



**Obidinma
Isaiah Okoli
Onyemelukwe
FOUNDATION**

Information Booklet

Prof. Obidinma Isaiah Okoli Onyemelukwe was born to a modest family in Nanka, Anambra State, Nigeria around 1937/8. He had his secondary education at the prestigious Dennis Memorial Grammar School, (DMGS), Onitsha. He was highly intelligent and graduated with First Class Honours from the Department of Economics, University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



He also held Master's and Doctorate degrees in Economics from the University of Michigan, United States. Prof. OIO Onyemelukwe had a stellar career and rose to the post of the first Director General (Permanent Secretary) in the Ministry of Education of Old Anambra State.

Upon retirement from active civil service in 1992, he transitioned into academia. He was a brilliant lecturer at various tertiary institutions, authored several books and held important positions including being the Head, of the Department of Economics, at Anambra State University, Uli. He was a patriotic Nigerian and remained interested in the affairs of his beloved community, Nanka. His contributions to the Nanka community earned him the title, "Ochimba Nanka " and a seat in the Igwe's cabinet. Until his death, he lived life exuberantly and in service to the community.



The Obidinma Isaiah Okoli Onyemelukwe Foundation (OIOF), was established in 2022 in his loving memory to support the causes that were dear to him during his lifetime and to always keep in mind the amazing gift he was to the world. The foundation focuses on several programmes including Eye Health, Ageing and older persons, Cardiovascular Health, Anti-Violence Initiatives, Scholarships, Community Development in Nanka, and Cultural Renaissance and Preservation.

In the past 18 months, the foundation has successfully executed very impactful projects in the areas of scholarships and eye health particularly. In 2022, Obidinma Isaiah Okoli Onyemelukwe Foundation instituted awards to reward the best students in Mathematics and Economics at the Dennis Memorial Grammar School.



These awards are based on the interests and causes of Prof OIO Onyemelukwe who was a first-class graduate of Economics and an outstanding academic in the areas of Economics and Statistics at various Nigerian Universities. The awards recognise the extraordinary achievements of students who excel in these subjects. The recipients of the inaugural Obidinma Isaiah Onyemelukwe Foundation prize for Best in Mathematics and Best in Economics are Divine Chukwugozie and Benjamin Adubasim respectively. The recipient of the 2023 OIO Foundation Award for Mathematics was Praise Manaka. The OIO Foundation awardee for Economics in 2023 was Chigozirim Agah.



As part of her eye health programme, OIOF provided a grant towards a research intervention in eye health. The grant supports the provision of eyeglasses to students in 8 public secondary schools in Gwagwalada, Abuja Nigeria who have eye conditions, and refractive errors, the most common cause of vision impairment worldwide. We hope that this intervention will enhance their visions, and improve their academic performances and consequently their quality of life.

Recognizing the burden of eye health challenges in Africa especially in Nigeria, OIOF engages in sensitisation programmes to enlighten the population about avoidable vision loss.

OIOF has been actively creating awareness about public health issues by commemorating internationally recognized awareness days and engaging in activities that enlighten the public about conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, stuttering/stammering, eye diseases and cardiovascular diseases.

Prof Cheluchi Onyemelukwe

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