

**KEYNOTE SPEECH BY DR.CHUKWUKADIBIA ODUNUKWE:** He started by thanking Nnewi people for the opportunity to speak to them on this very important issue. He said that health is wealth but we seem to neglect it, and most of our people treat their cars better than our health. We tend to take our cars for routine check up before we take a long journey with it, but we fail to do the same for our health. He emphasized on the importance of primary care to catch and treat minor problem before they become major issues. He noted that capital investment by states is a factor for health care delivery success, but it is not the only determining factor. "The United states has the best medical care with one of the worst health care systems in the developed world" The United states of America spends \$8508 per capita annually, and Sweden spends \$3925 per capita annually which is far less than the United States but with a better result. Smoking cessation played a very major part in the Sweden's success. Our health care infrastructure has completely collapsed and need to be built up systemically using models that has already proven to work. We do not need to reinvent the wheel. It is now a status symbol to publish in the media that our loved one died in India, because the rich travel all the way to India for medical treatment, and the poor are left behind to deal with a medical system that have completely collapsed. We need to educate our physicians to understand that they need to bring up their standard of care so that they can compete, and our legislators need to make laws that can at least compel them to meet the basic standards. The government needs to have laws that will establish a minimum standard of hospitals both in terms of physical structure requirements and the day to day operations to protect people's well beings. Our people in Nnewi must be empowered to reject the way things are now, and demand better services from their health care providers. The problem of ignorance is a factor, and we can play a role in the area of public education so that our people will be better informed of the need to take better care of their health. He made reference to what our past leader Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe did in the 1930's, and suggested we learn from such endeavors. Attached is the full key note address by Chukwukadibia Odunukwe MD.