



AZUMINI COUNCIL OF CHIEFS
AZUMINI,
NDOKI,
IMO STATE.

OCT. 1984.

A CONCISE WELCOME ADDRESS

PRESENTED BY

HIS HIGHNESS EZE (DR.) MARCUS FEYI-WABOSO
(THE TRADITIONAL RULER OF AZUMINI AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY)

TO

MAJOR-GENERAL MUHAMMADU BUHARI,
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS VISIT TO AZUMINI
DURING HIS STATE TOUR OF IMO STATE

Our Head of State, Major-General Muhammadu Buhari, on behalf of myself and the entire Azumini Community which I rule, I welcome you most heartily to the ancient and historic Azumini Town. Azumini is an ancient town in Ndoki whose recorded history dates back to the 12th century.

Unanimously, we pledge our loyalty to you as our HEAD OF STATE and to the SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL and the FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA.

We fully identify ourselves with the objectives, policies and programme of the PRESENT ADMINISTRATION and offer our TOTAL co-operation in their implementation.

Please permit us to take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation for 2 preceding and effective PEACE visitations to Azumini at the instance of the Present Administration. The first was that of the Military Governor of our State, Brig. Ike Nwachukwu and the second was that of eminent representatives of the SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL, led by Rear Admiral V.L. Oduwaiye. These previous visitations had a wonderful "damping down" effect on border tempers.

Adding to these is the visit today of our Head of State himself, Major-General Muhammadu Buhari.

I feel proud and highly honoured to make 2 significant and undeniable deductions from this visit. The first is that Azumini Town is a Cul de Sac and consequently my people have, in the past, been made to nurture a feeling of neglect. The second, which is a corollary of the first, is a feeling of loss of belonging and frustration.

May I assure our Head of State that your visit to Azumini today has restored to my people a sense of belonging to the NIGERIAN NATION as well as a sense of equal citizenship of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

This being the case we appeal to our Head of State to take our problems home.

What are our problems?

There is massive drift of active men from home to Urban centres in search of employment.

Why ?

Because there are no incentives for them at home.

What are these incentives?

They are SMALL SCALE JOINT VENTURE INDUSTRIES

I list them as:-

1. Agriculture
2. Fishery
3. Tourism
4. Sand Extraction.

Agriculture

We commend the agrarian and agricultural policies of the Present Administration which are acceptable to us. Our soil ranks among the most favourable in the World for cultivation of palm trees which yield vegetable oil to feed Soap Factories and Margarine Industry, in addition to providing oil for food and for export. Wild palm trees exist in abundance and could be exploited on a large scale in addition to the scope for cultivation of

modern palm plantations. Therefore, we request the Present Administration to include us in its Agricultural Programmes.

Fishery

There is scope for fishing and canning industry to provide high protein for internal consumption and export.

Tourism

The Ancient Town of Azumini is renowned for its natural blue river which offers attractions for swimming, cruising and picnics. We request the Federal Government to consider developing it as a tourist attraction for the Eastern States.

Sand Extraction and Glass Industry

The sparkling sand from Azumini feeds the International Glass Industry situated at Aba. An extension of this Industry to Azumini for making glasses, tumblers and bottles will offer employment to our people.

Azumini / Iwukem Border Delineation

We are a peace loving community.

We have in the past maintained peace and we will continue to do so.

We have implicit confidence in the ability of the Present Administration to demarcate a fair and realistic border, based on authentic evidence of OWNERSHIP which is available to F. M. G.

Conclusion

Our respected Head of State, you have so much ahead to do for our Country. Your methodology and tenacity have earned you our respect and admiration. Carry on with courage and wisdom. We are solidly behind you. We pray God lead you to transform our beloved Country, Nigeria, into the realities of the noble ideals of portions our

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National Anthem which read:

I quote:

" The labour of our heroes past
Shall never be in vain
Help our youth the truth to know
And living just and true
Great lofty heights attain
To build a Nation where Peace and Justice shall reign"

Long Live General Muhammadu Buhari

Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Thank you.

His Highness,



Eze Dr. Marcus Feyi - Waboso

FRCOG (London) FICS

FMCOG (Nig) FWACS

F.Roy Soc. Med. (London)

Fel. Int. Fed. O & G

Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist

AND

Traditional Ruler of

AZUMINI AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY.