

WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR UKWANDI SYLVESTER, PRESIDENT, PROVIDENCE CLUB OF UTE OGBEJE ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HOLDING AT ELOMAZ BEST WESTERN HOTEL, DBS ROAD, ASABA, ON 26TH DECEMBER 2017.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all, our members and invited guests, to this very eventful and first AGM of our noble club, THE PROVIDENCE CLUB OF UTE OGBEJE.

As they say "A journey of a thousand miles starts with a step" today we are celebrating our first anniversary as a club that is built on true brotherly love and anchored on selflessness in sacrifice and dedicated to the unity and socio-economic development of our dear community, Ute-Ogbeje. We thank and dedicate this to God Almighty for His love and mercies upon us and our intentions.

In the short period, Providence Club of Ute-Ogbeje, has been accepted both at home and in the diaspora, suffice to state that most of our founding members are dual citizens. We have started receiving serious intentions and declarations of interests from amiable sons and daughters of Ute-Ogbeje here and abroad. No wonder the adage that there is no place like home. We have also sent invitations to a number of our brothers some of whom may be present, here today.

Although we may not have achieved so much in just one year having been occupied with formational processes and protocols, website and e-channels, registration and constitution drafting as well as screenings of members and determination of vision and mission pathways to match our common interests, we have set out this day to reflect on how far we have gone, a consideration of where we are and finally to project where we want to be.

As you all are aware, membership of a community club as this, is not a Tea Party, it calls for PERSONAL and VOLUNTARY acceptance of responsibilities and obligations towards the development of our dear community, Ute-Ogbeje. Our community has been in dire need of material, human and socio-economic developments. PROVIDENCE CLUB was born to address the above, hence our vision and mission is to the development of UTE-OGBEJE with love and unity.

To achieve the above, Providence Club has established the payment of annual dues of N50,000.00 across members. This is apart from our registration fee of N20,000.00. At several other times, we have levied ourselves of various sums to achieve different projects. These are subject to review. However, it is important to let you know that all of these funds are used solely for projects towards the development of our community and none of it for pleasure, not even for today's event. This has been achieved through personal donations from members.

Irrespective of the successes achieved, we are also challenged with some problems. Being academically and socially minded, we are faced with the problem of adequate funding as well as lack local ordinaries for sensitizations at home. We lack the much needed sums to finance our obligations. I therefore sincerely use this medium to plead with my fellow members and our in-coming members for an upward review of our annual obligations.

Permit me distinguished gentlemen, to appreciate God Almighty for making us members of this club. It is better to be a giver than a receiver. Let me also use this opportunity to thank the founding members of this noble club for their contributions in making it what we are celebrating today. Many thanks to,

Steve, our pioneer secretary, you took us to where we are today

Joe, thanks for keeping us on our toes at all times. You are indeed a fighter

Innocent, always breaks the impossible. You have remained a genius

Okafor, your records have been a motivation. Thanks for your accurate book keeping.

Ekene, the Spicer. Your spiritual comics add colours and strength in our platform. Pls keep it up.

Perry is ever ready to entertain us, giving us a home away from home at Nature's Groove. I am sure he will still pamper us at Nature Groove today.

This cannot be complete without appreciating the efforts of our special brothers; Godwin Boi, Stanley Ofulue, Frank Odum, Andrew Enuani and so many others whose names cannot all come in here. You guys made us proud in various capacities especially with your roles in the Ute-Ogbeje Visionary Forum (UVF).

You guys are awesome. May our God Almighty continue to bless you as you honour the course of your fatherland

I wish you a successful journey while going back to your respective destinations after this meeting. Happy Xmas and Prosperous New Year