

## BRIEF RESUME AND INTEREST

- NAME:** CHIEF DON OBOT ETIEBET, CON  
B.SC, M.SC, ARSM, FNCS, MMSMG, FCPN
- CHIEFTAINCY TITLES:** ATU-EKONG ANNANG, OBONG UNWANA AKWA IBOM, SHETIMA FUNE; ETC.
- PROFESSION:** PETROLEUM ENGINEER/ APPLIED GEO-PHYSICIST, ICT EXPERT
- NATIONALITY:** NIGERIAN
- BORN 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 1944
  - AT IKOT EKPUK, ORUK-ANNAM LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, AKWA IBOM STATE
- MARITAL STATUS:** MARRIED WITH CHILDREN
- OCCUPATION:** AS BUSINESSMAN, CHAIRMAN/CEO OF
- OBODEX NIGERIA LIMITED
  - DATA SCIENCES NIGERIA LIMITED
  - TOPOIL & GAS DEVELOPMENT COM-PANY LIMITED
  - DIRECTOR OF MANY OTHER COMPANIES
  - THE FOUNDER OF THE FIRST INDIGENOUS NIGERIAN COMPUTER SERVICES COMPANY IN NIGERIA
  - GENERALLY REFERRED TO AS THE FATHER OF ICT IN THE INDUSTRY IN NIGERIA
  - FORMER PRESIDENT NIGERIA COMPUTER SOCIETY
  - LIFE FELLOW NIGERIA COMPUTER SOCIETY
  - INITIATED THE FOUNDING OF NIGERIA COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NCC) AND BECAME ONE OF ITS FOUNDING DIRECTORS
  - AWARDED ICT SECTOR LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT IN COMPUTERS BY THE NIGERIAN INFORMATION SOCIETY SPONSORED BY THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS.

## **AS A POLITICIAN:**

- FORMER MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND MINERAL RESOURCES
  - FOUNDER AND LEADER OF NATIONAL CENTER PARTY OF NIGERIA (NCPN)
  - FORMER NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF ALL NIGERIA PEOPLES PARTY (ANPP)
  - FOUNDING MEMBER AND SOUTH-SOUTH REGIONAL LEADER OF PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDP)
  - MEMBER, BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF PDP.
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- AS MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND MINERAL RESOURCES, I WORKED TO RE-LAUNCH THE NIGERIA LNG PROJECT. AMIDST ALL PROTESTS AGAINST IT, BUT NLNG IS NOW CONTRIBUTING OVER 20% TO NIGERIA'S GDP.
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- I WORKED TO ESTABLISH THE PETROLEUM TRUST FUND (PTF). IT IS SAFE TO SAY THAT UNTIL ITS DISSOLUTION IN 1999, IT WAS ACCEPTED AND APPRECIATED AS THE BEST INFRA-STRUCTURAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEVELOPMENT AGENCY THE COUNTRY EVER HAD.
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- THE MINISTER THAT INITIATED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEEP OFF-SHORE OIL PROSPECTING LICENSE AND SIGNED THE FIRST EVER DEEP OFFSHORE FIELDS (BONGA) TO A SHELL SUBSIDIARY, SNEPCO IN 1993, WHICH HAS HERALDED DEEP INTEREST AND COPIOUS OIL EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IN THE DEEP OFFSHORE FIELDS TODAY.
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- INITIATED AND HEADED THE FIRST EVER MINISTERIAL FACT-FINDING TEAM TO OIL

PRODUCING COMMUNITIES IN NIGERIA IN 1994, THE REPORT OF WHICH IF IMPLEMENTED SINCE THEN WOULD HAVE PREVENTED THE PROBLEMS IN THE NIGER DELTA TODAY.

- THE MINISTER THAT FIRST INTRODUCED MONETISATION POLICY IN THE COUNTRY IN NNPC IN 1994 THAT IS TODAY THE BEDROCK OF THE ECONOMIC REFORMS OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION.
- AND MANY OTHER SELFLESS SERVICES IN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA.

**INTEREST:**

I BELIEVE I HAVE CONTRIBUTED POSITIVELY AND IMMENSELY IN MANY WAYS TO THE POLITICS OF THIS COUNTRY AND ALSO AS A WELL-KNOWN POLITICIAN OF HIGH INTEGRITY AND MORALS.

I HAVE NO MORE INTEREST IN ELECTIVE OFFICE BUT I WOULD LIKE TO BRING MY ENORMOUS EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOOD GOVERNANCE OF MY GREAT COUNTRY IN ANY CAPACITY THAT SUITS MR. PRESIDENT IN MY AREAS OF EXPERTISE OF PETROLEUM, COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORTATION, ICT, ETC.

**CHIEF DON OBOT ETIEBET**

## RESUME OF CHIEF DON OBOT ETIEBET

**Chief Don Obot Etiebet**, Academician, Businessman and Politician holds many important Chieftaincy titles in Nigeria, some of which are: **Atu-Ekong Annang, Uko-Ke Ekong, Obong Unwana Akwa Ibom**, etc all depicting the leadership and developmental roles he plays for the emancipation of his people in particular and his Country in general.

Chief Etiebet was born on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 1944 in Ikot Ekpuk, Oruk Anam Local Government Area, Akwa Ibom State. He attended Government School, Ikot Ibritam, where he obtained the First School Leaving Certificate in 1957. Thereafter, he attended Holy Family College, Abak (1958 –1962), where he obtained the West African School Certificate (WASC), College of Immaculate Conception, Enugu (1963 – 1964), for Higher School Certificate (HSC), Imperial College of Science & Technology, University of London, England (1966 – 1969), where he obtained the B.Sc. (Special Honours) Degree in Petroleum Technology, and the University of Western Ontario, Canada (1969 – 1971), where he obtained the M.Sc. Degree in Applied Geophysics.

He returned to Nigeria in September, 1971. He has been a Science Teacher, Petrophysicist, Petroleum Engineer, a University Lecturer at one time or the other, in overseas and in Nigeria including Universities of Western Ontario, Canada and Ibadan, Nigeria.

In 1972, he started a company called Earth Sciences Limited, a Resource Engineering and Geophysical Exploration Company that applies computer techniques for mineral exploration. That was the first ever indigenous Nigerian computer services company. Earth Sciences Limited gave birth to Data Sciences

Nigeria Limited (DSNL), in 1979. DSNL today is the foremost Information Technology (IT) company in Nigeria.

A hardworking and very successful businessman, Chief Don Obot Etiebet is also the Chairman and Director of many companies both in Nigeria and abroad which provide conducive environments for individual career developments, self actualization and opportunity for enterprises in information technology, construction, power engineering and finance.

In the late eighties, one of his Companies, **OBODEX Nigeria Limited**, launched the first ever Nigerian brand name in Personal Computers (OBODEX PC), assembled in Nigeria and which was also selling in Europe. His landmark office complex building – **ETIEBETS PLACE** in Ikeja, was completed in 1992 and it is one of the best finished office buildings in Lagos.

His pioneering effort in the computer field has made his company the mother-of-all indigenous computer companies in the country and the industry so much so that he is regarded by all in the industry as the “grandfather of IT” in Nigeria. He, together with two (2) University Professors and others from the private sector started computer awareness and literacy programs in the country in 1977, through the initiation and founding of the Computer Association of Nigeria (COAN) which was inaugurated in May, 1978. This is the only professional computer body providing an umbrella for the practice of the profession in all its ramifications in Nigeria today. It is backed by a law setting up the Computer Professional Registration Council of Nigeria (CPN). Chief Don Obot Etiebet is a life Fellow of the two computer bodies COAN and CPN.

Chief Don Obot Etiebet, besides his strings of business successes, is an achiever who believes in results. He has been silently involved in policy formulation and implementation in Nigeria, since the seventies, including being:

- **Member** of Governing Council, College of Technology, Calabar, Cross River State, 1976 – 1979
- **Chairman** of the Management Board of Inter-governmental Bureau of Informatics (IBI), Regional Training Centre for English Speaking African States (A UNESCO Agency for training of Government Personnel in Computer and Informatics), 1980 – 1983
- **Member** G-15 Economic Co-operative Council, 1990
- **Member** of the Board of Trustees of the National Science and Technology Fund, 1991 – 1993
- **Member** of the Board of Nigeria Communications Commission (NCC), 1993
- **Member** of Nigerian Economic Summit.

It is therefore no surprise that at the most trying period of the nation, he was invited to serve our country in 1993, first as Secretary of Petroleum and Mineral Resources in the Interim National Government (ING) and then Minister of Petroleum & Mineral Resources till February, 1995. He brought his spirit of honesty, dedication, transparency, accountability, enterprise and excellence to bear in Government during the period he served.

He handled the series of crisis that engulfed the Petroleum Industry during this period with tact and tenacity and initiated some bold decisions which hitherto has been regarded as impossible and politically suicidal, to position the industry to contribute optimally to the economic development of the country.

Some of his achievements during his tenure as Minister of Petroleum, include the re-launching and actualization of the 29 year old abandoned LNG project, and other gas utilization and conversion projects, which today have become the economic pillars of the Country other than crude oil.

He successfully campaigned throughout all OPEC member countries for the election of a Nigerian to the exalted position of the **Secretary General** of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). He worked to establish the Petroleum Trust Fund (PTF), which has impacted positively in developing, resuscitating and revamping of our social infrastructures, utilities, educational and health institutions, for the benefit of the generality of Nigerians. It is safe to say that until its dissolution, it was accepted and appreciated as the best infrastructural development agency the country ever had.

As a Minister, he served his Country sincerely, honestly and without blemish. Under his tenure, the working conditions of NNPC and DPR staff were greatly improved and enhanced in order to face the challenges of the oil industry squarely and enthusiastically. During his tenure as Minister of Petroleum Resources, he plugged the loopholes of waste and abuses which had plagued the industry by stopping product's diversion, completing the pipeline systems and designing new products delivery systems to cause petrol to flow at the pumps instead of from jerry cans. No wonder that in a letter of appreciation to the Atu-Ekong, after the dissolution of that cabinet, the Head of State wrote "I write to express my profound appreciation to you for the support which you gave to this administration during your tenure of office as Minister in the Federal Public Service and commend you for your contribution, sense of commitment and spirit of nationalism".

This entrepreneur, academician, politician and holder of many chieftaincy titles has also quietly touched the lives of many Nigerians by his numerous philanthropic activities, including donations of computer systems to Nigerian Universities, institution of endowments and prizes in our Universities, award of scholarships to Nigerian students and other sponsorship programs at all levels of education and health.

In order to continue, sustain and enhance his philanthropic activities, Chief Don Obot Etiebet, in 1994 instituted the **OBOT ETIEBET FOUNDATION**, as his 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday gift to humanity, for **SERVICE TO MANKIND**, as the Foundation's motto says.

Chief Don Obot Etiebet, a firm believer in free enterprise, equity, justice and accountability, is one of the leading politicians in Nigeria. In association with like-minded Nigerians, he successfully founded and nurtured the **National Centre Party of Nigeria (NCPN)** in 1995. The Party was one of the five (5) registered political parties in 1996 by the government.

The Party entered the March 1997 Local Government election and won massively throughout the Country but was cut down through cancellation of result which action reveals convincingly the succession plan of the military dictator Head of State. The ramification of that action and what followed thereafter are well known history today.

He was the Chairman of the National Advisory Council, Leader and Presidential Candidate of the Party.

While many others were in the "siddon look" party, he was the only Presidential Aspirant that challenged the dreaded dictator Head of State, General Sani Abacha, for the Presidency and nearly lost his life in the process. He was arrested and forced to abandon the party he founded. He survived it to fight another day and that other day came in 1998, as one of the founding members of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). A Trustee of that Party and Deputy Chairman – Mobilization and Contact Committee of the Party, he became a frontline Presidential Aspirant. He came third at the Party's national convention in Jos



which elected the Party's Presidential Flagbearer, and thereafter served as a member of the PDP Presidential Campaign team and campaigned successfully throughout the country to enthrone the PDP Government in the Country.

A respected national political leader from the South-South Zone, he also ensured that the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) won massively and convincingly in the Zone. It became the only zone in the country that gave the PDP its highest votes in all the three tier elections of Local Governments, State Governments and the Presidency. Chief Don Obot Etiebet is in politics.

He is happily married with children and keeps fit through hardwork, tennis and swimming.