

**DIOCESE OF EVO
CHURCH OF NIGERIA
(ANGLICAN COMMUNION)**

COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED BY THE DIOCESE OF EVO, CHURCH OF NIGERIA (ANGLICAN COMMUNION) AT THE END OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTH SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE HELD AT ST. MICHAEL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, RUMUOMASI DEANERY, OBIO, RIVERS STATE

The Diocese of Evo, Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) held the First Session of its Fifth Synod at St. Michael's Anglican Church, Rumuomasi Deanery, Obio, Rivers State from Wednesday, 3rd to Sunday, 7th August, 2022 under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the leadership of the Rt. Rev. Innocent U. Ordu, JP, Bishop, Diocese of Evo and President of Synod, with his wife, Mrs. Chinyere Ordu, JP, FCAI, President of the Mothers' Union, Women's Guild, Sisters Forum and Girls' Guild.

The Synod was preceded by a one-day Synod held at the same venue on Saturday, 23rd July, 2022 Where reports from Churches and activity groups and units in the Diocese were discussed.

In attendance at the Synod were the clergy and delegates from Churches and activity groups in the Diocese, as well as other Bishops, Clergy and Laity from other Dioceses within and outside Rivers State and the Anglican Communion. Among the dignitaries were the Leader, Rivers State House of Assembly and member representing Obio/Akpor Constituency 1, Hon. Martin Amaewhule; the Chairman of Obio/Akpor Local Government Council, Hon. Barr. George Chituru Ariolu, and other Government functionaries. Also in attendance were the Archbishop of the Niger Delta Province and Bishop of Diocese of Ikwerre, The Most Rev. Blessing Enyindah, Ph.D.; Rt. Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Oko-Jaja, Bishop of Niger Delta Diocese; Rt. Rev. Prince Asukwo Edet Antai, Bishop of Uyo, and Rt. Rev. Prof. Nneoyi Onen Egbe, Diocese of Calabar, Rt. Rev. Dr. Solomon Gberegbara, Bishop of Ogoni, among others.

THE THEME OF THE SYNOD

The theme of the Synod was "The Serving Community" (Romans 12:11).

Apostle Paul emphasised the need for Christians to be diligent and not slothful in service. Service to God is not opposed to service to man and society. Indeed, a good servant of God should be a good servant of society. All human beings by creation are created for service, and no human society or organisation has ever succeeded without service.

Synod therefore:

1. Calls on Christians and all Nigerians to ensure that their service is to God and humanity with the totality of their being, with reverence and godly fear, heartily, joyfully, cheerfully for God's sake without murmuring, grumbling, complaining and cursing.
2. Encourages Christians to serve fervently: not being idle and slothful in the business of the Lord and also serving willingly, in humility with goodwill, putting the needs of the church and others before self.
3. Calls on people in position of leadership in Nigeria to be servant-leaders and driven by the desire to serve the people.

STATE OF THE NATION

RIVERS STATE

The Synod:

1. Commends the Governor of Rivers State, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike, for his numerous assistance to the Diocese, especially at its Synods, and even redeeming pledges made by previous Governments, his massive support at the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Diocese in 2019, and various gifts to the Diocese.
2. Notes the reconstruction and completion of several roads in Evo, the ongoing Rumuokwurusi-Elimgbu flyover project and thanked the Governor for his commitment to the development of all parts of Rivers State.
3. Further notes that construction work on the ACMGS School Road, Elemenwo has since been abandoned by the construction company handling the project, and calls on the Governor to direct the resumption of work and the completion of the project.
4. Calls the attention of the Governor to the sorry state of two critical roads in Evo and other neighbouring communities: the long abandoned Eneka-Atali to Rumuokwurusi/Igbo-Etche Road and the Oil Mill (Rumuokwurusi) to Igbo-Etche Road, which are of economic value to the people of the State.
5. Congratulates Governor Nyesom Wike and former Governor Chibuike Amaechi for their stellar performance in the presidential primaries of their respective parties and prays that God Almighty will grant them more favour in their future endeavours especially in service to the Fatherland.
6. Expresses concern over the prolonged disagreement between Governor Nyesom Wike and former Governor Chibuike Amaechi

and eagerly looks forward to the reconciliation of the two brothers for the good of the State and its people.

7. Congratulates all sons and daughters of Evo and in particular, parishioners of this Diocese who have secured the nominations of their respective political parties to vie for various political offices in the State and at the National level as the 2023 General elections approach, and prays God to bless their aspirations and grant them success at the polls according to His sovereign will.

NIGERIA

The Synod:

1. Notes that the present government at the federal level came to office on a very high note and with assurances of better performance from the one it succeeded, but expresses sadness that the Federal Government has failed to address the myriad of problems confronting the Nation, ranging from the diversity of the people and their aspirations, insecurity to exclusiveness in the running of the affairs of the nation.
2. Notes with sadness that the present administration has also disappointed the nation in managing the economy as the prices of goods and services have risen beyond the reach of the common man, throwing a greater percentage of the populace into abject poverty.
3. Expresses worry at the heightened incidences of kidnap of Bishops, Priests and other ministers of God; the killing of Christians and sacking of Christian communities by some religious fanatics claiming to be protecting and propagating their destructive faith in Nigeria while bandits, extremist groups such as the Boko Haram, Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) and killer herdsmen are overrunning the country.
4. Condemns the continued disruption of academic and other activities in the nation's universities for more than six months and the Federal Government's inability to resolve the impasse with the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) for the students to go back to school.
5. Urges the voting populace to be properly guided and participate fully in the electoral process leading to, and the 2023 general elections in the country in order to elect true nationalists, God-fearing, experienced, detribalised, frugal and people-centred Nigerians for all offices in the Land.
6. Encourages the electorate not to be carried away by the huge cash and other means of inducement the politicians will introduce in order to buy their votes, advising that they should be discerning as vote-buying or the offensively merchandised electoral system will only increase and prolong the present sufferings of the people.

7. Encourages all Nigerians to get their Permanent Voters Cards (PVC) and cast their votes when the 2023 general elections come and most importantly for those who are coming to serve and have something better to offer Nigerians.

COMMENDATION

The Synod:

1. Thanks God Almighty for His grace which was made manifest all through the period of the Synod and also expresses appreciation to the Synod Guest Speakers: The General Secretary of Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion, Ven. Dr. Paul G. Dajur; Prof. Eme Ekekwe; Senator Magnus Ngei Abe; Pastor and Mrs. Tonye Patrick Cole mni, Dr. Joshua U. Adjughah; and Lady Dr. Nnenda Omeodu, and also the Synod Bible Study Leader, Ven. Dr. Ikechukwu G. Anene, and the Synod Sunday Thanksgiving Preacher, Rev. Canon Ozioma Iheanetu, for honouring the call to share with the delegates and the entire Christian faithful the world over the word of God as well as their knowledge and experiences.
2. Appreciates the Governor of Rivers State, Chief Barr. Nyesom Ezenwo Wike; the Leader of Rivers State House of Assembly and member representing Obio/Akpor Constituency 1, Hon. Martin Amewhule; the Chairman of Obio/Akpor Local Government Council, Hon. Barr. George Chituru Ariolu; and other government officials for their support and presence at the Synod.
3. Commends the traditional rulers and people of the host community, Rumuomasi and the congregation of St. Michael's Anglican Church, Rumuomasi Deanery for the successful hosting of the First Session of the Fifth Synod.

Rev. Can Gospel Onuchuku
Clerical Synod Secretary

Sir Barr. Nlerum Amadi
Chancellor

The Rt. Rev. Innocent U. Ordu, JP
Bishop/President of Synod