



## **COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 3 DAY IGBO-HEBREW CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATION SUMMIT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Within the framework of our SUMMIT's commitment (made up of Elders, Ndi-Eze and Ozos, Government officials, non-governmental organizations, Civil Liberty Groups, Israelite members, our local and international stakeholders, etc) to establish Igbo roots, culture and link with the Hebrews of Israelites, build necessary consensus on authentic Igbo history, connect to the time tasted creativity, resilience, passion for truth and improved modern agricultural and primary health delivery systems in Israel, we activated our contacts with Hebrew Israelites, that gave birth to IGBO HEBREW CULTURAL HERITAGE ORGANISATION with resolve to conduct necessary researches and investigations in an attempt to resolved once and for all the lingering issue of Igbo-Hebrew affinity.

Accordingly, the Igbo-Hebrew Cultural Heritage Organization Summit held at Rockview Hotel Owerri, Imo State between Monday and Wednesday (Nov 11 – 13, 2019) by the Nigerian and international speakers at the summit and considered a number of critical issues with resolutions as follows:

- (1) The Summit agreed that the affinity between Igbos and Hebrews is not a mere coincidence or accident in scriptures and history but more in-depth research work should be commissioned to validate the veracity or otherwise of our Kins in Israel and then document from this Platform in partnership with all peoples of goodwill and government into an organized Narrative that shall continue to be a guide to future generations.
- (2) The Summit noted and hereby presents a better understanding of who is a Hebrew and Israelite, a Jew and Jewish. Hebrew is a form of truth, literacy or centric or a form of consciousness. Hebrew is a regenerated intellectual and mental perception. Hebrew is neither a religion nor nationality. Hebraism is a lifestyle where all behavior, actions, thoughts,

and creativity is life centric. Israelite is a nationality. The Hebrew Israelite nation is the central subject and theme of the TORA. The Hebrew Israelites are a people who are centric and worship YAHWAH through a way of living and not as a religion. Jews are JUDEANS, one of the Israelite tribes of Judah. All Israelites are not Jews. There are twelve tribes that make up the nation of Israel. Jewish, is a religion. It is not a nationality. The modern idea of the Jewish religion came into existence only in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century AD when Eastern Europeans officially adopted the Hebrew Israelite experience into their social way of life. The Igbo Hebrew cultural affinity must be structured from a Hebrew Israelite historical orientation, researched from the land of Israel, North East of Africa.

- (3) We further agreed that apart from the Bible that offers the documented history of the Igbos with affinity to the Israelites, history and word of mouth, are supportive of it but it is only recently that efforts are being made to document it for the reading public and we on this Summit should encourage and sustain it.
- (4) The Summit observed striking similarities between the Igbos and Hebrews that should never be ignored ranging from how they GREET elders, Names, How they handle their Dead bodies, Payment of Dowries, their Ofor, Harvest of their Yams etc that are exactly captured in the Bible and adhered to by Hebrew Israelites just like their kins in Igboland.
- (5) The Summit also noted that many countries started experiencing economic problems when they made the Israelites their target for destruction and subsequently opened their doors to enemies of Israel.
- (6) The Summit also found that the same fate applies to any place where Igbos is hated, oppressed and maligned.
- (7) The Summit pointed out that in the Bible days, leadership of Israelites were initially by elders, prophets, and Priests and not Kings as in the same manner as Igbos right from the outset where Cases/Matters are treated by allowing everyone to speak his mind after which the Elders and the High Priest will give ruling and it is only Igbos and Israelites that had this kind of leadership in the world.

- (8) The Summit directed that spirited efforts should be made from this Platform to Igbos to go back to their natural way of giving Igbo names to their children according to circumstances of their births like CHUKWUDIEBUBE, CHIDIEBERE, etc just like Biblical Israel JABEZ, REHOBAM, etc
- (9) The Summit also noted another striking similarity because anywhere an Igbo man dies be it in far away USA, Great Britain, Asia, Lagos, etc it is their culture to be carried back home to be gathered to his ancestors like ABRAHAM bought a land so that he will be gathered unto his ancestors too and Jacob in Egypt called his children and instructed them to ensure his remains were taken back to his ancestors which is a common cultural practice of the Igbos and Hebrews.
- (10) The Summit decided that when this history is authenticated, it is expected that it should be printed and widely published and circulated and made to be studied in schools and other fora in Igboland since taking it away will amount to denial of the Igbos their natural right to their history and knowledge of their roots.
- (11) The Summit noted that our culture is the way of our lives and it is expressed in our Igbo language and so efforts should be intensified to ensure that our Igbo language is made compulsory for studies in our schools.
- (12) The Summit agreed that plans should immediately be put in place for the informal teaching of Igbo and Hebrew languages to the young and old in Igboland until it is accepted as part and parcel of formal school curriculum.
- (13) This Summit resolved to set up Committees to draw up the formalities and logistics for this very important move of making Igbo language, a language of Commerce with visibility in the World Wide Web and visual teachings.
- (14) The Summit further agreed that Mobilization and Sensitization of these resolutions should be made to get directly to the average young and old Igbo man for them to join the movement to make this popular.

- (15) The Summit agreed that the planned reorientation of our History, Language and Culture should also address the dress code of our people that had lately degenerated.
- (16) The Summit resolved that the right time is now to properly dissect the historical assertions and writings of the exodus of a tribe of Israelites in bondage in Egypt down South to Africa, West Africa and to current location in South East Nigeria (Igbos) before the official biblical exodus of Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land.
- (17) The Summit also noted that in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, when the sovereignty of Israel was completely destroyed and the entire people scattered, a group moved down South via Sudan to present location in South East thereby validating the Igbo Israelite connection.
- (18) The Summit agrees that besides the resilience of Hebrews in survival wherever they are found, another striking similarity between Igbos and Hebrews is their shared spirituality and religiosity not to worship any other god or idol because their God warned he is a jealous God and each time they do, he allows another nation to take them into captivity or scatter them to the ends of the earth as punitive measure, which is a pointer that Igbos could be the lost tribe of Israel in current Igboland.
- (19) The Summit noted the written account of OLAUDO EQUIANO (Igbo Slave Author some centuries ago who reinforced the Igbo-Hebrew consciousness) and others given their similar practices and customs for instance in circumcision of male children after 8 days, greetings, eating habits, mourning, celebration of new moon, Omugwo, entrepreneurship spirit, etc and concluded that Igbos must no doubt have Hebrew genetics.
- (20) On the Health angle, it was scripturally established that it is a big error for the Man God created in his image and likeness to live in poverty, sickness and a very short life span of 52 years hence we need to achieve needed FOOD SAFETY and HEALTH education and promotion, explore the link between agriculture and longevity and to return to God to restore his original idea of God of paradise on earth.

- (21) The Summit shared specie of Okro to some of our members to be planted as a Pilot project as part of our resolve to go organic in agriculture and advised regular feedback should be sent back to the Platform on the performance of the seedling.
- (22) The Summit further advised that though affinity with Hebrews and Igbos is settled, but Igbos must not think it is all about financial handouts from Israel, or possible migration back to Israel as that would not also happen, but must holistically pursue Hebrews' passion for WISDOM (Gen. 1:28), GRACE, HARD WORK, INDUSTRY, TRUTH, PEACE, EQUITY which are the hall marks of their excellence in every aspect of life and by so doing our God given place of ruler-ship in Nigeria will be in achieved seamlessly.
- (23) The Summit enjoined everyone to promote the fact that monies are not picked on the streets of foreign countries like some people are made to wrongly believe but consistent hard work over the period even in Igboland will pay handsomely at the end.
- (24) The Summit encouraged attendees to maximize what we have been thought on organic agriculture and the new improved farming technologies that will bring surplus yields in line with our food safety, food security and longevity vision for all.
- (25) Under this platform all hands must be on deck to discountenance any bogus or speculative historical connection and make room for authentic historical relationship between the Igbo nation and the Hebrews and efforts consciously made to follow up on the economic, health, cultural, educational gains derivable from partnership with the Hebrews.
- (26) The Summit further encouraged Igbos, to always remember that cleanliness is next to godliness and so learn to keep our environment very clean and eliminate the breeding of bacteria and fungus, that causes diseases and early deaths
- (27) The Summit noted that obviously and in many instances, the history of the Hebrews is very much like an excursion into the history of the Igbos, so it follows without saying that deliberate efforts should be made under this platform to draw a post Conference Agenda of partnership in agriculture, engineering, education, Health etc.

- (28) The Summit presented one of the earliest maps of this place now called Nigeria by a foremost Geographer (Ibio Sanito) in 1588 who discovered a “country of the Jews” in the South East of the Kingdom of Benin Empire which is no other set of people but the Igbos.
- (29) The Summit also presented another equally important map of the place now called Nigeria between 1914 to 1960 by Lord Frederick Lugard: Governor General of Nigeria that has the “Star of David” symbol which is a representation of the place inhabited by Hebrews in the Igbo enclave.
- (30) The Summit displayed the currency in use from 1909 (Penny) that also retained the “Star of David” symbol which is a further pointer that something existed beyond the ordinary between the Igbos and the Hebrews and the rich plurality of the Igbos till today have that inherent belief that they as Igbos are Hebrews.
- (31) The Summit believes that this accounts for the natural support and fidelity that flows from Hebrews to the the Igbos from the outset of pre independence Nigeria till today.
- (32) The Summit agreed that, since the Igbo-Hebrew relationship is such a recurring issue in our national history, it is important from this platform for us to discover our real history and accordingly, challenged our Sociologists, Anthologists, Linguists, Botanists, Biologists, etc to undertake this subject of deep intellectual work for posterity further.
- (33) From this Summit, we resolved to strive to reverse the migration tendencies of our people to look inwards and reinvent Igboland a great nation it is supposed to be because of the creativity and industry of Igbo people
- (34) The Summit hereby advises the Governments of Igboland that the proposed Return of the Diasporas should start with Igboland because over 50% of those in Diaspora are Igbos and Igboland will be a tourist heaven when it happens.
- (35) The Summit upheld that part of the process of actualizing these programmes should be through the involvement of the EZES and other traditional rulers in the entire Igboland to drive these initiatives to their

subjects and communities so that substantial impact would be created between now and in the next two years. We further agreed that a Conference of Ndi-Eze and Ndi-Nze should be convoked.

(36) The Summit also suggested that Church leaders should also be involved in this movement and efforts should be made to merge and unify some of the major programmes of the Igbos like the New Yam festivals

(37) The Summit encouraged the Igbo man to revisit their unrivalled Management styles of dominance in Trade and Commerce with the practice of taking along their brothers, cousins and relations to serve as Apprentice (Odibo) for a given number of years after which they are settled to operate their own businesses and take hold of territories just like Abraham carried his Nephew Lot along in the Bible.

(38) The Summit stressed that Implementation of these resolutions is important to sustain the momentum we have generated with our Igbo-Hebrew relationship.

(39) The Summit finally agreed that the KING JAJA of OPOBO connection whose dynasty had documented evidences of their claim to the throne of David via King REHOBAM and now well established and settled in Israel is another interesting historical linkage and route towards validating the authentic Igbo Hebrew connection and should be further X-rayed.

DATED THIS 14<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2019

**BISHOP DR. CHIDIEBERE A OGBU**  
International President of Igbo-Hebrew Cultural Heritage Organization, President Of the African Diaspora Union; Prelate of Impact African Educational Foundation & Global Chairman of the International Gathering for Peace and Human Rights.

**CHIEF BARR JERRY EGEMBA**  
The National President of Igbo-Hebrew Heritage Organization and National President, International Gathering for Peace and Human Rights & Chairman, ECOWAS Region African Diaspora Union (AFRIDU)

**MINISTER DR. KHAZRIEL BEN YEHUDAH (DERRICK JACKSON)**  
Minister of Government Cabinet, Hebrew Israelites of JERUSALEM

