

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

Delivered at the Fundraising Dinner of 26th October 2019 in London)

SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF CKC OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION (UK & IRELAND), AT THE FUNDRAISING EVENT OF OCTOBER 2019.

CKC AMAKA

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is with a deep sense of humility and responsibility that I stand here today to introduce the first-ever fundraising activity by this branch of alumni associations (Old Boys' Association), of our alma mater, Christ the King College, Onitsha. Like we say of ourselves, 'primus inter pares', meaning in latin, the 'first among equals'. And we are all equal, just that I am the servant-in-chief.

So, on behalf of our entire membership, may I start by welcoming and indeed thanking you, our distinguished guests and invitees, for shelving your many other important commitments to be with us today. We thought you would come, we knew you would come and we are very happy that you came.

I also wish to thank the very dedicated members of our association here in the UK & Ireland, for their doggedness in arriving at this destination. It really has not been easy, but I take solace in Rod Stewart's song, 'The first cut is the deepest'. I believe that it would be relatively easier henceforth.

I remain mightily grateful to my predecessor President, Peter Okoye and his family; to our longest-serving Secretary to date, Luke Oba Nwoye, my versatile Vice-President Patrick Maidoh, our pioneer Treasurer Dr Okey Odezugo, every individual member and indeed, all our members' wives, who stood by, to take us to this milestone. Actually, when I made a list of the names of all the members I was going to appreciate, I ended up reeling out the entire roll call. That would have bored you. This day would not have been possible, but for the synergism in all of us. So gentlemen and ladies, I thank you all for making this presidency intuitive and challenging. I reserve a special place of gratitude for Chief (Dr) Sylvester Emeka Amamilo (Igwe Enugwu), an ex-teacher at CKC, who very humbly followed us, no!, led us, through thick-and-thin; physically, morally and financially. Despite his gargantuan busy schedules, Igwe Enugwu still found time to attend every meeting and every function involving CKC Old Boys. I salute you all, as your names will go down in the annals of CKC Alumni Associations.

I am proud to say, without fear of equivocation, that CKC, as a secondary-education institution, needs no introduction to any person from Nigeria, at least. Founded, as it were, by Irish Missionaries in 1933, the College, over the years, held and still holds an enviable position in Academics, Sports and Social activities. Whoever who passes through CKC, imbibes the motto of the College: '*Bonitas, Disciplina, Scientia*', which when paraphrased means; Teach me Goodness, Knowledge and Discipline.

Like many of us know, after the Civil War in Nigeria, the churches lost grip of many of her educational institutions, and the care of those institutions fell into the hands of governments, individual past students, and alumni associations. Many of our partner associations and individual old boys have made many contributions towards upholding the high standards for which our College is known. Past governments of Anambra State and indeed the present one, under the leadership of His Excellency Chief Willie Obiano, have endeavoured to ensure, like we sing in our adopted anthem, that the 'fame of our College lasts forever'. Investments in infrastructures and human resources have made the college to continue on its winning pathways.

We on our part, look forward to touching the lives of the young men passing through our alma mater, by supporting the development of **sporting facilities and science education amenities**. Two weeks ago when I had a conversation with the new Principal of the college, new areas of assistance were highlighted, areas that were previously unthought-of. Assistance therefore remains a work-in-progress.

Therefore on this historic day, we have gathered here with you, our friends, to contribute our quota to the continuing drive towards the education and empowerment of our youths. I am sure you will agree with me, the truism in that old saying that, 'Knowledge is Power' and I dare say also, that 'knowledge will forever govern ignorance'. Our Nigeria of today needs education more than at any time before. As we invite your generosity this evening, please take comfort in our Lord's words, which are very beautifully put in songs during church services: that: 'whatsoever you do, for the least of my brothers; that you do unto me'. Trust me! The Almighty God will surely replenish your stores.

Thanks and God Bless you All.

Chris Obi Okafor: (Class of '72 and President, CKC Old Boys, UK & Ireland).