

**N.U.S.A. 2006 Convention
KeyNote Speech.**

**ADDRESS TO THE 11th ANNAUL NUSA CONVENTION
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By

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The President of Nnewi USA, Isaac Emefo, the Vice President of NUSA and Chairperson of the NUSA Convention 2006, Mrs. Ethel Momoh (Arunne), members of the Board of Directors and Executives of NUSA, Umu Nnewi, Ladies and Gentlemen. Let me thank the NUSA governing council for the invitation on this 11th annual convention as a special guest. As a Nigerian whose town of origin is Nnewi, it gives me a great pleasure to be here with you for I do not believe that there can be any other better place for me to be at this time. I must commend the initiators of this convention for their sense of patriotism and commitment to develop education in Nnewi town and Anambra state.

I must state at the onset that my goal in this short address is not to proffer solution to the myriads of education in Nnewi town but as a manager, our roll is to proffer solutions to problems and not only to identify them. I will attempt to be as proactive as possible to agitate you to reflect deeply on what I see as our collective challenge in the new millennium. We have just concluded the 2nd Anambra Development Summit with a theme: Anambra 2030 Pathway to a Rich and Modern Society organized by Anambra State Government and promoted by League of Anambra Professionals on May 25th and 26th, 2006 at the State capital Awka, where many great sons of Anambra gathered together to brain storm on the way forward for our state. And most of the things I am going to be discussing with you today will be based on my thought and what I learnt from the summit.

Nnewi is about the third largest town in Anambra state but in terms of economy, it should come second to Onitsha, therefore if we are here to discuss the affairs and the good of Nnewi town, I think it will also be appropriate if we take the Anambra state as a whole and diagnosed it, as Nnewi cannot be developed in isolation. Analysis of Anambra in which state Nnewi is:- Anambra state and Nnewi town is a paradox of sorts and wrapped in a contradiction. Anambra and Nnewi town has all it takes to be a modern and prosperous state and some have agreed that Nnewi is well positioned to be Africa's Taiwan, Singapore or Dubai. But it has remained a sleeping giant; a town mired in a crisis of development with several unresolved contradictions. As we would say in Igbo, nrijulu ebenile, manna agu na agu ndi mmadu or to put it differently "Anambra nwere mmadu, mana mmadu anoro". There is a total disconnection between our potentials and outcomes, between our individual talents/endowment and our collective accomplishment. As individuals and communities, we have succeeded but as a state or a people we have failed.

As the Governor of the state asked during his electioneering campaign: Is it a curse or are we the cursed? Robust statistics on the major trends and features of Anambra are absent or weak. Some evidence however leads us to draw some conclusions

about the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the state. We do not have reliable data on the size of Anambra's GDP, but casual evidence suggests that it is the richest state in the South East and followed by Abia State. If we use the number of commercial bank branches in a state as a pointer to the level of economic activities, then Anambra is fourth in Nigeria (after Lagos, Rivers and Abuja) it is certainly one of the most richly endowed states in terms of human capital in Nigeria. With a population of 4.1 million and a landmass of 4887 sqkm, Anambra has the second highest population density after Lagos state. The landmass is so small that the entire state can conveniently be organized into one large industrial park or free trade zone. The demographics are also interesting: about 62 percent of the population lives in the urban areas (with 38 in rural areas)-making Anambra the second most urbanized state after Lagos state. About 53 percent of the population is under 18 years of age. On gender, the male population seems to be the endangered specie--- with females accounting for 51% of the population as well as 51% of the work force in the Anambra State Civil Service

2. Poverty incidence is one of the lowest in Nigeria, with adult literacy estimated at about 74% in 1999 Anambra's geography is a mixed grill: its location is superb and is a critical factor in defining Anambra's Comparative advantage. Bounded by five states (Delta, Kogi, Imo, Rivers and Enugu), Anambra is the Gateway state into the East and South-South States. This locational advantage points to its potential to be the major commercial HUB, and Nnewi is in the center of it. The state also has its share of natural resources especially oil, iron ore, natural gas, kaolin, clay, etc and these remain largely untapped. Several rivers adorn the state, with great potentials for agriculture around the Anambra river areas and Orumba Local Government. An enduring challenge for the state is the ravaging erosion (with over 500 erosion gullies already identified in the state). Onitsha is clearly the largest market in West Africa, (some even say in Africa) but followed by Nnewi in Anambra State. And it is a unique city in which almost every building/house is part of the market. Onitsha is also the largest city in the South-East, and there is hardly any Igbo man who does not have a relation living in Onitsha. Unfortunately, Onitsha is a failed city, with a mass of buildings lying as 'dormant or dead capital'. As the largest city in the South East, how many Europeans, Americans or Asians live in Onitsha? This is an important index. A living city will always attract and retain foreigners. Onitsha has no single suitable recreational facility, no open spaces, no sewage and waste disposal system, and not planned for people to live a qualitative life. It has turned into one big, albeit chaotic, littering of shops and dustbins.

The air is polluted, and I will be surprised if Onitsha does not have one of the lowest life expectancy in Nigeria. Onitsha has become a metaphor for the failure of our atomistic thinking: 1, It is estimated that Anambra is one state where more than 50 percent of its indigenes live outside of the state. There is hardly an Umunna meeting during the December period where the majority of the members do not come from outside of the state. Because of the small landmass and poor soil quality, agriculture is not the mainstay of the people and they are mostly itinerant in search of greener pastures. It is estimated that more than one million Anambrarians live in other African countries. This ratio of male/female divide in the civil service might worsen in years to come especially since a full generation of males who preferred trading to education has been lost. What is good for the individual trader--- having shops everywhere is bad for everyone. Today there is not one recreational space for people in Onitsha; not even walkways or sewage and flood disposal paths. This thinking has destroyed the sense of community; a sense of a city and hence the sense of a people. What pervades is a sense of 'me' and it is dead thinking. How many Anambra

citizens living in Lagos, Abuja, Enugu, etc are comfortable spending a night in Onitsha? Onitsha is one testimony that justifies the saying that "if you fail to plan, you plan to fail".

What about Nnewi? What has happened to the momentum of the 1980s and 1990s towards becoming the Taiwan or Japan of Africa? Braughtigam had once described Nnewi in an article entitled "Industrializing in spite of the State" as the Taiwan of Africa. Today, another array of dead capital liters Nnewi and environs--- comatose industries. Again, the failure of Nnewi to sustain the momentum points to the consequences of failure to plan. As the Governor of the State noted in his address to the State, the basic social infrastructure has collapsed. There is no accredited State hospital and Anambra state (once known for first class schools) does not come up for mention when people are looking for very good schools for their children. So, what kind of future are we preparing for the succeeding generations? Where are the future leaders of the state being trained? And what kind of education do they receive? The demographics of Anambra have two major defects which affect its capacity to develop. The first is the separation of the educated elite from the traders; and the second is the continued drain of the best brains from the state into other parts of the world like some of you who are here in search of greener pasture in USA but the question is if you have found it. Right from independence, the South East has had the unfortunate dichotomy between the educated elite (residing mostly at Nsukka and Enugu) on the one hand, and the traders (residing mostly in Onitsha and Aba).

There has been little or no interaction between the two groups, who also saw themselves as two parallel lines. For the University elite, the gown has never met with the town as they derided the 'illiterate' traders. The traders on the other hand looked down on the 'poor' intellectuals who can only 'blow grammar' and take minutes during Umunna meetings but cannot measure up during community fund-raising ceremonies. The two largest cities in the South East have therefore been left to be run by people whose major competence is not the generation of ideas. Those who ought to know decided to hide away at Nsukka, Enugu, USA and Europe for fear of being 'insulted or rubbished' by the traders. This dichotomy has left Anambra worse-off and Nnewi town in particular. Unfortunately, since the creation of Anambra State, the trend has not changed. If you check, a majority of the senior civil servants in Anambra would still be living in Enugu. Many lecturers at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University prefer to commute from Enugu. For more than ten years of its existence, there is neither a credible plan nor the infrastructure in the state capital Awka to attract the elite into the city nor a conscious strategy to foster the integration of the town and gown. Even the state government institutions have been largely atomized: with several government institutions scattered in various villages all over the state, and civil servants preferring to go to work (whenever they choose to) from their villages. Only God knows what kind of institutions can emerge from these awkward arrangements. Awka and Nnewi are fast growing into another Onitsha--- a large village without a plan! Is there any planned neighborhood in Awka, Nnewi and environs with at least 2000 plots of land, each measuring at least 2,000--- 3,000 square meters (the kind of land space the elite would need), and with basic facilities for recreation, health and schooling? As a newer state, one would have expected greater rigour in planning a modern city.

The opposite has happened. The message here is that the current structure of Anambra is such that it does not attract but repels the educated elite and middle class--- without whom you cannot build a modern and prosperous state. Even some of our brothers today who trade at Nkwo Nnewi have their families living in Enugu

where they may find some good school and live a qualitative life in a better environment. The second disconnect is that Anambra is one state with the majority of its population living outside the state; arguably the proportion of the population living outside the state has much higher human capital than those living in it. Everyone strives to build a good house in his village and contribute to the community development efforts, but there is little attachment to the State. This disconnect is tragic. Ndi Anambra are everywhere, investing everywhere in Nigeria and outside, but not in Anambra. The truth is that if one does not find a place good enough for habitation, it is unlikely that he would find it attractive for investment since most investment need the physical presence of the investor to succeed.

Of course, it goes without saying that a fundamental aspect of the story of Anambra's unattractiveness is the poor infrastructure (transport and electricity) and insecurity of lives and property. I hope the brainstorming sessions will proffer solutions to these two problems. From the foregoing, it is evident that Anambra is a classic case of failure of collective action. Anambra has not just stopped growing; it has all the symptoms of a dying city. With the limited landmass and the growing population, there will continue to be pressure to migrate out of the towns and state. If this 'push factor' continues to be exacerbated by the unattractiveness of the towns and state, we face the imminence of a dying state. This will be tragic especially given the abundant human capital of the people. We should and must act NOW!

A Vision: We as a people must have a clear vision, for every journey must start with a first step. It helps if you have a clear mental picture of what the end should look like as that will provide you the internal energy and motivation to carry on even when the challenges seem over whelming. You always have a very sharp mental image of how far you are from your predetermined destination. As the saying goes, it all starts with ideas. Those who cannot dream great dreams cannot accomplish great tasks. Only those who have dared to do what no one has done, will achieve results that no one has achieved before. Hardly has anyone built a great building without first thinking through the architecture or anyone built a great business empire without a business plan.

Take a trip to Dubai and see what ideas can do: it all starts in our heads. If you can't visualize it, you can't realize it. Unfortunately, Nnewi has over the years built a 20 storeyed building without a building plan, and hoping that the various haphazard blocks will one day miraculously turn into a great building. Or to put it differently, Nnewi has been like a person driving his car hard but with no destination in mind. To complete the metaphor of a building plan, I want to stress that most building plans are not original. The Architects often copy existing concepts or models. It is same with all visions: few are original, but most are adaptations of existing models. I will challenge us here in NUSA to come up with architecture of the new town we want to build. It is the starting point. Whether this is original or copied from elsewhere is not critical. Such a vision must of course derive from the current and prospective endowments of the people, their perceived comparative and potential competitive advantages, and strategic vision about what is possible and feasible. The visioning process must entail that we think collectively as 'Ndi Nnewi,--- and for the moment underplay the atomistic thinking in terms of our villages. It must be the Nnewi vision, and Ndi Nnewi must be fully mobilized to share in the vision for sustainability.

Another critical element of the visioning process is benchmarking: if you stop benchmarking to the highest standards and continuously innovating to attain the goals, you stop growing. At the earliest stages of development, many societies start

their visioning through imitation. That is the least that we should do. Who do we want to look like? What must we do to achieve the result? What are the key benchmarks, timelines, etc? for I have been through it as an individual and by experience I know that once your mind can conceive anything you can achieve it. Let me tell you something about success, champions are willing to do the right things they hate to achieve the things they love. If we are going to succeed as a people, we must learn to work together. The separation between the educated elite from the traders must be bridged. If we are going to make any progressive development in education, the intellectual elite must take a lead in bridging this gap. They must go after our illiterate traders and see them as partners and not competitors to join forces together to rebuilding of our towns. There is a price to be paid. Listen to me, you pay a price for getting stronger, you pay a price for getting better, you pay a price for getting faster, you pay a price for jumping higher but you pay a greater price for staying the same and some of you have stagnated with starchiness of doing the same old things the same old way, you have not had a new thought or a new action or a new horizon for a long time. You are afraid to try some thing new.

Listen, I want you to do something new even if you do it wrong but do something new. Have passion for whatever you find your self doing for there is no substitute for passion for it is the fuel of will. If you want anything badly enough, you can find the will power to achieve it and the only way to achieve that kind of desire is to develop passion because passion makes impossibilities possible, for human beings are so made that whenever anything fires the soul the impossibilities vanishes. A fire in your heart lifts everything in your life. As you can see success seems to be connected with action as a result successful people keep moving and they make mistakes but they do not quit because of it. I plead you permit me to talk about my self here a little for I lost my father at the age of four. My mother became a single parent and had four of us to take care of, she got me to hawk for her at the age of seven and by age of nine I joined my uncle to work as an apprentice for seven years without salary. At the end of my apprenticeship I was given a miserable N200.00 to start my business but the grace of God was with me and rather than being deterred by it, I took my destiny into my hands and decided to turn my difficulties into dividends and my problems became my opportunity. And by share of hard work for I really worked like a tiger I was able to make it. I listened to radio to master the principle of speech for I lack education because of the death of my father, I looked at adversity like a lion looked at a tea bone stick.

I went through different storms of life that befell me, many times I feel like giving up but something deep down inside my heart refused to do so, as I held on to my vision and I went ahead and built an institution today that is known as Coscharis Group without any formal education. I worked my way through the storms of life and I can tell you I overcame many impossible odds and I think that is what I call success. Let us talk on the scope of reaching your potential, for life is God's gift to you but what you do with that is your gift to God. Henry Ford said and I quote "There is no man living who is incapable of doing more than he thinks he can". You can do a lot more than you believe you can; you just need the opportunity to demonstrate your potentials. All through the journey to your potential remember this, you can do anything but you cannot do everything. Let me say it in another way focus on what you are trying to do like a laser beam, you can do anything but you cannot do everything. You can be a sales man of the year or you can be nothing but you cannot be both at the same time. What do you do well? Are you a salesman, a mechanic, a doctor, a lawyer, a secretary or a military officer? What is it that you do well then do that better than anyone else then you can write your ticket to success anywhere in

the world. St Paul said it in this way, this one thing I do, say it with me this one thing I do, say it in another way, focus on what it is you are trying to do and do it with laser beam intensity.

Stop trying to do everything, that phrase the jack of all trade will bring you to abject poverty. Do one thing better than any body else and focus on one thing at a time and some of you will ask me what is this one thing my answer is that is what you have to figure out yourself. I had this several times everyday brother, if you know what I am going through or the problems that I have seen, you are right because I do not want to know why because God gave you those problems they are not mine they are yours. God gave them to you to solve why because problems can transform your super-getted spine to steel and such problems can take away that whining and tongue sucking personality you have become and make you a mean lean siding machine. Problems can take that defeated mind set you have and give you the ability to say nothing is impossible to those that believe and that with God all things are possible, problems are the reason why you improve and it depends on your mind set, you can turn your problem to opportunity and your difficulties to dividend. The rewards you receive in life are determined by the problems you solve and not the problems you cause and you better think about that. You will never be promoted at your place of employment until you become over qualified for the job that you have so if you are just working to get by you are locked in to destination destruction and frustration. You will never be promoted until you become over qualified in you present job.

I want to provoke us by suggesting that by 2020, Anambra should be the number one state in terms of economic and social development in Nigeria, and by 2030 to be the Dubai, Taiwan and Silicon Valley of Africa. From Anambra's locational advantage, resource endowments, human capital, and initial conditions, I believe that Anambra can be moulded to look like a composite of the three cities. Anambra as a Gateway state to the East, South and the North can easily become the HUB. Furthermore, when we recall the 'Flying geese' model of the newly industrializing countries of East Asia, Anambra readily comes to mind. As frontline traders in Nigeria with decades of partnerships with Asia (China, India, Singapore, Middle East, and Europe), there is ample opportunity to leapfrog the industrialization ladder through Joint Venture partnerships with their former trading partners. With the small landmass, Anambra can be one large industrial community as the emerging Taiwan of Africa. We must revive that dream. I can see the skyline along the banks of River Niger. I can see Anambra as Nigeria's hub for commerce, supplying the needs of our rich neighbors in the Niger Delta region and the rest of Nigeria (a new Dubai). Awka is the ancient home of Igbo technology (technuzu).

A Silicon Valley is not a far dream. Many of you in this hall will obviously have better ideas. Mine is just to jumpstart the 'Big Thinking'. Just as the keynote speaker, Dr. Kingsley Chiedu Moghalu has suggested "Nnewi professionals and organizations must lead this shift. This convention has sown the seed. We need to water that seed into a tree. And that brings me back to the element of organization and management. The NUSA 2006 Convention must bear concrete and practical results. NUSA must institutionalize its relationship with the key players that make things happen on the ground in Nnewi:

- the local government,
- the Igwe and the Obis,
- the umbrella Nnewi community groups nationwide
- to map out the establishment of Nnewi as a knowledge society by 2016.

NUSA must sell the vision of the knowledge society to Nnewi at home and help establish it. That ought to be the greatest benefit from your sojourn in America”.

In this Address, it is not possible for me to discuss all the major issues that both the long and medium-term Plans should address. Permit me however to list just a few.

i) Planning without Statistics? Like in most states, development programming is akin to trying to run a fast race with the eyes closed. Basic statistics is lacking. If you can't measure it, you can't control it. How many people are we planning for; what are the demographics? What's the size of Anambra's GDP and its composition? What's the level of unemployment? How do we measure the impact of various Government programs and projects on poverty, employment and welfare generally? I don't know of any state with a reliable State Statistical Agency (SSA): Is Anambra going to be the first--- perhaps working in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics? The truth is that without a framework for continuous measurement, a performance-based development programming is not possible.

ii) Strategic Thrust?: Private sector-led Development Nnewi town cannot be developed by Government; it must be developed by the people. This sounds tautological because whatever there is currently in Nnewi today is the product of private and community efforts. Nnewi has tried to move forward in spite of the State. The challenge is to mainstream the strategy of a private sector-led development in a better organized fashion, with Government providing leadership and vision. The principal role of the Government is to facilitate the process by providing the enabling environment. Let us be realistic: even if the State Government wants to play a dominant role, it just cannot. The resource base of the State Government is currently miniscule, with the total budget amounting to N5000 N7500 per capita per annum. The secret lies in having a Government that will enjoy the confidence and trust of its people---especially Ndi Nnewi abroad--- by providing direction and excellent facilities.

A Master Plan for the State?

We can never belabour this point. We urgently need to recover whatever is left of Onitsha, Nnewi, and Awka, and the entire state through a Master Plan which must be faithfully implemented. These cities must have developed 'city centers', green landscape, recreational and social infrastructure, sewage and waste disposal structure, physical infrastructure, five star hotels, etc. there is no reason why Anambra cannot be designed to be another Dubai. With a master plan, we probably need 10 El-rufai's to enforce it. Until we can create an environment that can attract high net worth individuals and business to locate to Anambra, the 2030 Vision will remain a dream.

iv) Human Capital Development (Health and Education)

Recall that more than 50 percent of the population is below 18 years of age--- children who constitute our bridge to the future. if we add the children and youths (0 -30 years), we probably have more than 65% of the population. Education is key to unlocking their future and the time to strategize about the kind and quality of such education is now.

Government should set and monitor standards, and establish exemplary institutions and the private sector should follow. I believe that Mission schools should return. The

government should also rationalize the existing institutions and be bold to face difficult questions: for example, can the government afford to adequately fund a state university where there is a Federal University, a Polytechnic, Colleges of Education, and private universities. Need is one thing, affordability is another.

v)Returning Back to Basics?

In the end, every development involves people. The values embodied in the people and their consciousness of who they are makes a fundamental difference in determining what they can achieve. Here, I wish to draw attention to two principal issues:

A. Value re-orientation: This is one of the cardinal objectives of the NEEDS program. We need to regain our moral and ethical roots, and emphasize hard work and enterprise. A value that celebrates 'wealth by whatever means' is faulty and unsustainable. We must have clear demonstrations that integrity is a virtue. What is your language? The most important thing that defines who you are is the language you speak. Today, Igbos are suffering from a bleaching syndrome regarding their attitude to Igbo language. At the rate we are going, it is only a matter of time before Igbo language becomes extinct. The elite are the most disappointing. Soon, some Umunna meetings will be conducted in English. We must devise a conscious program and sustained campaign to promote Igbo language.

B. Action: It is not enough to have a plan. Even an excellent plan can be messed up by poor leadership. God give us men and women who can see tomorrow, and courage to change the course of history.

Get Involved: An eternal truth not often understood and appreciated by Ndi Nnewi businessmen is that there can be no sustainable wealth creation without sustained interest in politics. There is a thin line between economics and politics. In the mind of the typical Nnewi businessman, politics is the 'business of politicians', and a businessman should not or cannot be involved, except perhaps as an 'investment' to get immediate gratification in terms of contracts or some immediate material benefits. His attitude to politics is essentially short-term (a cash and carry mentality)--- just a trading mentality in which every transaction must yield immediate and measurable financial benefits. With this mindset, it is difficult for a typical Nnewi businessman to have sustained interest in politics and governance since the benefits are often not easy to measure and may not be immediate.

Such people (and they are over 95 percent of the people) only remember Government and politics when they run into trouble or see Government as 'agents' to be purchased on ad-hoc basis to promote their short-term business interests. This is faulty thinking.

Beside the businessmen, a large number of the educated elite and so-called 'credible' people shun politics on the argument that it is a 'dirty game' and they see themselves 'too clean' to be 'rubbished'. They therefore prefer to stay away in their cozy homes in Enugu, Abuja, Ikoyi/Victoria Island, but only complain from a safe distance about the poor governance of their state and country. Our President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR has often said that the problem with the elite in Nigeria is that they shun politics and since nature abhors a vacuum, charlatans take over governance. The President is very right. This reminds me of the old saying that evil by a minority can only succeed if the majority of the good people decide to do

nothing. Again, as we say in Igbo: 'Mmadu julu ebe nile, mana mmadu anoro'. In some other cases, 'ndi okenye anoro n'ulo, ewu amuo nwa na ogbuli'. This stupefying indifference by the elite has wretched so much havoc in many states.

The truth is that every society gets the kind of leadership and governance that it demands. Leaders do not necessarily provide 'good' leadership out of their benevolence or 'kindness' but more so because of the consequences of failure to do so. If you don't demand for good governance, you won't have it. But you can only make an effective demand for good governance if you are organized. Organization is power! There is therefore a need for a new form of consciousness. Anambra and many states can be said to be facing developmental crisis, and as Charlemagne once argued "in a time of crisis, there is no sitting on the fence: you are either for us or against us". I want to add that given our state of underdevelopment, elite indifference to politics and governance is a crime to humanity. In my view, if God in his infinite wisdom has decided to make us citizens of Nnewi, Anambra and Nigeria, there must be a purpose. If He has specifically selected a few of you (the educated elite) and endowed you with so much talents and blessings, I believe that on the last day, God will ask to know how you used all the talents he gave you to make the society better than you met it. This is our challenge---a new orientation, a new mobilization and new organization will be required.

Everyone must be involved. But it must be a different form of involvement---not the kind that sees government as an industry--- as a place to go and share state resources. As President Kennedy once asked the Americans to think more of what they can do for America rather than what America can do for them, I urge our elite to develop the same mindset about Nnewi nay Anambra. Quiet frankly, there is nothing to 'share' in Anambra's Government---the Government is very poor, with meager resources that are not enough to provide the basics for the people. The budget of Anambra in 2006 comes to N5,000--- N7,500 or US\$40—US\$60 per person in the state for the year (if the budget were to be shared equally to everyone). The elite must be prepared to volunteer their time and ideas on how to move the state forward. The churches, town unions, NGOs, traditional rulers and concerned associations must be involved.

CONCLUSION:

To conclude, I want to urge you to dream dreams. Oliver Wendell Holmes once said that "Once a mind has been stretched by a new idea, it never returns to its original share". It is in the same vain that the English publisher, Lady Catherine argued that "Nothing ever built rose to touch the sky unless some men dreamt that it should; some men believed that it would, and some men willed that it must". Anambra has the men and women to make things happen. Anambra people invest everywhere except in Anambra. But if Anambra people do not invest in Anambra, nobody will. We must draw a thick line between our past and the future. Taa bu gboo! We must have a new beginning.

Let us all roll our sleeves and go to work. With a clear vision, a comprehensive plan, and a people mobilized to go beyond self into collective action, I dream to see the skyline along the Niger River Bank; to see five star hotels in Onitsha, Nnewi and Awka; to see the tourist zones along the Anambra river; the recreational centers; the elite and middle class residential areas planned; private world-class schools; world-class infrastructure. I can see Ndi Anambra from all over the world proudly pouring home to take positions in terms of investment in the state, thus leading the way for other investors to come. In my dream I see the Asians, the Europeans and

Americans rushing to be part of the new miracle in Nigeria called Anambra. In my dream I can see the growth drivers as technology, commerce, industry, agriculture and tourism. With the completion of the East-West road, the second Niger Bridge, the East-South-South highways, I saw in my dream Anambra as the hub, servicing most of the adjoining states in South East, South-South and the North. I can even see a private power plant in the state guaranteeing uninterrupted power supply. I can still see more: a people unite, a people committed, people involved in the collective enterprise of development.

Before I woke up, I saw a new state: looking very much like a combination of what I have seen at the Silicon Valley in the USA; Dubai in the UAE, and Taiwan. Ladies and gentlemen, this is Anambra in which Nnewi town is in. as Frantz Fanon once said, 'every generation, out of its relative obscurity discovers its mission, it either fulfils or betrays it'. Our destiny and that of our grand children is in our hands. Everyone can do something about it. Let us support the Government in the effort to move Anambra forward. I am ready to contribute to the development of the state: what about you?

I thank you for listening, God bless Nnewi, NUSA, Anambra State and the Federal Republic of Nigeria.