



Inaugural speech.

By Nixon Uzoma

President-elect of Unique85 Association, April 9, 2022.

First of all I wish to express my immense gratitude to the Almighty God who has kept us all alive since 1985 up to now through His Grace.

To some of our mates who have departed, we say may their souls Rest In Peace. Our lives shall be to make them proud as part of the class of 1985 of Umuaka Boys High School.

A special thanks to Uzoma Ahamefule and Austin Dike for their ingenuity in ringing the first bell that brought us all together.

My special thanks to Ugo Johnson Anyiam who waded in at a time when this birthing association needed a fair and firm foundation. Your name will forever be etched in history as the first president of this great gathering of brethren.

To the three wise men- Okey Ugwumba, Emeka Iwuaba and Mike Udaigwe of the electoral committee, who midwifed this transition process, we deeply salute your meritorious service.

I salute all members who have served in different capacities as members of various committees at the teething stage of this association. Your sacrifices and relentless services shall honor your memory. And to all the members of Unique85, I salute you all from a sacred space in my heart.

The overwhelming confidence you have reposed on me and the entire new executive to pilot the affairs of this association is something we take seriously. With God on our side, we all shall smile to a brighter sun.

On a personal note, accepting the responsibility to preside over this organization was a decision I struggled with intensely. Like most of us at this age and stage in life, the thought of adding yet another heavy duty to an already overwhelming plethora of personal and professional responsibilities gave me grave concern. But like our Igbos would say, "in the midst of two things, one must be greater".

I chose to serve because there comes a stage in a man's life when the need for a legacy and service to others should override personal gain and convenience.

I chose to serve out of the belief that when any of us absconds from the call of duty for any reason whatsoever, collective progress will be marred. Destiny is often truncated when competence is skewed in the scheme of things.

I am thoroughly convinced that we are a blessed and unique generation. This class of 1985. Most of us are sons of common men and women from the tributaries of the Njaba river, who have risen to uncommon status within and beyond the frontiers of our homeland. Most of our parents were illiterates, teachers, petty traders, farmers, artisans and more, who sacrificed all for us.

But today, we have royalty in our midst. One of us is the revered traditional ruler of Ekwe ancient kingdom.

We have over twelve fully fledged titled men according to the highest traditions of our lands. We have specialist medical doctors in our midst practicing in the USA, Australia and Nigeria. We have university professors lending their knowledge in São Paulo, Brazil, Nigeria and the USA. We have men who have served in the top echelons of the British and Nigerian Armed Forces.

We have over five Reverend pastors based in Italy and Nigeria. More than four engineers, three(3) lawyers based in South Africa and Nigeria, accountants, Writers, poet, prominent businessmen, top administrators in strategic global and national institutions, industrialists, manufacturers, reputable entrepreneurs, and above all, hardworking men who carry the daily burdens of their families and extended families responsibly, irrespective of life's surmounting challenges.

To each and everyone of us, of Unique85 association, I salute you all. We should be proud of who we all have become, not just in professional or financial terms, but because we have been our brother's keepers. We have stood by each other in times of glory and pain. We have shown sympathy and empathy beyond reasonable capacity.

I am convinced therefore that the time has come for us to harness our individual talents into a powerful force to transform the lives of our members and impact our communities positively. There are several things that as individuals we may not be able to accomplish, but as one united body, we shall be unstoppable to achieve greatness.

Every one of us has something to give because God never created anyone empty. To some it could be money. To another it could be his time or a word of advice or encouragement or knowledge or a joke or just the sheer fact of being present. We will need every hand on deck.

In furtherance to the vision of this new administration, we have set some immediate tasks before us to enable us accomplish some of the issues raised in our manifesto. Permit me to mention just a few.

1. We will set up an official website of the Unique85 association which should be fully functional by June 2022. It shall be detailed and interactive in nature. It shall be the window into the activities of the association whereby non members and members will get to know what we stand for. All our works, visits, plans, constitution etc will be displayed therein.

2. We will be establishing the annual “Imo State Unique85 Debate Championship” whereby all the secondary schools in Imo state will participate in a yearly debate topic and the final contestants will hold their debate at the State government house auditorium in Owerri. Representatives of Unique85 association and the state commissioner of education or Governor will hand over the prize trophy to the winning school. Through this initiative, we will be making a big impact in the intellectual and social development of our younger generation.

3. We shall establish an annual “Unique85 Best Graduating Science Student Award” and “Unique85 Best Graduating Arts Student Award” for students of our alma mater St Saviour’s Sec. School. Whereby students who made the best WAEC results in science and arts will be rewarded with a prize trophy and with a certain amount of money. This will encourage the students to take their studies seriously and collectively, we will be affecting the lives of this young ones in a positive way.

4. We will be setting up a committee immediately that shall be responsible to interface with all members who are involved in certain businesses or render services that are relevant to others. We shall publicize and promote members businesses or services in order to create awareness and receive more patronage from other members and beyond. Thus improving members financial lives.

5. Increase membership drive and make the platform more vibrant by engaging members with worthwhile issues. To this end, I will personally place a call or message to every member or non registered classmates, to ascertain their desires and expectations of this association.

6. We will form specialized committees with committed members, to take care of different issues of the association especially members needs.

Gentlemen, as you all can see, the tasks ahead are quite daunting, but we are determined to make our beloved Unique85 association a sparkling diamond amongst sandstones. This is a duty that falls on all of us, and will require unusual sacrifices on the part of everyone. The reason why tiny creatures like ants leave legacies of impressive anthills behind, is not because of their size or strength, but because of their unity and doggedness. We are indeed a unique generation, and will remain United and Unstoppable in the pursuit of our goals.

God bless you all!

God bless Unique85 association!