



Address

by

His Royal Majesty.

AGABA'IDU (DR.)

**ELAIGWU ODOGBO JOHN, CON, Ph.D., PFD,
OCH'IDOMA, CHAIRMAN, IDOMA AREA TRADITIONAL COUNCIL,**



**At the
IDOMA CENTENARY PLUS
LECTURE SERIES 2026**

Theme:

**"A PEOPLE, THEIR PROFESSION,
AND THEIR POLITICS"**

**HELD AT OTUKPO, BENUE STATE
30TH MAY, 2026**



**HIS ROYAL MAJESTY AGABA'IDU (DR.)
ELAIGWU ODOGBO JOHN, CON, Ph.D., PFD,
OCH'IDOMA, CHAIRMAN, IDOMA AREA TRADITIONAL COUNCIL,**



**HER ROYAL MAJESTY AGABA'NYA
ELAIGWU MARTHA OMABO ACCSA, FCCSA**



say wherever they encounter an Idoma person: "This is a people known for integrity, excellence, and faithfulness."

11. Our professions must not merely provide livelihoods; they must become instruments for societal transformation. The lawyer must defend justice and equity; the teacher must shape generations; the doctor must preserve life; the entrepreneur must create opportunities; the scholar must preserve and generate knowledge; and every profession must serve the higher purpose of advancing our people.
12. Likewise, our politics must reflect the noblest ideals of leadership. Politics should not become warfare for personal gain or an arena of endless division. Politics, in its highest form, is stewardship for the common good.
13. The time has come for Idoma politics to rise above bitterness, disunity, and narrow interests. We must embrace:
 - Unity over division;
 - Vision over selfish ambition;
 - Service over titles;
 - Development over personal gain;
 - Collective interest over individual pursuit.
14. I call upon all Idoma political actors—past, present, and aspiring—to remember that positions are temporary, but the Idoma Nation is enduring. Political influence must be used to secure our



communities, attract development, empower our youths and women, protect our land and heritage, and build stronger relationships with neighboring communities and the wider Nigerian society. This will enhance and positively enable a strategic plan that will pave way for an Idoma man or woman to steer the leadership head not only the governor of Benue State but other striking Institutions or Ministries.

15. As we reflect upon our centenary journey and look toward the future, we must ask difficult but necessary questions:

Are we sufficiently united?

Are we investing adequately in our youth?

Are we documenting our history?

Are we building institutions that will outlive us?

Are we preparing a future that generations yet unborn will be proud to inherit?

16. The Idoma Nation stands at a defining moment. We must move beyond lamentation and embrace strategic thinking, unity of purpose, and deliberate action.

17. To our youths, I say: you are not merely leaders of tomorrow—you are partners in building today. Do not surrender your future to crime, drugs, hopelessness, or destructive influences. Pursue education, acquire skills, innovate, participate constructively in leadership, and uphold values of integrity and responsibility. Your creativity and energy are indispensable to the rebirth of our nation.



18. To our women: you remain the backbone of our homes and the custodians of our values and culture. Your role in nation-building can no longer remain at the margins. We must deliberately create opportunities and support systems that enable Idoma women to contribute meaningfully in leadership, governance, business, and community development.
19. As we mark this Centenary Plus Lecture Series, we remember and honour our ancestors, heroes, fathers, mothers, and leaders who laboured and sacrificed for the growth of our people. We honour them not merely with words but by building upon the foundations they laid.
20. By the grace of God and with the support of all stakeholders, the Idoma Traditional Institution shall continue to promote unity, ethical leadership, peace, education, youth empowerment, cultural preservation, and coordinated advocacy on issues affecting our people.
21. I commend the organizers of Idoma Centenary Plus, the Board of Trustees, and all partners who worked tirelessly to make this gathering possible. My prayer is that these lectures will not end as speeches archived in documents, but that they will produce ideas, policies, collaborations, and concrete actions capable of repositioning the Idoma Kingdom.
22. I pray that from today a new season begins for Idoma land—a season of unity, excellence, responsible politics, spiritual renewal, peace, security, and visible development.



May Almighty God bless the Idoma Nation.
May He grant us wisdom, peace, unity, and progress.
May He bless Benue State.
May He bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

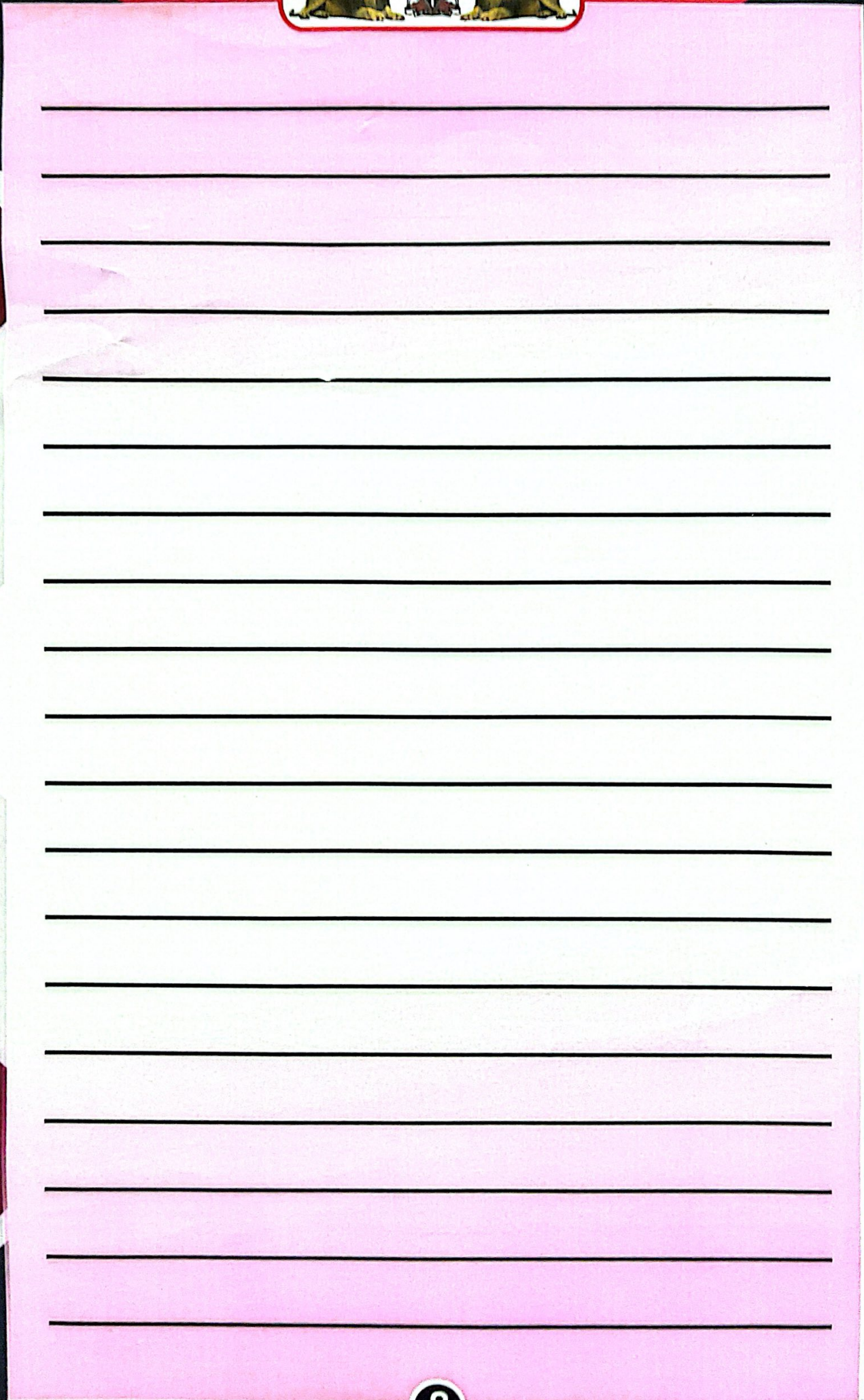
Long live the Idoma Nation.
Long live Benue State.
Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
Thank you and God bless you all.

**HRM, AGABA'IDU, PFD, ELAIGWU ODOGBO JOHN,
CON, Ph.D.**

*FCTI, FCNA, FCCSA (USA), FCCrFA, FIMC, Prof-FAIMFIN, FICPAN,
IMC, ANIM*

Och'Idoma & Chairman, Idoma Area Traditional Council

Paramount Ruler of the Idoma Kingdom & Vice Chairman,
Benue State Council of Traditional Rulers





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