

GOODWILL MESSAGE BY HIS HOLINESS OLUMBA OLUMBA OBU TO THE NATION TO MARK NIGERIA 49TH INDEPENDENT ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - 1ST, OCTOBER, 2009

Fellow Nigerians,

Let the profound peace of The Almighty Father which surpasses all things abide with all Nigerians and man in general in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

49 years ago the documents availing Nigeria her sovereign status was endorsed by both the British officials and the front-liners of Nigerian's independence. Also 46 years ago, her republican status was entrenched. Thus Nigeria became a sovereign state. Sovereignty entails absolute independence and with complete freedom to govern oneself. History reveals that the rights of sovereignty of a people, state or country have been usurped by others at certain time in history as a result of the element of inordinate craving for power, wealth and the natural resources of a given people. In some cases, this is occasioned by the inability of the people in question to realize their natural potentials and maximize such to the betterment of its people to the glory of God. To the extent Nigerians has maximized both their human and natural resources as well as recognize Divine manifestation and design for them is yet to be ascertained. The same is applicable to other African nations that has also suffered the pains of Colonialism.

Attaining political independence is one thing while gaining moral and spiritual status as a people of God remains fundamental. Civilization in conventional ideologies is commendable but moral and spiritual civilization resulting from obedience to the word of God conveys a more consolidated civilization. The human ideals of government, religion, science, art, industry and the family interpret and uphold human civilization. Proper application of the elements of governance buttressed by moral principles transforms into the most constructive element of civilization while the contrary makes government the most destructive element of civilization.

For the past 49 years, Nigeria, our beloved Country seem to be celebrating her independence amiss. Celebrating the right of sovereignty of a people yearly without considering the extent to which the natural and socio-political rudiments of governance have been observed reveals yet a reversal to status quo.

Nigerians surely are not aware that this Country is the greatest nation on Earth and indeed **"a pencil in the Hands of God Almighty"** and the leader of the new world. A peculiar people and a nation destined to reveal Gods glory to the world.

The Israelites were in bondage in Egypt for 430 years and wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. That did not stop them from being the chosen of God in that generation. Nigeria is God's own Country. No other Country fits that name than Nigeria. The inter war years in Nigeria was meant to test the

spirit of the first **National Anthem** which stated in part “---- **though tribes and tongues may differ in Brotherhood we stand**”. You will attest to the truth that the blood of Nigerians that flowed from the North to the South and from the West to the East was meant to concretize the Brotherhood Bond in Nigeria. This it did and we have not dismembered.

The fact that God Almighty has made Nigeria His physical abode in this generation is not a guarantee that it must be a bed of roses at all times. This would be a state of utopia for in heaven was the first spiritual rebellion experienced. That event in the heavenly realm is largely responsible for the overwhelming content of evil on earth. Nigeria has experienced these universal scourge and plagues. For the past forty nine years, Nigeria has fallen in and fallen out of prosperity occasioned by degenerating morality and spirituality. As the fifth largest producer of oil in the world, it is not in doubt that Nigeria is now importing oil. Before the recent global economic melt down, Nigeria suffered suffocating economic hardships and yet she is a blessed nation with stupendous wealth in all fronts. It is sad that Nigeria’s corruption index is still on the rise instead of abating. Every finger tends to point at the leadership of the country. A nation gets the leadership she deserves. If Nigerians desire good leadership, then the followership must be prepared to be good and challenge the leadership. The spate of religious crisis in Nigerian is alarming. All religions with spiritual respectability uphold love as a superior spiritual tenet. With this in mind, there should be no religious crisis in Nigeria. If all those who claim to be either Christians or Moslems are so in the true sense of the word, there would be peace on earth and Nigeria in particular. And let it be known that, Love of God is not a mere phrase, not an intellectual proposition to which we consent with our minds. It is a transforming experience, a burning conviction. It is the absence of these in the spiritual contents of Nigerians that breed these unnecessary religious crises. There is need to also address the issue of youth restiveness in Nigeria as we celebrate her 49th anniversary. The talibans and militants are a pool of discontented youths who are aggrieved with the economic policies of Nigeria in the direction of uneven distribution of wealth. Politicians in Nigeria must learn to earn their wealth and learn to promote and protect public will instead of pilfering the public till. Women in Nigeria have been liberated and are no longer second class citizens only fit for their husbands use. The men in leadership position should gird their loins and ensure that, there is transparency and accountability in governance and inject love and compassion, justice and fairplay in man to man relationship and enthrone love of God above all else in Nigeria otherwise women will sooner than expected take over the leadership of this Country. Above all, the future and continuity of this Country lies in the hands of children. Children must be made to have future. Their focus should be sharpened and acceptable culture, values, traditions emboldened with patriotism should be their lot.

As Nigeria celebrates, she must also remember that, she is not only a physical entity but most importantly a spiritual entity. It is to be known that

the journey of Nigeria from the pre-colonial days, to the colonial days, the struggle for independence and eventual self rule, the acquiring of a sovereign status in 1960 on a platter of gold and her attainment of Republicanism in 1963 were all moderated by a Being whose physical emergence on 30th December 1918 in an obscure town called Biakpan in the present day Biase LGA of Cross River State, Nigeria initiated the transformation of the political, social, economic and spiritual chemistry of the nations of the planet Earth vis-a-viz the Universe. It has not been an easy ride for Nigeria for the past forty nine years but that has always been the fate of a **CHOSEN PEOPLE**.

I remain grateful to The Father of all creations for keeping Nigeria up till today. Nigeria as a nation owes Him a monumental debt of thanksgiving. He is poised to erase class and racial difference, restore the rights and integrity of all and encourage all towards the path of forgiveness, love, peace, justice, freedom and oneness.

Nigeria cannot pretend not to know the various interventionist role of The Father on her behalf. Let it be placed on record that, it was by The Father's sheer love and mercy that she gained her sovereignty status on a platter of gold. Has The Father revealed the abundant mineral resources in Nigeria to the colonial masters, Nigerian's independence should have been a ding-dong struggle. The situation should have been worst than the South African. It is sad to note that Nigeria, a heterogeneous nation, had to expunge the spiritual chord of the first National Anthem which came through the inspiration of The Holy Spirit. This chord linked Nigeria together.

It was the infusion of the spirit of Brotherhood in the collective psyche of Nigeria that cemented her fragile frame at various times when the fragile frame was to break.

The Father overruled by bringing an end to the Nigerian Civil war following the appeal of the then Nigerian Head of State. There has been various covet moves to decolonize or destabilize Nigeria. The Father had always given her victory. The incessant military coups and rudderless military leadership was stopped by The Father. How about the attempt to remove Nigeria from The United Nations due to her pariah status? This was reverted by The Father. Through thick and thin, The Father has stood by Nigeria. Despite all these interventions and more, Nigeria is behaving as if she is not aware of the fact that the Physical Personage of God in her midst is to ensure that which was done to the Jews is done to the Gentiles.

Over the years, Nigeria's political, social and spiritual equilibrium seem to have been dislocated. This position is worrisome but Nigeria must learn her lessons properly. Nigeria has lost her steam. Her love for God has not only waned but she has lost her bearing. Love of God is not a phrase, not an intellectual proposition to wish with our minds. It is a transforming

experience, a burning conviction. And until man reaches this level, he cannot move to the next level in man to man relationship and then man to God relationship.

Nigeria out of her strength has attempted to reposition herself. Such efforts without the input of God Almighty in her lack the soil. As at today this Country is passing through agonizing moments. It should not be so. Nigeria is the fifth largest producer of crude oil in the world but she is importing oil today. There was a time when **eight kobo** used to exchange for **one dollar** but today we carry a bag of naira notes (**one hundred and fifty six naira**) to exchange for **one US Dollar**. There is real economic downturn. Banks are characterized with monumental fraud; she has a chronic leadership decimal of electoral fraud. ASUU is on strike and the youths are left to go astray. Parents have lost moral bearing. Now Nigerian is ruled by militants and Talibans. Militants in South and Talibans in the North. Niger Delta Region despite the Amnesty from the Yar'adua led administration is yet to yield expected fruits. There is that wonderful effort at rebranding Nigeria. Let it be made clear here that, rebranding Nigeria should begin from rebranding the consciences of Nigerians. It should rebrand the psychology of Nigerians. At most, the rebranding exercise will bear fruit if the leadership at various strata are rebranded to see the need to use love as a divine barometer of governance. Mercy towards the less privileged and sense of patriotism should be a brand that must be sold to all and sundry.

Despite these issues, Nigeria still remains the greatest nation in Africa and the world. The only qualification being that God is here.

What all these inform Nigeria is that she should not only celebrate her political sovereignty but should celebrate Nigeria as the nucleus of the Kingdom of God on earth. Henceforth, will Nigeria be brave enough to accept the challenges that will make her the number one nation in the world? "A moment comes, which comes rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends and when the soul of a nation long suppressed finds utterance" in new ideas originating from the Divine. And to move to that new horizon, Nigerians and her leaders must come out of segregation, selfishness and idolatrous beliefs and practices and seek whatever they desire from The One and Only Living God to avert further agonizing occurrence in the Land as to avail the Country her destined position in God's Divine Plan for humanity which is already in the process. Nigeria must repent of her sins and follow the sacred principles and ethics of God Almighty and all will be well with her as she moves to her esteemed position in the world with The Almighty Father as her foundation.

I congratulate all sheds of leaders in the Country for their unmitigating drive towards development, peace, security and progress and wish them God's wisdom and strength in their God-assigned leadership roles.

I pray that the light of the Holy Spirit continue to illuminate the hearts of all Nigerians and nay the entire mankind toward the realization of the oneness of the human family for in love and unity lay the strength of a nation's moral and spiritual advancement which is the bedrock of the real civilization and the consequent socio-political and economic growth and stability as well as the needed security.

Let the infinite peace of The Almighty God be with Nigeria and the entire mankind in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, now and forevermore, Amen.

His Holiness Olumba Olumba Obu

The King of Kings and The Lord of Lords

Chairman BCS Executive Council/Head of Administration

