



GOVERNMENT OF IMO STATE

Office of the Wife of the Governor
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
P.M.B 1183 Owerri,
Imo State

ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE WIFE OF THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF IMO STATE, HER EXCELLENCY, BARR. CHIOMA UZODIMMA, ON THE OCCASION OF THE GRAND FINALE OF IMO WOMEN'S AUGUST MEETING 2021 HELD AT HEROES SQUARE OWERRI, IMO STATE ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

Protocol

It is with great joy in my heart and in awe of everyone gathered here, that I stand before you today, thankful for your dogged support for the Hope Uzodimma Administration. An administration that the women of Imo State have played a major role. Our success is merely your loyalty to the administration.

Every administration needs women like you, strong women, faithful women, women who would rather have sleepless nights than have it fail. Umu Nwanyi Oma, ekele m unu. I am short of words yet full of gratitude, obi di m uto. There are so many things I would have loved to say but words fail me, my heart is very full. You have nothing to fear, we will do all we have promised to do. May God's hand continually be upon you. Chukwu gozie unu.

Umu Nwanyi Oma, oge eruola, it is that time of the year once again, the gathering that brings all the prestigious Imo women far and wide together, the gathering of the ages, Nzuko Umu Nwanyi Oma, our resting place. This is our home where everyone is welcome, regardless of age or class, boundaries and borders, It is the gathering of the eagles, where we talk about the way forward for the Imo women, her family, her society, her upliftment, her freedom.

It is known that the Imo woman is a strong entity, a force of change, the wheel of progress, the society's hero! At the unit of the family, she is both a wife, a mother, a friend, a sister, a confidant, a cheerleader, she can be many things all at the same time. She is cloth cut from the fabric of grace, a smile is her response to pain, light her response to darkness. She is the candle amidst many dark days, she is the voice of hope in the midst of troubled waters, the woman is the fragrance of focus, an aura of determination. She gets the job done when it needs to be done.

Umu nwanyi ibe m, I am here today because we must, as Imo women, stand together to play our part in putting an end to violence, a snare to us all. I am a woman, a mother, a sister, a wife. It is my responsibility, our responsibility, as the force that holds the society together, as the fabric that binds the unity of this land, that we stand shoulder high and be the change that

we want. That we do our part both in our homes and in the society to move our Government forward. Women inclusion in politics and governance is no longer a rumour, it is here to stay.

Every successful Government knows that the backing of the woman is all the success it needs, which is why I am proud of the Government of Shared Prosperity for its involvement of the woman in the achievement of its 3R goal and its fight against Gender-based Violence, Human Trafficking, kidnapping and the dreaded COVID-19 waves.

My husband, the Executive Governor, Distinguished Senator Hope Uzodimma who is a proponent of equality especially towards women, has seen to it, that political positions should not be reserved for just the man, but for anyone who is capable of doing the job even if she is a woman. And true to his word we have seen the reality of this in our society.

The women now have a voice and a place in the society. That the woman is not relegated to just the kitchen, but that she is recognized as being able to bring something to the table of politics and governance.

Now more than ever, our Governor needs our support, loyalty and backing. He has stood with us, unwavering. It is our time to stand with him on the giant strides to be achieved in this great State and to push the bar higher and forward until we have for ourselves peace and unity in Imo State.

1. THE CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD WAS COMMEMORATED ON NOVEMBER 2, 2020:

The theme of the event was: MY VOICE, OUR EQUAL FUTURE. The women of Imo State were reminded that it was their duty to take advantage of today's initiatives, supporting womanhood to develop themselves. The goal of the workshop was to educate the girl child on entrepreneurship and how to leverage on them across social media platforms.

2. EMPOWERMENT:

During last year's August meeting Grand Finale, we assembled indigent women from all the 27 Local Government Areas in Imo State to benefit from our women empowerment program and tours. The goal was for women to support themselves and even become financially stable. At least 775 women were empowered directly and indirectly last year.

This year's event, "Nzukọ ụmụ nwanyị ọma" will have a central theme focused on covering grassroot initiatives, as well as celebrating the crucial roles women play in societal development in Imo State and all over the world.

The girl child is not a tool for sexual abuse or defilement, neither is domestic violence an act worthy of celebration. The Imo State Government is on its toes to make the streets as safe as possible for the average girl child.

As you may be aware, the Ministry of Women Affairs and Vulnerable Groups through the Office of the First Lady, Imo State have provided a notable number of humanitarian services to Imo women and the girl child since the 3R Administration assumed office. The funds provided for this event by private donors and corporate sponsors, will be used to directly and indirectly empower over 3000 indigent women across the Federal Constituencies and 27 Local Government Areas in Imo State.

These women will be empowered with:

- I. An honorarium for 305 women from each ward;
- II. Sewing machines;
- III. Motor grinding machines;
- IV. Standing Hair dryers;
- V. Outdoor barbecue and grill equipment.

3. FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND KIDNAPPING:

The good people of Imo State and my beautiful women can testify from our various success stories, the government's commitment to stop this cancer eating into our State.

4. THE VIOLENCE AGAINST PERSONS PROHIBITION (VAPP) BILL:

I had never been prouder than I have been this year than when the VAPP Act was passed into law in Imo State by the House of Assembly on the 27th of July, 2021 now awaiting assent by our ever capable Governor of Imo State. May I add, that as far as this administration is concerned, our women and the girl child will always be protected.

5. The commitment of the women towards the advocacy of a society safe from violence was seen during the **16 Days Activism Against Gender Based Violence-Solidarity March from the 25th of November to the 10th of December, 2020**. The outpour was outstanding and the Imo State House of Assembly gave their word and support towards a peaceful society for the women.

CONCLUSION:

A lot has been said here today, a lot more will be seen in the coming days. So, as one voice, we must rise up to the challenge to create the change that we desire. The voice of the woman is a great tool for societal change, transformation, therefore, let us rise with one voice, sounding the gongs of peace that make for a better society.

Umu Nwanyi Oma, as we maintain an optimistic approach towards growth, we must not forget to pray for peace, stability and wisdom for our leaders as they chart the course towards a better future for us all.

Once again, I am honoured to stand at the fore of this great movement with you, in the stance of support, urging us, pushing, that we will without a doubt, make Imo State a home for us all.

May God bless our children, our home, our husbands, our great State and our country at large.

Umu Nwaanyi Oma, Ekelem unu. Umu nwanyi ibe m aaaaaahhhhh!