy Helen was one of the greatest lesson I learnt from making contact with you, yours was a perfect marriage, my prayer is that God Almighty will give mummy Helen a great heart to bear this irreparable loss.

Good night complete gentle man,  
May your gentle soul rest in peace

Chief and Mrs Dom Okuzu  
(Akurouno)

## A great friend and achiever

**T**he loss of a husband, father and dear one is always traumatic and devastating as a great vacuum is always created. Ichie Oku, you were a great man with an enviable character, very brilliant and intelligent. You were one of the best products of St. Odilia Primary School. This made you gain admission into Government College Umuahia, and later the best university in Nigeria.

You really worked hard for your country Nigeria and Your town Ojoto. You helped brought electricity in Ojoto which earned you Ichie Oku. Your works and achievements have put your name in pages of the history of Ojoto.

I pray that the good Lord grant you eternal rest as well as your wife, children and all of us the fortitude to bear the great loss.

Adieu Nnamochie

Chief Frank E. Okoye  
*Ichie Umunna Ojoto*



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enyefe Ojoto

## An icon and a father to all

Ecc. 3:1-2 *To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven.*

*A time to be born, and a time to die, a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted.*

We all had our times and seasons. This is the time for our adorable daddy Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie to go back to his Lord and maker. We give all the glory to the Almighty God, for the life he lived.

Daddy, you have fought the good fight, you have finished the race, you have kept the faith.

While on earth, you were a symbol of strength, an embodiment of love and a father to all.

You lived a life worthy of emulation.

It is time and season for you to wear your crown of glory.

Goodnight adorable dad

Ka chifo Nnukwu Nna

Till we meet on Resurrection morning.

Deacon & Pastor (Mrs.) Chuks Mkparu.

## A Rare Gem 'ichie Oku'

**T**he man that electrified Ojoto, I salute you. The man that accommodates both big and small, grammarian, strong augmentator, good historian and orator. You said until you belong to the class of thirty days make one pay, then you know that savings is important. In your happy mood you said "all beer is beer" that "anujoo can go". You never had a doll moment as far as I know. Your door was open for anybody anytime you were around.

I remembered 1987 when I was looking for a job and I visited you in your office at NEPA Marina, after seeing my result you said John I can't present this to anybody better go and retake, which I did. You later gave me a job in NEPA without an interview. After that umunnadi started their home war but they all failed.

OKUNAENYEIFE – You are a straight-forward person, you hate laziness, gossip and lies. Though some people may misunderstand you, but I know you.

You laid a solid foundation for so many people, you gave jobs which I am one of the beneficiaries. The foundation you laid has given so many youths in Ezieke a livelihood which I am also a beneficiary.

Ichie Oku, you have many qualities, your generosity is beyond measure. Your knowledge of Ezieke history has never been countered, you have wisdom, knowledge per-excellence. Ichie Ezieke UKPAKA DIKE NA URUOWELLE, I miss you, the door that you always open when you are around, who will do it again now that you are no more, ah chi ejie!

You may have fault as human but I can stand to say with clear conscience that your goodness is more.

NNUKWU NNA ANYI, Ife Uruowelle ji di ebube  
rest in peace. (Sigh) - bye

May the mercy of God lead you into his paradise  
in Jesus name. Amen.

John Kezie Udeze & family



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enye ife Ojoto



I have admired Ichie Oku from my primary school days at St Odilias primary Ojoto. He was years ahead of me and classmate to my late elder sister Anne. I am Godwin and he Godfrey so we shared the appellation Goddy. I admired him because of his combination of intellect and humility. In his class he was always First and the next person was always content with a distant second place. The school had up to primary five and when the ministry of education came to St Odilias for assessment for primary six, our Headmaster Late Chief James Okigbo put the two Goddy for questioning Godfrey was in primary 5 whilst I was in primary 2

The education officer was satisfied after the questions and answers was satisfied and approved the school for Primary six the following year and Ichie Oku was the first set to do primary school at ojoto. Before this time St odilias pupils used to finish primary six at Our Lady's primary school Umuoji. In his primary six he was the only pupil to pass common entrance to the prestigious Government College Umuahia. Upon passing the common entrance he applied for idemili Local Government are of Amambra State where he also came first

At Government college, he continued with his academic excellence and was one of the few that wrote the West African Examination Council Examination (waec) from class four and came out in flying colours from there he proceeded to higher school where again he finished superlatively and from there went straight to Ahmadu Bello University Zaria as one of the pioneer Electrical Engineering undergraduates

As usual, he graduated B.Sc Electrical Engineering and was promptly employed by ECN which later became power holding company of Nigeria (PHCN). He served the power sector in several management capacity around the country and retired meritoriously after 35 years. Upon retirement he went back to pursue a Doctorate Degree which he accomplished successfully

Dr Chidozie was capped as Ichie Oku nanyeife of Ojoto by the igwe of Ojoto in 1995. He is a churchman and a Knight of St John International and is a very strong pillar of St. Odilias Catholic church Ojoto He married his hearttrop Helen Okigbo in 1969 and they are blessed with many children We all will miss him in the community and the church in particular. We take solace in the fact that he is resting in the bosom of Abraham  
May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace

Sir. Godwin N. Anyichie ksm  
Ichie Ezedioramma



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enyefe Ojoto

## A Tribute to my dear friend Godfrey Chidozie (Ichie Oku n'enyè Ife)

Goddy and I met at the Ibadan Tennis Club in the late 70s. He was working for NEPA and me for Nigerian Tobacco Company (NTC). Like good tennis players who made friends easily, we hit it off immediately without much talk about our young families. However, some months later, driving with our wives through rural Ibadan one Saturday morning, we crossed each other and stopped for pleasantries only to discover we were married to women who were classmates at Mater Amabilis Girls' Secondary School Umuoji, in Anambra State. Before the pleasant surprise, as young wives do, each wife could have been thinking the other guy had his girlfriend in the car, but how wrong they were! The wives spent time thereafter catching up on school days and classmates as the two families bonded. Shortly after however I was transferred to NTC Zaria but not before Goddy and Nelly, in 1979, served as God parents to our third child Chimezie Anthony. In 1983 when I was transferred to Lagos Goddy was already in Lagos and we reunited in Lagos Country Club Tennis Section and I became the proud Godparent of Chukwuemeka John, their last child.

With a nick name like RUSTLER, which naughty secondary school juniors pronounced HUSTLER and considering how swiftly he moved his huge frame on the Tennis court in adult life, one can imagine his boxing prowess in the boxing ring as a schoolboy boxer. GC indeed turned out in later life to be a determined person, though not aggressively determined like real Hustlers. From the way he comported himself in adult life, one would wonder what lured him into the brutal sport of boxing because it looks out of character. The Goddy we knew was a gentleman to the core, who never hit below the belt. NEPA, the electricity company he worked for, nicknamed Never Expect Power Always because its poor public image and disagreeable connotations should be grateful to employees like Ichie Oku n'enyè Ife for the fantastic PR work they quietly incorporated into their routine job assignments. I am yet to meet anyone who complained about the way Chido handled his NEPA problem or treated him or her as a person and this includes his subordinate staff and colleagues. He had a high sense of duty: I've seen him abandon games of tennis midway and rush through others in order to respond to a call to duty on his ever ready Walkie Talkie. One's creed or tribe did not seem to bother him when he interacted with one professionally or socially and a few relatives and even friends worry for him; they regarded him as a lamb among wolves; but his close friends knew that Goddy always had his wits about him, successfully navigated the lucrative but dangerous terrain of public utility employment. I have never seen him loose his cool under trying circumstances, even after a few beers in the club, as he would always keep his baritone voice low; always the peace maker. Goddy was very generous; he gave until it hurt, and that's charity defined!

Godfrey and Helen made a huge success of their 1969 wedding; and we boldly declare this because nothing succeeds like success. We have since discovered that on their wedding day neither had a Plan B; each was determined to make a success of their unique union and so God blessed the union abundantly. Goddy was very well taken care of in his ill health as his wife and children were in competition who would outdo the other in taking care of daddy. Having been seen by priests on his death bed, what more can a Catholic ask for. May his great soul rest in perfect peace and may God grant all who mourn his demise the fortitude to bear the loss.

Adieu, Ichie Oku until we meet yonder.

Engr. Jerome Okwuosa

## The last of the “mohicans”

Ichie Okunaeyife to many, Uncle Goddy to me. He was the last of the Ojoto “Mohicans”. A term I ascribe to the intellectual class of Ojotorians of yore—educated and progressive, with Ojoto at the center of their life's pursuit.

That class included my father Emmanuel Okuzu (Ichie Okosisi), Lawrence Okigbo (Ichie Ogbunaechendo), Dr. Patrick Okeke (Ichie Chinaewubeze), Godwin Okigbo (Ezeafulukwe) all late, to mention a few.

He was the consummate intellectual. A trait that led him to pursue a Ph.D program in his later years, although it would be of no benefit in his professional career. He was already retired. Some would say he was argumentative, but I beg to differ. He engaged you so as to challenge you to elevate your thinking. I remember with fondness the countless hours I would spend with him as an 11-year-old, debating issues that in retrospect were mundane but were profound to an 11-year-old. He was fresh out of engineering school bustling with ideas and my inquisitive little mind was in awe of him. That connection lasted through my formative years. When I completed my master's program, he wrote me a very touching letter extolling his confidence in me. I dare say he was my friend.

He connected with both the young and the old, and always had a ready smile for you. It seemed like he was always smiling. Even when he was angry, he would manage to pull out an anecdote that would diffuse the situation. He never took himself too seriously which made him so approachable and lovable, and endeared him to many.

Ichie Oku, Uncle Goddy. Adieu.

You will be missed. Rest in perfect peace

Ben Okuzu



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enyè ife Ojoto

## Most admirable personality

Oh we lost once again a quiet transient to death the ebullient and most admirable personality Ichie Oku-ne-neye-ife. Ichie oku was like a father to me brought awareness to our village where people gathered to watch black and white television in his house. Without discrimination even though his mother was like a lioness; still she accommodated us in her home due to the generosity of her son.

As I grew up I left the village to lagos where i met him, each time i come from onitsha where i was living for my oversea trips i always stopped by his house at opebi in Ikeja lagos without notice. He accommodated me along with his dear wife Mrs Helen chidozie without questions I later relocated to lagos where he advised me to join Ojoto meeting "A father indeed" in the meeting he promised Ojoto uno light, with his influence, we where given light. He was named "Ichie Oku" which took over his real name Godfrey Chidozie.

When I was made chairman of P.U.O Ojoto uno he gave me a fatherly advise. Since there was no government in P.U.O at home that year 2004, with his fatherly advise and wisdom I was asked to amended the P.U.O constitution during this period he had project 2004 which was called (project 2004) this helped to restore back the government of Ojoto with his help and concern for land of Ojoto.

Regardless of his personality he did not discriminate between the poor and the rich and he stood for justice for all and Sundry.

One day my mother asked me why am I always with Ichie Oku? I replied that he stands for the truth and for the needy. Ichie Oku-ne-neye-ife called me Avenger the Brithish man. He loved my wife as a daughter-in-law.

How else can I describe a brother who was more or less a father to me. Daddy, the role you played in my life makes me a rallying figure and peace maker. Since it pleased God to take you say sleep on till we meet again.

Francis Avenger Nwokeabia

## Remembering Dr. (Engr) Godfrey N. C. Chidozie

I remember the first day I met Engr Godfrey C CHIDOZIE( hereafter called Chidozie as we were known at Govt College Umuahia by our last names. He was later to be known more popularly as RUSTLER.It was around 3.30pm on Thursday September 1, 1955 at Govt College Umuahia. He came down from Onitsha in a bus..more like gwongworo,,emblazoned as NO TELEPHONE TO HEAVEN. I came by bicycle from Obowo only 10 miles away brought by my eldest brother. On that bus that day came boys who were to become famous in their careers like Paul Mbaeyi, first Nigerian to win Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University, Prof Johnnie Oli, former CMD of UNTH, Prof Ferdinand Ofodile world famous Plastics Surgeon, Col. Tim Onwuatuegwu. Biafra war hero just to name a few. Chidozie looked lost and was clutching his rosary. Molestation from Class 2 boys visited on Class 1 boys were impervious to prayers. His rosary didn't work. Ken Saro Wiwa.. the famous novelist and Ogoni activist was a year our senior and descended on Chidozie asking him to carry heavy boxes for the senior boys alighting from the Onitsha bus. Chidozie refused and even said so in his Ojoto Igbo, a punishable offence in the school, Because Chidozie was 4ft 5 inches tall, Saro Wiwa was 4ft 3 inches tall and I was exactly 4 ft myself, he felt he could pound Wiwa and made a move. He was soon surrounded by Form 2 boys and given a beating. I felt sorry for him. It was the last time anyone was to beat Chidozie as he soon became a boxer and rose to become the College Boxing Captain later.

By sheer coincidence, I found myself in the same dormitory and same School house with Chidozie, In fact his bed was opposite mine. We were Class I boys which meant we were to be seen and not to be heard, The class II boys made us miserable. We were called tadpoles to which we answered. We were at the bottom of the totem pole. But we were convinced we would all make it later in life so many professors and scientists who attended the top schools in USA like Harvard and MIT. We even produced a Group Managing Director of the NNPC. Chief Chambers Oyibo, Right from Class I, Chidozie showed a remarkable proficiency in Mathematics, spending hours on Geometry. His written English was good but his spoken English displayed that Ojoto thick accent which was a disaster. He was ever so proud of his Ojoto heritage. Initially, we laughed at him and his native St Odilias church and school. We later realized that some of our most famous old



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'eye ife Ojoto

boys were from Ojoto ,like Prof Bede Okogbo 1942 (year of entry)and the unstoppable Chris Okigbo 1945 amd even Pius Okigbo Jnr 1967 His son Chike Chidozie, the business magnate, is an Umuahian old boy. Associating with Chidozie brought me close to Ojoto, his first love. Late Igwe Adirika of Ojoto, a PH business mogul, was the sponsor at my marriage to the daughter of another PH business mogul, Chief Ikokwu of Oba. Late Dr Victoria Mojekwu of Ojoto , WHO Director for Africa, was the Godmother of my son. Up Ojoto!!!

What was Chidozie like at Govt College?I will tackle three aspects namely academics, sports and character. In acadenics, Chidozie was brilliant especially in Mathematics. He always had a ftouch of genius ; always looking for alternative ways of solving problems. In today's parlance, we would say he thought outside the box! He had no patience for the arts subjects like English, History,Geography and even Biology which he classified as .story telling! Yet it was the so called story tellers like novelist Chinua Achebe 1944, novelist Chukwuemeka Ike 1945, musicologist and actor Laz Ekwueme 1948,novelist Ken Saro Wiwa 1954, poet Chris Okigbo 1945,poet Gabriel Okara 1935,sculptor Ben Enwonwu 1931, historian E J Alagoa 1948 who made Government College Umuahia famous. In our class III, Chidozie exercised a little patience for Arts subjects and rose to the first position. At those times, when we were supposed to be reading novels, he would rather sleep! He was one of 25 boys chosen to take WAEC in four years instead of five years . He later abandoned this first position to me to show how friendly we were. I didn't give it back. Its no coincidence that Chidozie studied Electrical engineering at ABU, Zaria. It was either Engineering or Mathematics. He later worked in NEPA and his exploits there are covered in other tributes.

Chidozie was not good in regular team sports like Hockey, Football and Cricket. But he excelled in individual sports like Tennis and Boxing. As he said, "I prefer to face my opponent rather than depend on cooperation from others as required in team sports". No wonder he excelled in Boxing where he rose to become the College Boxing Captain. He didn't mind waking up at 5 am for road exercises. In tennis, he was good but unconventional always cutting. I learnt from him but got nowhere. In 1958, the school bought board games like Scrabble, snakes and ladders and Monopoly. It was in Monopoly that the genius in him flourished. Four of them..Engr Jerome Eta 1953, Olu Ajibade 1954,Prof Kwankam 1954 and Chidozie 1955 became champions of this time consuming recreational board game. That's how he got his nick name RUSTLER, a name he bore to his death. He was not interested in societies like Debating society etc which he classified as story telling.

He was a member of the school Cadet corps. After Govt College, Chidozie went to ABU while I went to University of Toronto and later MIT. Our separation was made more acute by the Biafra Nigeria war . At the end of the war in 1971, I visited home and immediately sought out Chidozie at Owerri. Now he was married to a black beauty with lazer eyes and Pepsodent tooth paste smile,Helen Okigbo from the famous Okigbo family of Ojoto Offia. While Rustler is impatient , Helen has the patience of the biblical Job. Opposites attract. The mark of genius in Chidozie also made him a damn good investor in stocks and shares. He was able to use his knowledge of probability theory into making killings at the stock market. I never stopped visiting Chidozie after this reunion.

Chidozie was an Umuahian but would rather converge with his Ojoto Offia kinsmen where he could play DRAFT a real village boy. Thanks to his wife Helen, they took part in some events featuring his Umuahian classmates of 1955 including some of his obligations to his alma mater. Lets hope his son Chike will continue this and erect an edifice in Govt College for remembering his father RUSTLER.

I have been following his progress since almost five years ago when he had a stroke. Visiting him with my wife and classmates was always a priority for me. The devotion and patience of his wife Helen remains exemplary. The inevitable has happened and we pray for Helen and the kids to endure his death. Chike, we look forward to having you remember that your father RUSTLER was a man for all seasons. We, his classmates, look forward to a memorial for Chidozie at Govt College Umuahia . I have missed a friend and a buddy. RUSLER go yee in peace.

Dr. Eugene, C. Ibe. (Classmate).  
*For and on behalf of Old Boys of  
Government College Umuahia.*



**Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJ**  
Ichie oku n'enyefe Ojoto

It is with great tribulation, grief and heavy heart that I reluctantly put down these few words as a mark of tribute on the person of late Chief Eng. G.C. Chidozie. When the unfortunate demise of late Chief Eng. G.C. Chidozie was formally pronounced upon on the 5th day of November, 2021 by his royal highness, Igwe Gerald Obunadike Mbamalu, Eze Oranyelu 1, Eze Ojoto, as tradition demands, Ichie Oku (as he was generally referred to), being the highest ranking ichie in Ezieke kingdom, I could not find adequate words to express how should and devastated I was, hence, his demise was a humongous/monumental, irreparable and irreplaceable loss to the good people of Ojoto Akanasato and the entire Anambra state.

Ichie Oku, was to me like a father, uncle, big brother, mentor, a dependable and reliable ally/partner, who I would rightly state unequivocally, justifiably and courageously mobilized and/or led some of us in Ezieke village to several won battles fought not with lethal weapons, but with kind words, persuasions, philanthropic dispositions, wits, expostulation and brotherly love all in his sincere and honest belief that it behaves on all of us to leave behind us a better, formidable and enlightened society for the glory and for the aggrandizement of the unborn generations. Therefore, it would not be out of place to aver that it is to his credit that Ana Mbala, (the Ezieke Ancestral Communal Land) is preserved up till this material time and to be bequeathed to the unborn generations at a colossal financial cost single handedly borne by him from his commodious pocket.

Furthermore, Ichie Oku, that I came to relate quite closely with (as a growing young secondary school student in the early 1980s), was an epitome and or embodiment of uprightness, justice and equity, strong character, a man of tremendous wisdom, dignity, integrity, selflessness and jumbo heart whose legacies will surely out live him.

He studied at the famous and prestigious Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and was the first electrical engineer ever produced in Ojoto, Idemili South Local Government Area of Anambra state. The fitness in his general mannerism and immense knowledge (especially in command of the use of the English vocabulary), endeared and encouraged some of us in Ojoto to root and seek for education first before any other opportunity life could offer.

It is on record that Ichie Oku was instrumental to the high literacy level of the good people of Ezieke village and we shall for ever remain grateful to him and to the Almighty God that created him in our midst. He was able to achieve this feat

through the provision of consistent financial assistance to several families in Ezieke village to foot/settle school bills, provision of cash to several individuals to set up businesses and ensuring that some gained useful employment with government agencies-especially in the defunct National Electricity Power Authority (NEPA) where he meritoriously held sway and subsequently retired as a general manager.

Perhaps one of his greatest legacies and/or bequest to Ojoto Akanasato (especially Ojoto-uno), was his indefatigable and successful efforts in ensuring that our community was electrified in the later part of 1980s.

He and some other public spirited individuals in Ojoto fought vigorously to ensure that Ojoto-uno was electrified and therefore connected to the national grid at the material time. This cannot be said to be a mean accomplishment.

On a more personal note, as I earlier adumbrated herein, apart from his unsurpassed and/or fabulous love for education and the general encouragement he freely bestowed on our people and Ojoto in general (regarding the significance of acquisition of western education), Ichie Oku personally contributed, encouraged, advanced my education exceedingly and the moderate successes so far recorded in my life both as an undergraduate and graduate of law.

I could still remember with nostalgia the several visitations and the warmly reception accorded to my friends and I in his gorgeous house situated then at no. 2 salsalvation road Opebi, Ikeja, Lagos and the sumptuous banquets readily made available to us by his elegant, lovely, god fearing wife, the lady with lion heart, the amazon from the great okigbo dynasty, my alma mater, the great malabress- Chief Mrs. Helen Chidozie (Dibueze, Iyom Akubugwu II of Ojoto Akanasato Kingdom), and while departing to our various individual destinations, Ichie Oku, in his usual characteristic act of philanthropic disposition, would gladly and generously advance some money to me for upkeep. one of the books (company and allied matters act, 1990) I expended Ichie Oku's money to purchase, till this moment, forms part of the contents of my rich library.

It is worthy of note to remember the numerous occasions I ran to him for elderly advice one of which was in 1990 when I was newly called to the Nigerian Bar as a solicitor and advocate of the supreme of Nigeria. at the material time in question, we had a very serious family problem that would have



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enyefe Ojoto

led the entire Obunadike family into protracted legal squabbles. however, when I approached Ichie Oku for his piece of advice with respect to the family issues, in his characteristic manner of unrivaled great intellectual prowess and wisdom, he discreetly advised against any legal battle, hence, applying his God given 'Solomonic Wisdom', he viewed it (and rightly too) that I was too adolescent to engage in such family discord over land matter that may ultimately turn out to be insignificant in future endeavor. Ichie Oku therefore requested me in all honesty, to go and face my legal practice with vigour and earnestly. even though I accepted this advice reluctantly at the material time due to youthful exuberance, behold, Ichie Oku was ultimately vindicated with the passage of time. he would therefore be remembered as the King Solomon and the nostradamus of our time.

In conclusion, Ichie Oku would be remembered as a nobler who was more at home with the commoners than with his contemporaries. he was such a respectable and distinguished aristocrat who because of the demureness inherent in him, would always downplay and or de-emphasis his nobility in order to make everyone around him happy and satisfied. during his life time, he ran an open down policy, visiting the have and have-not, providing money, edibles and drinkables to those around him whether in his house or upon his usual visits unto the abodes of the have-nots in the society. he was such a selfless gentle man that would happily provide 'kola nut' in the house of his host if he notice that the said host cannot conveniently muscle such responsibility.

He touched and bettered several lives during his sojourn on earth, lived fulfilled life, surpassingly blessed in all ramification by god almighty and would be greatly missed by those of us who had the rare priviledge of interacting with him.

May his gentle soul continue to rest in perfect peace until we (in long distant future), join him wherever he is and part no more.

Chief Barrister Ernest Ositadinma Obunadike, Mcarb,  
(Ichie Okwubudike Ojoto Akanasato),  
Ichie Umeh and Ichie Ward 1, Ezieke Village, Ojoto Akanasato.

## Condolence message from Ojoto Akanasato Women Wing Lagos Branch

**T**he entire women of Ojoto akanasato lagos branch wish to convey our heartfelt condolences to one of our past president Chief Mrs Helen Chidozie on the demise of her beloved husband Chief G.C. Chidozie, Okuneyefe Ichie Okun'enye ife Ojoto

He was one of the founding fathers of this union and also a loving, caring father who positively impacted all who came his way, a devout Christian. Ojoto Lagos branch and all Ojoto both far and near will not forget him in the distant future.

Mummy, as you and your family mourn please be comforted by the fact that he lived a fulfilled life, impacted positively on people and left a good legacy.

May the Almighty and merciful God grant his soul eternal rest. Amen.

Good night Ichie Okuneyefe Ojoto.



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enye ife Ojoto



**CONDOLENCE MESSAGE**

**THE GOOD GOD HAS MADE IT HAPPEN**

When I thought that I will enjoy a long impressive relationship with my In-law late Chief Engr. G.C "Chidozie Okunaenye ife" of Ojoto town in Idemili Local Government Area of Anambra State of Nigeria.

When I thought that the devilish illness would keep off from body.

When I thought money would abate the treatment.

When I had hoped that our good God had cured him and my affiliative discussion would continue up to date.

When I thought that he would enjoy his Children's wonderful care to a longer year physically

When my hopeful future discussions are swept away like hay of lightening but my happiness is glaring due to his wise openness and his wealth of experience in respect of earthly matters

The devil has power over destruction of human body, but has no power over human souls. YES! God is supreme to all living, and gives command to his creatures at will. As such, the Devil could no more torment my in-law's body any longer rather He the Almighty God has given late "Okunaenyeife" Chief Engr. G.C Chidozie perpetual rest in his domain.

My family's condolence goes to late Okunaenyeife's wife and children who mourn the early demise of their patriarch.

Well behaved Ichie of Ojoto and much closed in-law who did not believe in castigation, I and my family shall ever mourn his demise with pride due to his legacy on earth, particularly for his adoration to God. Let the living be wise to emulate him.

Adieu my Great in-law.

**Nze Eyisi Ebulue II**  
**Sir R.O Udeze**  
**For: Eyisi Ebuluo Foundation**  
**08036676120**



**His Royal Highness**  
**IGWE GERALD OBUNADIKE MBAMALU, KSM**  
 Eze Oranyelu I, Eze Ojoto III

- IGWE'S PALACE: ENUGO VILLAGE OJOTO
- igweincouncil.ojoto@gmail.com
- mbamalugerald@gmail.com
- 09093333335 | 08034022503 | 08023272225

**IGWE-IN-COUNCIL OJOTO**  
 IDEMILI SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA

**TRIBUTE TO AN ICON LATE HIGH CHIEF GODFREY CHIDOZIE (ICHIE OKUNENYEIFE)**

It is with a profound sense of loss that we commiserate with the Chidozie Family and Ojoto at large on the passing of our brother and colleague in the Ojoto Royal Council, High Chief Godfrey Chidozie(Ichie Okunenyeife Ojoto).

A notable and personable son of Ojoto, Ichie Okunenyeife was an Ichie ume and a long standing member of the Ojoto Royal Council where he served Ojoto with utmost commitment. He was a sociable gentleman and dedicated team player who when he was strong, featured noticeably in council meetings and functions, contributing his lucid ideas and opinions at all times.

When Ojoto Akanasato was in disarray, he was one of the "Eight Man Committee" set up by Gov. Chris Ngige to streamline the issues and create a good and stable Government in Ojoto which the committee did perfectly.

Death refers to the end of life as we know it, we all will go through this sad occurrence, and it is unavoidable. A philosopher posited, we must accept death, but for as long as you are alive, you should live your life to the fullest and make sure to enjoy it. That was what Ichie Okunenyeife did; he lived his life to the fullest and ensured that he had fun.

As we mourn this illustrious son of Ojoto today, we are consoled by Kim Harrison, while dissecting death, reminds us that "endings are not always bad; most times they're just beginnings in disguise". We urge the Chidozie family to take heart and accept death as part of life.

May our compassionate God Almighty grant Ichie Okunenyeife's widow and children the grace the need as this time to deal with the inevitable sadness and to properly handle the pain caused by the grief occasioned by the passing of their Patriarch. It is our common grief and we condole with you, praying with you for the repose of the gentle soul of our Compatriot.

**High Chief Anthony Esimoneze**  
**Ichie Chinyelugo (Palace Secretary)**  
**For: Eze Ojoto III & Ojoto Royal Council.**



**Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, Ph.D, KSJI**  
 Ichie oku n'enyefe Ojoto



**Senator Annie C. Okonkwo** KSI, NKPM

14<sup>th</sup> December, 2021

Lady Helen Chidozie and family,  
Ezieke Village, Ojoto  
Idemili South L.G.A, Anambra State,  
Nigeria.

**Beloved Lady Helen & Children,**

**SINCERE CONDOLENCE**

Late Capt. Engr. Godfrey C. Chidozie (Okunenyeife Ojoto)  
I received with deep sorrow the news of the demise of your beloved Husband and Father, Late Capt. G.C. Chidozie. Consequently, I write to express my sincere condolence to you and the entire Ichie Oku family of Ezieke-Ojoto and all those who weather the burden of his departure with you. May God grant you the courage to bear the loss.

Your late Husband and Father Okunenuife, without a shred of doubt surrendered himself to God. He served God with all his zeal and commitment and devoted his life to authentic Christian ideal as a father at different levels. The faith he shared within the Christine Community testifies his association and contribution towards others.

In the Ancient and Noble Order of KSJI, He was a one time special assistant to Onitsha Grand President of my own Grand Commandery and command 438. Despite the loss of his physical presence, his good works are still alive.

Let us continue to pray that God the Most Loving Father grants him place of rest at His right hand side in Heaven. Once more, accept my very sincere sympathy.


Rest In Peace my Brother Knights

**Sign:**

**Sen. (Sir) Annie C. Okonkwo (KSJI-NPOM)**  
Owelle Ojoto  
For and on behalf of my family.

#12 Dennis Osadebay Street, Aso Villa-Abuja.  
#2 Aja Nwachukwu Close, Falomo, Ikoyi Lagos  
Email: anniee.okonkwo@gmail.com  
Tel: +234 803 403 0238, +234 809 555 7977


**THE ANCIENT AND NOBLE ORDER OF**  
**Knights of St. John International**



Commandery 438,  
KSJI Temple, Basilica of  
the Most Holy Trinity,  
P.O.Box 15179, Onitsha,  
Anambra State, Nigeria.  
Tel: 08035001224, 07032381858

Our Ref: ..... Your Ref: ..... Date: .....

**Commandery Officers:**

<p>VERY REV. FR. MAJOR MIKE ESOBU <i>Spiritual Adviser</i></p> <p>MAJOR JUDE UGBANA <i>Worthy President</i></p> <p>MAJOR OSIBASI MAKACHE <i>St. John Worthy President</i></p> <p>MAJOR EMMA CHIE ESRINA <i>St. John Worthy President</i></p> <p>LT. FESTUS EZURIKE <i>Recording Secretary</i></p> <p>LT. ALDYBOS OLIBALI <i>Financial Secretary</i></p> <p>MAJOR ANTHONY NUBUAGU <i>Treasurer</i></p> <p>NOBLE COL. RAY OBIACHU <i>Judge Advocate</i></p> <p>MAJOR DANMAN CHUKWEMENA <i>Comptroller</i></p> <p>FRD CHARLES OLSA <i>Master</i></p> <p>BRO FRANCIS OJICHUKWU <i>Sergeant At Arms</i></p> <p>MAJOR BENIAMIN EZE <i>Cook</i></p> <p>LT ALPHONSUS IWUFO <i>First Trustee</i></p> <p>MAJOR JERRY EYIMERO <i>Second Trustee</i></p> <p>CAPTAIN JOHN OGBORU <i>Third Trustee</i></p> <p>MAJOR FRANK ANYIAE <i>Fourth Trustee</i></p> <p>LT BASIL OBOCOECHINA <i>5th Trustee</i></p> <p>CD. CHARLES LECHUKWU <i>Member of Past Worthy President</i></p>	<p>The Entire Family of Late Brother Godfery Chidozie St. Odilia Catholic Church OJOTO</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONDOLENCE</b></p> <p>The spiritual adviser Rev. Fr. Stephen Ezenwagu the Worthy President Maj. Jude Ugbana, the BOT and the entire Brothers of Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity Commandery 438, Knight of St. John International (KSJI) were saddened by the news of the demise of Brother Godfery Chidozie.</p> <p>We commiserate with the entire Brother Godfery Chidozie Family and particularly our dear sister and wife of the deceased - Lady Helen Chidozie - on the death of your patriarch. May the good Lord grant us all the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss and accept what reason cannot explain.</p> <p>Brother Godfery Chidozie Joined the Order in 2001. He was a disciplined, dedicated and exemplary Bro. of KSJI. Please accept our sincere condolences and be assured of our constant prayers for the repose of his kind and gentle soul.</p> <p>Adieu Brother Godfery Chidozie and rest in the bosom of the Lord.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Lt. Festus Ezurike</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  R/C Sec         </div>
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**Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI**  
Ichie oku n'enyefe Ojoto





# AGBU-OGIDII VILLA

SIR. JERRY IBEDINUDO NZENWEAKU EKUMEKU (KSJI)  
 UMUCHEM VILLAGE, OJOTO, IDEMILI SOUTH L.G.A.  
 ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA

E-mail: jeemekh@yahoo.com

TEL: 08037237100  
 08022521888

My Ref: ..... Your Ref: ..... Date: 24th March, 2020

13<sup>th</sup> December, 2021

Ezedugwu Family,  
 Ezike Village,  
 Idimili South LGA, Anambra State  
 Nigera.

**SINCERE CONDOLENCE**  
**"LATE CHIEF SILAS OJATABU (KSM).**

I review with deep sorrow, the demise of your "PATRIARCH", Ezedugwu Ojoto  
 Consequently, I write to express my sincere condolence to you and the entire  
 Ojatabu family and all those who weather the burden of his departure with you.

May God grant you the courage to bear his demise.

Ochiem, has the privilege to enjoy God's blessings on earth, His legacy speaks for  
 him, having been a consultant in our traditional institution.

May God be with him till we meet on the last day.

Fare thee well, Ezedugwu,  
 Rest in Perfect Peace.

Sir, Jerry Ibedinudo Ekumeku  
 For Ekeumeku Family



# AGBU-OGIDII VILLA

SIR. JERRY IBEDINUDO NZENWEAKU EKUMEKU (KSJI)  
 UMUCHEM VILLAGE, OJOTO, IDEMILI SOUTH L.G.A.  
 ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA

E-mail: jeemekh@yahoo.com

TEL: 08037237100  
 08022521888

My Ref: ..... Your Ref: ..... Date: 24th March, 2020

**TRIBUTE TO NNA M OCHIELEGEND THAT LIVES ON, ENGR. SIR. G.C.**  
**CHIDOZIE, PHD, KSJI, OKUNENYEIFE OJOTO.**

Life is a loan from God for a short term of repayment, so there is no fear to join the  
 ranks of the dead.

Ichie Ume, Okunenyefe Ojoto, your demise is an end of epilogue in a good book.  
 You were a Captain in the army of your faith. You were among the life givers in  
 Ojoto, you facilitated the electricity project in Ojoto-Unoh, that's why Ojoto gave you  
 the Title "Okunenyefe Ojoto".

Ochiem, you imbibed on me the good principals of life, you were very supportive to  
 my family. Your demise has created a vacuum generally.

Ichie Oku, you came, you saw and you conquered.

Ojoto will miss you,

St. Odilia will miss,

I appreciate and thank God for your tenure on earth.

You enjoyed divine favour arguably more than your peers. You were a sign post of  
 Sorts.

Ochiem, I am proud of you. Your legacy stands the test of time.

The banner you carried for Our Lord made you victorious even in the grave.

Fare thee well my Beloved Brother Knight. May the Father Almighty be with your  
 entire family.

St. John be your strength as your soul wing away to paradise. And God be with you  
 till we meet again.

Rest in perfect peace.

Sir, Jerry Ibedinudo Ekumeku, KSJI  
 Ogiddi Ojoto.  
 For Ekumeku Family



**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, OWERRI**  
**SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MARITIME MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY**

Vice-Chancellor  
**Professor (Mrs.) Nnenna N. Oti, JP, RSS**  
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Date: 30/11/2021

Chief Chike Chidozie (Owulu, Ojoto)  
 Ezieke Village, Ojoto-Uno,  
 Idemili South LGA,  
 Anambra State.

**Condolences on the Passing of Your Beloved Father:**

**High Chief (Engr., Dr.) Godfrey C. Chidozie, Ichie Okunenyefe Ojoto**

We were grieved to hear about the sad news of the passing of your Father, High Chief Ichie Oku (our dear friend). We appreciate the deep sense of loss this incident must have caused you. To us all, we have lost an Icon, a community builder, leader and mentor. The overarching positive influence he had on young people and his commitment to our community are indescribable. Many us looked up to him while growing up and worked very hard because we wanted to be as educated and successful as Goddy Uduezuo, as we fondly called him.

We hereby this medium, wish to commiserate with you and the entire Chidozie's family on this bereavement. The loss of a loving father is indeed painful. However, we encourage you to take solace in the memory of exemplary life which he led. There is no doubt that he will be missed by many lives he touched during his sojourn on earth.

As you prepare for his rites of passage, we pray the Almighty God to grant you and the entire family the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss in Jesus Name, Amen.

Dr. Donatus Onwuegbuchunam & Family



**STAR OF THE SEA - LADIES AUXILIARY 366**

**Knights of St. John Int'l.**  
**KSJI Temple**  
**Basilica of The Most Holy Trinity**

P.O. Box 2246 Onitsha, Anambra State, Nigeria  
 E-mail: starofthesea366@gmail.com  
 Telephone: 09031130040



*Sister Del.* *Our Del.* *Date.*

**Officers**

- REV. FR. MICHAEL ESOTU  
Spiritual Adviser
- LADY JOSEPHINE OKAFOR  
Respected President
- LADY NKEBU OKUBA  
1st Vice Respected President
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- LADY IDELIA OROGWU  
Guard
- LADY THERESA EZE  
Old Mistress
- LADY STELLA OKAFOR  
Past Respected President

3/12/2021

Lady Helen Chidozie and  
 The family members of  
 Chidozie of Ojoto.

Sister,

**Condolence Message**

The news of the demise of your husband and our noble brother, Engr. Chief Sir Godfrey Chidozie reached us with sad shock. Death steals any mortal that it will and is unavoidable one it lands. We can't predict its time and place of occurrence except God.

The entire Sister of LAUX 366 KSJI sympathize with you. We pray for you this period. Take hearts and consolation for he lived a fulfilled life. God will give him perfect rest and give your family the fortitude to bear the loss, in Jesus Name.

Adieu Brother Godfrey, Rest in Peace till we meet again.

Signed:

Lady J.O Okafor  
 (Resp. President)

Lady B.C Okwundu  
 (Rec/Corr. Sec)



**OJOTO  
AKANASATO  
UNION (OAU)**

ISHERI SOUTH LGA, ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA

High Chief (Ea)  
Donatus M. Anozie (KSM)  
President General  
08022430113  
08124340315  
donmgcp@yaho.com

Professor  
Paul Madueke Ekeleme PhD, FCSI  
Secretary General  
080354 72143  
paul.ekeleme@oau.edu.ng

10<sup>th</sup> December, 2021

**Tribute to a Bridge-BUILDER: Engr G.C. Chidozie**

Engr G.C. Chidozie served with Prof Victor Anosa in the Caretaker Committee that unified Ojoto Uno and Ojoto Obofia into the present day Ojoto Akanasato. As a great man, peacemaker and bridge-builder, he remained apolitical during that Committee's work, and afterwards.

His pivotal role in the rural electrification of the entire Ojoto community in his hey days was one of the major reasons why he was bestowed with the exalted title, *Ichie Okun'enyefe I* in Ojoto Akanasato.

We are aware that he was a consummate Engineer that reached his peak in public service, affected many of his colleagues as well as *adi* Ojoto very positively and retired in grand style! While he lived, his frankness on all issues, *without minding whose ox is gored*, endeared him to all fair-minded straightforward individuals in Ojoto. He lived like a colossus and indeed, we agree with **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow** that, for Okun'enyefe, *The heights by great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight, but they, while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night.*

Ojoto Akanasato Union mourn the exit of this legend and an illustrious *mwafu* Ojoto with his family and pray for the repose of his soul.

Adieu Okun'enyefe Ojoto!

Adieu Ichie Oku Ojoto!!

Requiescat in pace!!!

**High Chief Dona C. Anozie, KSM**

*(Ichie Ezemadike Ojoto)*

President General



Archdiocese of Onitsha

**Office of the Episcopal Vicar**

**IGBARIAM REGION**

CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT BOX 411, ONITSHA, ANAMBRA STATE, NIGERIA

Our Ref \_\_\_\_\_

Your Ref \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**SINCERE CONDOLENCE**

**Late Engr, Chief, Sir Godfrey, C. Chidozie PHD**  
**(Ichie Okunenyefe of Ojoto)**

I received with deep sorrow the news of the demise of Late Sir Godfrey, C. Chidozie.

Consequently, I write to express my sincere condolence to the entire Chidozie family of Ojoto all those who weather the burden of his departure. May God grant you the courage to bear the loss.

Ichie Okunenyefe without a shred of doubt surrendered himself to God. He served God with all his zeal and commitment and devoted his life to authentic Christian ideal as a father at different levels. The faith he shared within the Christian community testifies his undaunted commitment to God and love of neighbor. This could be observed by the way he kept his God-given family and his contribution towards others.

We continue to pray that God the most loving father grants him a place of rest at his right hand side in Heaven. Once more, accept my very sincere sympathy.

With sympathy and assurance of the spiritual closeness  
I remain, Very truly yours,

**Very Rev. Fr. Vincent N. Onuchukwu**  
*(Episcopal Vicar, Igbariam Region)*



FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA

• Hon. Justice Obiora Atuegwu Egwuatu •

Judge

Chief Chike Charles Chidozie

Owulu Ojoto

Engr. Goddy Chidozie's Family Compound

Ezieke Village,

Ojoto, Anambra State

Owulu,

**TRIBUTE**

I heard the name 'Goddy Chidozie' for the first time through my father, Late Chief Nelson Egwuatu (Mezuo) as a young man. He had in one of his usual gist/stories to us his children about Ojoto, mentioned the name. He described the 'young man' as very intelligent and progressive with so much love for education and Ojoto. My father never ceased to mention the name 'Goddy Chidozie' at the slightest opportunity in very glowing terms!

The name cropped up again when I was at the university-University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus. This time it was from Nnene Mgbefulike (as she then was), who wanted to know if I had seen 'Amaka Chidozie daughter of Goddy Chidozie'. Of course I had not because I don't even know her. I eventually did. Nnene eulogized 'Goddy Chidozie'.

Page 1 of 4

These fired my zeal to meet 'Goddy Chidozie'. And so when eventually I landed in Lagos for my Law School programme in 1994, I went looking for him. I was not lucky at the first attempt. I had visited his Gbagada, Lagos residence then but he was not at home.

I, in company of one of my elder brothers eventually met him at his NEPA Headquarters office at Awolowo Road, Ikoyi, Lagos. The meeting was memorable. He received us very warmly, praised me for becoming a lawyer. Since then, he took me in not only as his son, but his friend, very close friend in deed-not minding the age difference!

When he retired and moved to his house in Okota, Lagos he became my closest neighbour-I lived across the road from his home. I never stopped visiting him.

One occasion I will never forget was when he contracted me to do a legal work for him. I was a very young lawyer then. I did. At the conclusion of the assignment, he demanded for my fee note. I refused insisting that as my father, I cannot charge him fees. He gave me a lecture on how to be a professional and to always divorce work from friendship!

When he insisted on paying me, I left it at his discretion. He gave me a cheque. I just tucked it in my file without looking at it and left for home. At home I brought it out and behold, it was N65,000.00 (Sixty-Five Thousand Naira)! You won't understand! Yes!, Sixty-Five Thousand Naira for a person who earns N4,000.00 (Four Thousand Naira) as monthly salary! And for a job that took me few meetings with him? Now you understand!

He convinced me to work in a Reconciliation Committee set up by Ojoto Akanasato Union Lagos Branch to reconcile warring personalities in the Union back then. I had earlier left the meeting when the issues were raised but was nominated into the Committee in absentia. He reasoned that I will guide the Committee legally.

Engr. Goddy Chidozie demonstrated his love for Ojoto during this Committee work-as sordid as it was. At his age, he will drive home, with visual difficulties, very late in the night (at times as late as 1AM) from Festac-the venue of the Committee's meeting- with me. His wisdom came to bear on the Committee's work as he was never moved by sentiments. He will always tell me to stick to the issues and forget about the scandals being generated by interested parties.

Engr. Goddy Chira Chidozie, loved Ojoto. He attends the Town Union's meetings (both PUO and OAU) without fail even from his Victoria Garden City (VGC) residence and commits his time and resources to make Ojoto great!

His contribution to the electrification of Ojoto is legendary. He ensured that Ojoto got both the State and Federal Government Rural Electrification project thus making it possible that every nook and cranny of Ojoto-Uno got electricity at the same time with enough transformers to go round.

When Ojoto was lumped into the bulk metering system, he kicked against it. Together with myself we were nominated by the leadership of PUO Lagos Branch to proceed to Enugu and resolve the problem. We went for the assignment and got NEPA officers, most of whom were his juniors when he was in service, to accede to our request and in fact sent enumerators to take count of houses in Ojoto preparatory to de-bulking Ojoto. The reception accorded us at the Enugu Head office of NEPA by the staff went to show that he was not a bossy boss but a father to even his juniors at work!

Hopefully, in the near future and in his memory, Ojoto-Uno will get it right and get the Town de-bulked and pre-paid metres fixed for individual houses.

When Ojoto-Uno national leadership was in a quagmire, PUO Lagos branch took up the gauntlet, set up what was christened 'Project 2004' to put back Ojoto-Uno on the right track. Engr. Chidozie's

residence at VGC was the meeting place. The committee visited all the branches of PUO and at the end an interim leadership was put in place. Engr. Chidoze became the interim President while I became the Secretary. With his able leadership, within one year, the national leadership of PUO was revitalized and the current PUO constitution put in place. Despite pressure from well-meaning Ojoto people for him to continue for at least three years to enable the leadership take root, he refused insisting that there are younger persons who can do it.

He loved education. Even at retirement, he pursued and obtained his doctoral (PHD) certificate!

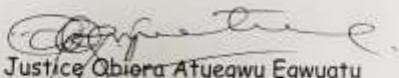
Engr., Dr. Chief, Ichie Goddy Chira Chidozie was a jolly good fellow and a friend to every person both young and old. I was one of his such young friends whom he took as his age mate!


He lived a life worthy of emulation. In every aspect, he was successful. The testimonies abound-his successful children exemplified by Chike, his extended family, grandchildren, in-laws etc.

He fought a good fight. He won the race. He shall surely have a blissful rest in the bosom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Tell Mezuo and Ezediugwu that we are keeping fate for a better Ojoto!

To you Chike, your mother, your siblings and the entire Ojoto community, I say take heart. God shall surely give all of us the strength to bear this huge loss.

  
Hon. Justice Obiora Afuegwu Ekwuatu  
Federal High Court, Abuja



**PROGRESSIVE UNION OJOTO UNO**

PUO Secretariat, Eke Ojoto Hall, Ojoto Idemili South L.G.A. Anambra State.  
E-mail: puomail@gmail.com, progressiveunionojoto@gmail.com

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December 9, 2021.

The Family of Engr. Chief G.C. Chidozie (Ichie Okunenyefe),  
Ezieke Village, Ojoto.

**TRIBUTE TO A PATRIOT ENGINEER CHIEF G. C. CHIDOZIE (ICHIE OKUNENYEIFE)**

A true patriot is lost. Ojoto mourns.

The testimonies of your contributions to the development of Ojoto Unoh in particular and Ojoto Akanasato in general are too numerous to count, which made it difficult to count you out whenever the record of "Who is Who" in Ojoto will be written.

History records you as one of those who returned peace to Ojoto following the "Salient War" that ravaged Ojoto as the result of Ezeship crisis between HRH Igwe Augustine Obidiwe and HRH Igwe Abel Adirika; which eclipsed Ojoto and stalled developmental projects in Ojoto Unoh for several years.

You employed uncountable number of Igbo people into several companies especially NEPA with greater number of them coming from Ojoto making you the second largest employer of labour in Ojoto after Late Barrister E.N. Okuzu (Ichie Okosisi). Not stopping at this, you made sure that anyone who ran to you for assistance went home with something with which to start life anew. You shared yourself with the world.

You fathered Umu-Ojoto at Lagos following the poverty which governed the Igbo race immediately after the civil war, first as the Chairman of Lagos Branch of Ojoto Progressive Union (OPU) after its formation in 1975; which later metamorphosed to become today's Progressive Union Ojoto (PUO). You contributed to the modernization of the Union and you gave her one of the finest written Constitutions in general application in the history of Ojoto Unoh. On several occasions; you chaired various Peace Committees that settled disputes in Ojoto and come out with apt, courageous and landmark resolutions. Ojoto remains eternally grateful to you.

**EXCO MEMBERS:**

**HIGH CHIEF G. C. EGBUOHU**  
Chairman  
Tel: 0813225000  
E-mail: egbuohu@puo.com

**EVANG. CHIDI NZELU**  
Secretary General  
Tel: 0813225000  
E-mail: nzelu@puo.com

**HIGH CHIEF ANICH OKIGBO**  
Vice Chairman  
Tel: 0813225000  
E-mail: okigbo@puo.com

**HIGH CHIEF P. N. C. OGBURAGBO**  
Vice Chairman  
Tel: 0813225000

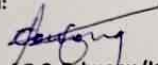
**HIGH CHIEF DANIEL ERNEST OGBURAGBO**  
Legal Advisor  
Tel: 0813225000

The historic electrification project of Ojoto Unoh has your name engraved therein. You made sure that the project succeeded by securing and hauling all the materials required for the execution of the project down to Ojoto. Hence, this gave birth to your Ichieship title name "Ichie Okunenyefe I of Ojoto"


Your memories shall forever remain in the hearts of Ndi Ojoto and the World.

We pray to Almighty God to grant your gentle soul "Eternal Rest". Amen.


Signed:



High Chief G.C. Egbuohu (Ichie Oto II),  
President PUO



Evang. Chidi Nzelu,  
Secretary PUO



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'nye ife Ojoto

**KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN INTERNATIONAL KSJI)  
IDEMILI UNIT  
CONDOLENCE MESSAGE**

Lady Helen Chidozie (Iyom) and family.  
St. Odilas Catholic Parish,  
Ojoto.

**OUR LOSS IS OUR GAIN.**

We are really saddened by the death of your Brother and Member of commandery 438, Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity Onitsha.

We had on the knowledge of failing health, prayed and booked masses for a positive turn around of his health, but God knows the best and we give Him all the Glory. This is why as knights, we do not fear to join the ranks of the dead. Our lose is our gain, we lost him on earth and gained his soul in heaven.

Your Brother (Husband) Capt. G.C had been a member of this Ancient Noble Order of Inter'l Status was not only in good standing but a disciplined and forth right Brother Knight. He served the society in different capacities. The records are there.

During this time of grief, we shall continue to join you and the entire family in prayers. Be consoled that death is inevitable, there is the time to come and the time to go.

In conclusion, we commit you and the entire family into the intercessory hands of Our Blessed Virgin Mary and Our Patron Saint, St. John the Baptist. And **"SO BE IT"**.

May God give you and all of us, the strength to bear this irreparable loss.

God be with him till we meet again fare thee well Sir. G.C.

Rest in perfect peace.

*Signed*

Sir. Linus Ilozue  
Chairman

Lady Winie Onwuachu  
Secretary

Sir. Jerry Ibedinudo Ifenekume  
Co-coordinator

**KNIGHTS OF ST. JOHN INTERNATIONAL (KSJI)  
St. Odilia's Parish, Ojoto  
CONDOLENCE MESSAGE**

Lady Helen Chidozi and family,  
St. Odilas Catholic Parish,  
Ojoto.

**"WHEN LIFE WORK IS DONE, WE SINK TO OUR REST"**

There are no words to express how sad we were when we heard about the demise of your diligent brother and member, Sir. G.C Chidozie. We were very stunned to hear this kind news.

We still find it very difficult to believe that it really happened. We however thank God he died a happy death, having successfully lived his tenure on earth. The voice of men is voice of God.

As Knights, death even make us victorious even in the grave. He has joined the Heavenly Hosts. So we are consoled that we have gained his soul in Heaven.

May God be with him, till we meet again, that is our faith and hope.

Our Thoughts and Prayers are always with you and family.

May God give us the strength to bear his demise.

May our Patron Saint, St. John the Baptist be his strength as his soul wing away to our Creator.

Fare thee well our beloved brother

We shall meet to part no more

Rest in perfect peace.

*Signed*

Sir. Frank Ucheagwu  
Onochie  
Chairman

Sir, Jerry N.I Ekumeku  
Ogiddi Ojoto  
Secretary

Rev. Fr. Emma Okoye  
Spiritual Adviser

## Progressive Union Ojoto-Uno (Women's Wing) (Lagos Branch)

ADDRESS: OjotoAkanasato Civic Centre, No. 215 Ago-Palace Way, Okota, Lagos. Tel: 0813-952-1978, 0803-719-0473.

December 14, 2021

Chief (Mrs) Helen Chidozie  
Engr. G. C. Chidozie's Family Compound,  
Ezieke Village  
Ojoto,  
Anambra State

Dear Chief Helen Chidozie,

### Tribute for Late Chief G. C. Chidozie

We, the executive and the entire members of Progressive Union Ojoto, Women's Wing, Lagos Branch, write to commiserate with you, our Matron, your children, grandchildren and the entire Chidozie Family on the transition of your husband and our 'father', Engr. Goddy C. Chidozie. Mrs. Helen Chidozie was one of pioneer presidents of PUO.

His death was in deed a huge loss. We however take solace in the fact that he lived a worthy life and mentored so many Ojoto sons and daughters.

We greatly benefitted h from fatherly role he played for us both as a Union and in our individual families.

Engr. Chidozie's contributions to the development of Ojoto is legendary-he contributed in no small way in ensuring that the entire Ojoto-Uno benefitted both from the Federal and State Rural Electrification Programme. This ensured that all the nooks and crannies of the Town got electricity at the same time with enough transformers to go round. As a result he was bestowed with the title, Ichie Okunenyefe of Ojoto!

His role in the government of Ojoto through, the Igwe Cabinet, Ojoto Akanasato Union and Progressive Union Ojoto (National and Lagos Branches) is visible for all to see. It is on record that it was during his tenure as interim President of PUO that the leadership of the Union at the National level was resuscitated/revitalised and the current PUO national Constitution was passed into law.

Engr. Chidozie's role in the traditional institution is also very visible. He was a stabilising factor in the traditional institution.

His influence in the educational development of many Ojoto sons and daughters is also known to all. This also manifested in all his children and relations.

Engr. Chidozie is known for his frankness. He told truth to power at all times. He is a friend to all- young and old.

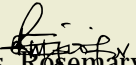
He fought his battles and ran his race. He won all. Surely he will receive his crown of glory.


We pray that our good Lord will receive his soul and grant him eternal rest.

May our Lord console you, your children, grandchildren, the entire Chidozie Family and Ojoto Community on this irreparable loss.

In deed an iroko has fallen.

Your faithfully,

  
Mrs. Rosemary Ejiofor  
Chairman

  
Mrs Lilian Oby Egwuatu  
Secretary



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n'enyefe Ojoto



## ENGR. DR. IFEANYICHIM CHUBA EDWIN UMEGHALU (AmbP).

Department of Agricultural & Bioresources Engineering,  
Faculty of Engineering,  
Nnamdi Azikiwe University,  
Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria.  
December 8, 2021.

The Family of Engr. Sir G.C. Chidozie,  
Ezieke Village Ojoto.

### TRIBUTE TO AN ICON ENGR. SIR G. C. CHIDOZIE (Ichie Okunenyife).

I am enthralled to write this tribute in memory of your kindness, philosophy of assisting the high and low and to your outstanding contributions in all spheres of development of Ojoto.

I came close to you through your junior brothers Mike and Tony. Mike was my mentor and geography teacher, while Tony is a bosom friend and contemporary to me and Chief Uche Pius Akunna who lives in USA now. We always were in your house reading and playing. Your sincere and exemplary care for your mother and siblings endeared you to us because you made sure that none of them lacked, while also seeing them through school; even at that period when Nigerian was emerging from civil war and her currency was too hard to earn. “Mana onwero k’isi rapu umu nwanne gi”

I worked as Secretary under you when Late Chief Michael Okoye handed the chairmanship of Progressive Union Ojoto, Lagos Branch to you in 1975. As an astute administrator, you fully exploited the opportunity to unite Ojoto indigenes residing in Lagos who were then consumed by hatred occasioned by the early 70’s Igweship crisis which tore Ojoto into two and pitched brother against the other. You were able to bring everybody together no matter ones camp. Thus, that was the genesis of Ojoto coming together again as brothers and sisters of common destiny.

You were able to massively employ Ojoto indigenes into ECN which later transformed from NEPA to EEDC. You remained second to Late Barr. Emma Okuzu (Ichie Okosisi) who have not been equaled in giving employment to Ojoto indigenes.

When the Federal Government of Nigeria offered to electrify Ojoto Unoh through the intervention of Late Dr. P.N.C. Okigbo, you made it materialize by securing and hauling all the materials for the project from Egbin Power Station, Lagos to Ojoto. You also followed the process of awarding the contract up to the execution of the project. You really lit up Ojoto Unoh and hence your name “Ichie Okunenyife of Ojoto”.

I am honoured and delighted to have worked and spent quality moments with you. I will forever remain proud of you.

Ojoto has lost a treasure.

May Almighty God grant your gentle soul Eternal Peace. Amen.

Good Night Ichie Okunenyife.

Signed:

Engr. Dr. Edwin Ifeanyi Chuba Umeghalu (AmbP),  
(Emeritus President General Ojoto Akanasato Union).



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI  
Ichie oku n’enye ife Ojoto

**CHARLES O. OKOYE**  
**EXECUTIVE VICE-CHAIRMAN, ROYAL GUARANTY & TRUST LTD**  
 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, 15B Joseph Harden Street, Off Broad Street, Lagos

December 10, 2021  
 Chief (Mrs) Helen Chidozie,  
 VGC Estate, Lagos.

Dear Chief (Mrs) Chidozie ( Ugodiya ),

**TRIBUTE/CONDOLENCE MESSAGE OVER THE DEATH OF YOUR HUSBAND AND MY GREAT MENTOR - LATE DR. ENGINEER (CHIEF) GODFREY C. CHIDOZIE (ICHIE OKUNENYEIFE N'OJOTO)**

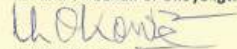
On behalf of the entire Okoye Igwenze family, I wish to extend my heartfelt condolences over the passing to eternal glory of Late Engr. Dr. G. C. Chidozie (Ichie Okunenyefe N'Ojoto ) your great husband and a wonderful father to your blessed/amiable children and grandchildren .

Late G. C Chidozie was a great Mentor to one and all both in and outside of our Community (particularly to Okwy and I , who are your children in marriage as our Sponsors,29 years ago ). He was a National Patriot, considering his immense and selfless contributions to the growth and development of the country, while serving in the then National Electric Power Authority (NEPA and before then ECN) as one of the foremost/pioneer Electrical Engineers that Nigeria ever produced . He was also one of the Patrons of both Ojoto Akanasato Development Union and Progressive Union Ojoto , both in Lagos and at home - the umbrella organization , within which he played a pivotal role to attract the rural electrification to Ojoto under the Federal Rural Electrification Program. Ichie Oku was very comfortable while alive, yet so humble.

Despite the fact that Okunenyefe departed this world at the ripe age of 83 , there is no doubt that you – his dear wife , the children and the entire members of Chidozie Dynasty in particular and all of us in general , will sorely miss his love , friendship and wise counsel. But you should take solace in the fact that he lived a fulfilled and exemplary life that is worthy of emulation. We also pray The Almighty God to grant his soul eternal rest and give you and all the family members the fortitude to bear this great loss. Amen.

Once again, accept my condolences .

Thank you.  
 For and on behalf of Okoye Igwenze Family,

  
 CHARLES OKOYE



**CATHOLIC WOMEN ORGANISATION (C.W.O)**

Serving in Unity, Justice and Love

St. Odilia's Parish  
 P. O. Box 80  
 Ojoto - Uno

Our Ref.

Chair Ref.

Date: 20/12/2021

**CONDOLENCE MESSAGE**


We the entire Catholic Women Organisation of St. Odilia's Parish Ojoto with profound sense of loss but total submission to the will of God, mourn over the demise of our great grand patron Engr. Chief, Sir Godffery Chira Chidozie KSJI (Ichie Oku). He was a rare gem and a man of great value who played good roles in his kinsmen, church, entire community and wherever he found himself. He was a loving and kind patron.


We urge the family to continue to emulate the good legacies he left behind.

Kindly accept our condolences.

Our prayers is that his beautiful memories will provide comfort and fortitude to bear the irreplaceable loss. Amen.

Signed:

  
 Mrs Lilian Ezenwugo  
 President

  
 Mrs Rita Mgbeafulike  
 Secretary



**Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJI**  
 Ichie oku n'nye ife Ojoto

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF ONITSHA

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090 7049 7007

Our Ref: \_\_\_\_\_

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That the may have life

ARCHDIOCESAN SECRETARIAT  
No. 1 MISSION ROAD, G.R.A.  
P.O. BOX 411  
ONITSHA, NIGERIA

22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2021.

Mr. Chike Chidozie  
St. Odilia Parish,  
Ojoto.

Dear Mr. Chike and the entire Chidozie Family

BE CONSOLED

When we deeply contemplate the transient nature of human life, we realize that life is more like an illusion. Today, one is alive, tomorrow he is no more. Once the wind of death blows, our eyes close permanently and our breath ceases forever. This is the mystery called death. It blows like a blind hurricane. Thus, the ephemeral nature of human existence is such that death comes to the young and to the old alike without discrimination.

But wait a moment! What is death if not an avenue to depart from this world of sorrows in order to enjoy the eternal beauty and splendor of God. For us Christians, life does not end but it is changed. While your beloved Fr. Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, lived on earth, he professed Christ as his Lord. He lived in the Lord and so Christ has now invited him to be with Him forever.

So, this is not the time to cry but the time to celebrate his life on earth and his entrance into our heavenly abode. However, knowing that heaven is not merited by our power but by the grace of God, we pray that the Lord of love and mercy will purify him of every imperfection. May Mary, Queen of Angels guide him to the bosom of Abraham, Amen. On behalf of the Archdiocese of Onitsha, we send you and your entire family, our heartfelt condolences. May Chief Godfrey rest in perfect peace.

VERY REV. FR. PRUDENTIUS E. AROH  
Archdiocesan Chancellor

Website: [www.onitsha-archdiocese.org](http://www.onitsha-archdiocese.org)  
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TRIBUTE TO AN ICON CHIEF GODFREY CHIDOZIE  
(ICHIE OKUNENYEIFE)

This world is a small market place where everybody goes to buy whatever he/she wants. Immediately one exhausts the list of what is in store he/she goes home. So it is with a farmer who goes home to rest after the day's work. Ichie Okunyenyeife had gone home after exhausting the list he went to market to buy. We should not mourn like those who do not believe in life after death.

You were a good asset to any community you found yourself and you sacrificed all you could for the service of peace and love.

ichie Okunyenyeife as once a NEPA staff (now EEDC), used his position meritoriously to help attract electricity to Ojoto town. This is why he was conferred with the title of Ichie Okunyenyeife Ojoto.

At a time when government of the town (Ojoto-Uno) collapsed, it was Ichie Okunyenyeife that took it upon himself to head a Diaspora meeting through which the Ojoto-Uno town was revived. It was this singular feat that has guaranteed the existence of the town Union till date.

He was a very strong member of the Lagos branch of the town Union. Not only that, he was charismatic and motivational.

He was untiring and unrelenting in his service to our people, always putting the affairs of his people first before his personal goals.

There is no doubt that so many of your friends, associates and family members will miss you but there is nothing we can do and the Lord who created you had decided to call you to His bosom.

All we have to say is go in peace and may your gentle soul rest in perfect peace. Ichie Okunyenyeife Jee Nke Oma Amen.

CHIEF SIR ANTHONY AND LADY DORATHY ESIMONEZE  
Ichie Chinyelugo Ojoto



Chief Godfrey Chira Chidozie, PhD, KSJ  
Ichie oku n'enyefe Ojoto

## *Do not grieve for me*

*Do not grieve for me my beloved.*

*Do not weep on my grave, for I am not there.*

*I have moved on like the stars in the morning, and the soft stars  
that shine at night.*

*I have moved on like winds that blow and diamond glints on snow.*

*Do not grieve for me my beloved.*

*Nothing is hurting and nothing is lost.*

*I have only gone back to my God,*

*Expecting to meet you on resurrection morning.*

*One brief moment and all will be as it was before.*

*We shall laugh at the trouble of parting when we meet again*

*Comfort each other in love and strive to make impact*

*Now that you still have time.*

*I have lived a life filled with joy and confidence in Christ Jesus my  
Lord.*

*Take the baton from me.*

*Looking unto Jesus in all you do.*

*Live on now, do all you can to bring out the best in you,  
and make me proud of what you will become.*



**ICHIE OKU**





