

**URHOBOPROGRESS UNION [UPU] UNITED KINGDOM UNDER THE
LEADERSHIP OF CHIEF EMMANUEL OKPAKO GANIGA IS THE ONLY
LEGALLY RECOGNISED AND AUTHENTIC UPU IN THE
UNITEDKINGDOM**

**A REJOINDER TO THE PURPORTED DECISION OF A FACTIONAL
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OF UPU**

1. The attention of the Branch Executives of UPU (UK) under the National President of UPU (UK), Chief Emmanuel OkpakoGaniga(LL.M, Solicitor), has been drawn to the publications made in Urhobo Voice of 20thNovember 2017 Edition pages 1 and 5 thereof. In the said publication, a purported factional National Exco of UPU Worldwide at a purported meeting was alleged to have declared one Angus Omasoro,the current President of Urhobo United Union (UUU),(NOT “UPU”) to be the authentic leader of UPU, UK.
2. Ordinarily the UPU, UK,under the able leadership of our National President, Chief Emmanuel Okpako Ganiga (Chief Ganiga) would have ignored such a bazaar decision.However, we know that nobody of sane mind would believe and take seriously or act on such illegal decision of the said factional National UPU group.In order for persons who are gullible not to be carried away with the mischievous and malicious falsehoods the publication intended to portray, we have decided to publish this rejoinder to set the records straight.
3. We believe that the majority of Urhobo people are very much aware of the crisis that rocked the UPU (UK) Branch some years ago arising from irregularities and fraud discovered after an election into the UPU UK Branch Executive Council in October 2012.The National Body under the then President-General, (Chief) Major General Patrick Aziza of blessed memory intervned in the crises as expected by virtue of the UPU National Constitution as Amended.
4. In the wisdom of the National Executive of UPU world -wide , a fresh election was conducted under the watchful eyes of the President General and other National Exco Members. At the end of that election, the current National President of UPU, UK, Chief Ganiga won overwhelmingly. Pursuant to the results of that election, the then President General (Chief) Maj. Gen. Patrick Aziza (JP) personally sworn in and inaugurated the National Executive Council of UPU (UK) Branch under the leadership of Chief EmmanuelOkpakoGaniga on 25th of August 2013 for a 3 year tenure from that date.All efforts by Urhobo Progress Union, UK Executives and

other well-meaning Urhobo people and groups to bring Angus Omasoro and his people who lost in the election into the main fold of UPU, UK were to no avail.

5. Given that the Omasoro's led group would not accept all entreaties for peace and reconciliation for the benefit of Urhobo nation that he claims to represent, and his refusal to operate under the leadership of Chief Ganiga of the UPU UK, Angus Omasoro and his cronies in their desperate attempt for recognition or fame formed an alternative and illegal group parading as Urhobo United Union (UUU).
6. It is worthy to note that after the election that brought Chief Ganiga as National President of UPU, UK he has since won a re-election for his second and last tenure under the UPU constitution. The last elections was conducted on 7th of August 2016 and monitored by Evang. Chief Mike Ederewhevbe, the then National Treasurer/Ag 1st Deputy President-General, on behalf of the UPU headquarters.
7. Chief Ganiga and his Exco were thereafter inaugurated and sworn in at the union's 2016 convention on 27th of August, 2016 by Chief J O Omene (JP), President-General, UPU Worldwide (No dispute as to any authenticity of the holder of that office at that time). Angus Omasoro, since the formation of his UUU (NOT UPU) also conducted his Elections under UUU in December 2016 and has been the leader of that organisation just like any other Urhobo social clubs, organisations and associations of Urhobosons and daughters.
8. We therefore, wish to let the general public know that the authentic UPU (UK) under Chief Emmanuel Okpako Ganiga has been flying the flag of UPU UK for over four years now and continue to do so in the entire United Kingdom with sub branches created within his tenures.

LEGAL IMPOSSIBILITY IN THE SAID DECISION PUBLISHED

9. During the tenures of Chief Emmanuel Ganiga, UPU (UK) has been fully registered with a board of trustees. In the same vain, Angus Omasoro, is operating his organisation in the UK as Urhobo United Union (UUU) and not Urhobo Progress Union (UPU) UK.
10. Consequently, Urhobo Progress Union (UPU) UK and Urhobo United Union (UUU) are two distinct organisations as far as the law is concerned in the UK or anywhere else. One would have expected a factional body who allegedly took the decision to know or be deemed to know what the

actual situation is in the UK legally before embarking on a futile exercise which is most illegal and runs contrary to the UK Laws. It is therefore nonsensical for a group not registered as UPU in the UK to parade itself for 'fly the flag' of UPU in the UK.

11. Other than to cause confusion, disaffection and bad blood for the Urhobo people in general and in particular in the UK, the purported decision does not accord with the realities on ground in the UK and does not make sense by a body that claims to lead the Urhobo people.

CRISIS IN THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVES OF UPU AND CASES IN COURT

12. It is no more news to the general public and Urhobo people in particular, the crisis that has engulfed the Union since the beginning of this year.
13. The UPU (UK) under Chief Emmanuel Okpako Ganiga has refrained from joining issues with the faction of UPU that has no regard for the rule of law or the national constitution of UPU. Our silence is to make sure we do not heat up the polity or aggravate the situation originally aimed at destabilising the Urhobo Nation.
14. In the heat of the crisis, we understand that one of the parties went to court to challenge what was supposedly done in January this year under the guise of a purported election. It is this group whose authority is being challenged that has purportedly taken the alleged decision in their desperation to make themselves relevant and confuse the Urhobo Nation.
15. Furthermore, to the best of our knowledge, no person has even made any move to challenge the validity of an earlier election conducted on 2nd day of December 2016 in any competent court of law back home after almost one year!
16. It is therefore irresponsible and total disrespect to the courts and the rule of law for this group of persons whose election is being challenged to arrogate to themselves the powers which they do not have and take decision on the authentic UPU leadership in the UK, an issue, which has long been resolved by the National body of UPU. Those who refuse to accept the decision of the national body like Angus Omasoro have moved on to form their own organisations under a different name. The purported action by the illegal body masquerading as UPU National Executive Council world-wide is of no effect whatsoever.

17. In consequence of all the above, we therefore advise the general public and in particular, Urhobo people living in the United Kingdom (UK) and in diaspora to disregard the said decision as published.
18. We wish to reiterate that there exists only one body of UPU (UK) which is under the able leadership of Chief Emmanuel Okpako Ganiga who has done so well to uplift the name of UPU in the UK. Furthermore, Chief Ganiga and his Exco along with their very faithful members have done well for the Urhobo people at home particularly the indigent people by the provision of scholarships to some of their wards apart from several projects it has embarked on both in the UK and at home to uplift the Urhobo nation.
19. It is against the UPU's constitution to upgrade, swoop and/or give recognition to a group not being a UPU (UK) branch to take over leadership of UPU (UK) branch as these groups whose legality is being questioned in the law Court have purported to do as they do not have or possess such powers under the UPU Constitution.
20. Finally, with utmost humility and respect, we wish to appeal to our Royal Fathers, the custodian of our traditions and culture and all well-meaning Urhobo sons and daughters not to relent in their efforts to amicably resolve the current imbroglio in our UPU parent body back home in accordance with rule of law, justice and fairness without recourse to the courts.
21. We trust that the above presents a clear position of the Urhobo Progress Union (UPU) United Kingdom

Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Long Live the Urhobo Nation.

Long Live the Urhobo Progress Union.

Long Live the Urhobo Progress Union, UK.

Chief Barr. Emmanuel Okpako Ganiga (LL.M Solicitor)

(National President Urhobo Progress Union, UK)

Okakuro Dan Ogodo

National Vice President Urhobo Progress Union UK

Olorogun Ochuko Arayki

(National Secretary Urhobo Progress Union UK)

Deacon Darosho Saseri

National Publicity Secretary, Urhobo Progress Union UK

