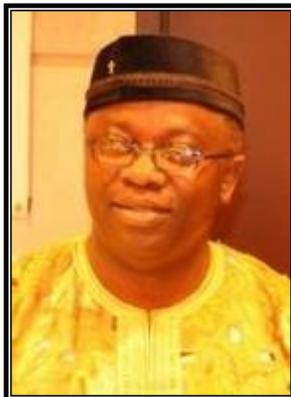


FROM THE PRESIDENCY



SERVING AMAKA VARSITY; For the heck of it...

As another convention season rolls out and “the fame of our college” lasts yet another year, I am constrained to ask a question borrowed from the statement of Admiral James Stockdale (when he ran as Ross Perot’s Vee-Pee candidate in 1992) “Who am I? What am I doing here?”

We shall start by setting the stage for this rhetorical question to be seen in its proper context. In doing so, one is duty-bound to remind our colleagues and friends of the enormity of the challenges we faced when CKC-AAA was put together as a result of the casual visit of a couple of Old Boys (some might insist that they’re not quite old boys) to our alma-mater, CKC Onitsha. Following their utmost shock and disgust at the state of the campus and backed up by photographic evidence of the state of decay of our once-beautiful home-away-from-home, the wheels of a steady and successful reinvention of the school was set in motion. I know that this story has been oft-repeated, but we must always remember that it took a few “stragglers” to awaken the latent generosity of Amaka Boys, which has largely succeeded in turning around the fortunes of the college.

Fast-forward to today and those questions again: Who are we as Amaka Boys? What are we doing “here”, where we lay out our time, talents and resources in the service of Amaka Varsity? Anyone who is still conflicted about our mission, or lagging behind in supporting same effort, needs to review their days in the campus of “Eton on the Niger”. In my era (the roaring 70’s), the spirit of cooperation which we experienced can only be imagined. As a brief example of such co-operation, I entered CKC just as the new blocks of dormitories were being completed and commissioned for habitation. Students were already domiciled in the older dorms, including a temporary dorm underneath some classrooms sandwiched between the French lab and the refectory. When it was time to move to the new dorms, young boys in an unprecedented show of support for each other banded together to move all their wares – beds, boxes, buckets etc to the new dorms. Folks who needed assistance with theirs did not have to look far for help from fellow students. And so the seed was sown which blossomed into the current practice of **always trying to help Amaka Varsity; and Being Part of the Solution!**

We at CKC-AAA have borne our fair share of the rehabilitation efforts at our *alma mater*. Rather unfortunately, the burden has been on a few individuals relative to our population, which is in the thousands. But the reward of a rejuvenated and reinvigorated school has kept us focused on the task at hand. And so once again, the Usual Suspects, in concert with the locals, will be in Long Island, NY to continue our march toward ensuring that The Fame of Our College Lasts For Ever. Primus! [TAG]

Emma Onua
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