

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF PROVIDENCE CLUB OF UTE
OGBEJE BARR. MORKA I. STEVE AT THE CLUB 3RD ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING AND GET TOGETHER ON THE 27TH DECEMBER 2019, HOLDEN
AT ELOMAZ HOTEL ASABA DELTA STATE.**

Dear Providites and our esteemed guests here present. I welcome you all to the Annual General Meeting and end of year get together of Providence Club of Ute Ogbeje.

My sincere appreciation to everyone that made it to this event today, your presence is indeed a demonstration of true love of our community, because that is the whole essence of this gathering.

Let me also express my profound appreciation and gratitude to all members of Providence Club both at home and in diaspora. Your unrelenting belief and commitment to the ideals of this Club shall return a deserving reward to you for your labour of love to our community and people. What started as a table discussion is crystallizing before our eyes into a progressive movement for the good of our people and humanity. Ours is not a mission for self-glory but for posterity.

Permit me with benefits of hindsight to acquaint us with a brief introduction of Providence Club.

Providence Club is a deliberately conceived rallying platform for indigenes of Ute Ogbeje to galvanize and aggregate efforts towards the development of our community, with special focus on Education and youths development programmes. The ever increasing competitiveness in the sphere of human enterprise demands a corresponding response. It is a time honored saying that when you fail to plan, you plan to fail, because vacuum only exists in imagination and not in reality.

Providence Club is not a tool for the advancement of any particular political interest, neither is it averse to constructive political engagement in the interest of our community. Our cardinal objectives are geared towards the development of Ute Ogbeje simplicita.

With nostalgia we recall the glorious era in our community, when our Village used to be the envy of neighboring communities, the era when virtually all the vital institutions that drives development were found in our Village. Unfortunately, we could not consolidate nor leverage on the strength, due to failure of concerted efforts at sustainability and unity of interest.

It is however, gratifying to observe today that things are once again beginning to look up in our community, which demands our sacrificial commitment to drive and further the narrative to restore the lost glories of our community.

Blaise Pascal stated that "*man's greatness lies in his power of thought*" Education has an unassailable value chain; hence it remains the highest achievement of modern civilization. It's the most potent of man's development and empowerment; this informs why it is the primary point of engagement and goal of Providence Club.

The Club has instituted University scholarship Scheme for indigenes of Ute Ogbeje from admission to graduation, we're encouraging the would be beneficiaries to consider pursuing science based courses, taking Into cognizance the impact and demand of science and technology in today's economy globally.

We're taking off the Scheme with two beneficiaries annually commencing from the 2019/2020 academic session. Our first disbursement shall commence in January 2020, we're already screening the received applications. Suffice to add that each beneficiary's total scholarship sum for the duration of study is over a million naira, in addition to other sundry assistance and mentoring.

Aside the scholarship Scheme, we also have other support programmes for the secondary and primary Schools in our community. We hope to also synergize with other interest groups to provide learning materials and other motivational incentives to the students and Academic staff. We're also working on evolving a vocational programme for the Artisans.

Our gathering today is to appraise our Milestone and set our template for the New Year. The dynamic nature of today's challenges, particularly the impact on our youths arising from the diminishing moral values and continuous breach of our social contract by the political class, calls for our collective intervention to save our vulnerable youths and our future.

According to **Paulo Coelho**, *when one REALLY DESIRES something, all the universe conspires to help realize the dream.*

My dear Providites, I call on us to rekindle our vows and commitment to this noble cause and to our invited guests, we call on you to join us by being part of this movement for the rebirth of Ute Ogbeje. Hellen Keller charge us to know that "*until the great mass of the people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other's welfare social justice can never be attained*".

At Providence Club we maintain a very strong bond among the members and share excellent care and love as amply expressed in our greetings, "**one for all, all for one**". Every member occupies a special place in the heart and care of the Club and this is one of our sources of strength.

In our journey to the future, let's strive to purge ourselves of pseudo love that fosters fear and suspicions which encumbers our spirit from speaking and acting with one voice for our common goal and destiny.

The task before us is Just and brave and we need these virtues to achieve it, and with our firm and resilient faith in God Almighty.

As we go into today's deliberation and interactions, let's engage ourselves with open mind and genuine love, knowing that the Almighty God who is the rewarder of good and just labour shall surely be faithful to His promises in our lives.

Once again I welcome us all as we look forward to a fruitful time together.

Thank you.

God Bless Providence Club.

God Bless Ute Ogbeje Land.

God Bless Delta state and Nigeria.

Morka I Steve Esq.

President Providence Club of Ute Ogbeje.