

**BRIEF RESUME AND CITATION OF  
CHIEF DON OBOT ETIEBET, CON, FNCS, FCPN, FNMGS, MSPE,  
MNAPE, MNAPE, MAAPG**

**Chief Don Obot Etiebet**, CON, an Academician, Businessman and Politician, holds many important Chieftaincy titles in Nigeria, some of which are: **Atu-Ekong Annang, Obong Unwana Akwa Ibom, Shettima Fune**, all depicting the leadership and developmental roles he has played and still playing for the emancipation of his people, in particular, and his Country in general.

Chief Don Etiebet, Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON), Fellow of Nigeria Computer Society (FNCS), Fellow of the Computer Registration Council of Nigeria (FCPN), Fellow of the Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society (FNMGS), Member of Society of Petroleum Engineers (MSPE), Member of Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationist (MNAPE), Member of American Association of Petroleum Geologist (MAAPG) amongst others was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 1944. He is from Akwa Ibom State. He holds a B.Sc. (Special Honours) degree from the famous Imperial College of Science and Technology, England and an M.Sc. in Applied Geophysics from the University of Western Ontario, Canada. He has been a Lecturer in Physics and Applied Geophysics at the University of Western Ontario, Canada and the University of Ibadan, respectively.

DON as he is fondly called by his peers has worked as a Drilling Assistant with SHELL-NAM in Holland and as an Assistant Party Chief with Reo Trinto Exploration Co. Ltd, Toronto in solid minerals exploration in Northern Vancouver, Canada.

In 1972, armed with all these qualifications and experience in mineral exploration techniques upon his return to Nigeria, he set up a company, called Earth Sciences Limited in Resources Engineering and Mineral Exploration Company that applied computerized geophysical techniques to mineral exploration. Earth Sciences Ltd was the first ever indigenous Nigerian computer services company in mineral data gathering and processing using gravimetry and aeromagnetic techniques to map mineral and sedimentary deposits in the country. With support from the International Oil Companies and the Geological Survey of Nigeria, Earth Sciences Limited grew so fast that in 1979 it gave birth to Data Sciences Nigeria Limited (DSNL) to market computer hardware and software systems used in those services to others. Don, as he is fondly called, worked very hard and branched from the oil services applications to computer applications in public services, education, examination processing, banking, utilities like National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) and Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) in those days. In this respect, Data Sciences also grew very fast in the marketing and maintenance of computer systems having become the Exclusive Distributor of Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) of Massachusetts, USA and other OEMs in Nigeria. Today DSNL remains one of the foremost Information Communications Technology (ICT) companies in Nigeria.

In 1990, one of his Companies, **OBODEX Nigeria Limited**, an investment and real estate development company, launched the first ever Nigerian brand name in Personal Computers the OBODEX-PC which was assembled in Nigeria with the Naira sign keyboard, a first in the country. His landmark office complex building – **ETIEBETS PLACE** in Ikeja, was completed in 1992 and it is one of the best finished and admired office buildings in Lagos.

A former President of the Nigeria Computer Society (NCS) which he helped found, his pioneering and innovative efforts in computerization and data communications

made his company the mother-of-all indigenous computer companies in the country and also provided the incentive to others to dare and entered the new industry as entrepreneurs. Some of them who branched out of his company are today big forces to reckon with in the areas of software development and application in the country. The Atuekong is regarded by all in the computer industry as the “grandfather of IT” in Nigeria and has received so many awards from the industry and professional bodies, too many to mention here including Life Fellowship of the Nigeria Computer Society (NCS) and its legal arm, the Computer Professionals Registration Council of Nigeria (CPN), set up by an Act of Parliament to regulate the practice and use of computers. His pioneering works in the industry, despite very grave and deliberate original challenges contributed to the founding of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) committed to the implementation of the National Information Technology Policy of the Federal Government which made the Federal Government to accept the use of computers in her services much earlier than expected with the launching of eNigeria and eGovernance. The Don was also instrumental to the establishment of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) through his work on data communications and Internet applications in the country.

Chief Don Obot Etiebet, a recipient of the National Honors Award of the Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON) is an achiever who believes passionately in his country's development of indigenous technology and expertise. He has been silently involved in policy formulation and implementation through different fora in government appointments in the country and abroad.

It is therefore no surprise that at the most trying period of the nation in 1993, he was invited to serve the country, first as Secretary of Petroleum and Mineral Resources in the Interim National Government (ING) and then as Minister of Petroleum & Mineral Resources. He brought his spirit of hard work, honesty,

dedication, transparency, accountability, enterprise and excellence to bear in governance during the period he served and achieved many productive and remarkable mile stones for the petroleum industry, including but not limited to the relaunching of the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) project and the establishment of Petroleum Trust Fund (PTF) headed by the former Head of State, Retired General Muhammadu Buhari who is the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria today. The PTF was acclaimed as the most veritable interventionist organisation in the country at that time for both social and infrastructural developments until it was disbanded in 1999. He first introduced the country's monetization policy in the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) as well as taking DPR out of the bureaucracy of the Ministry to make it more effective and productive. As a Minister, he served his country sincerely, honestly and without blemish with many innovations in the management of the industry in the country.

This entrepreneur, academician, politician and holder of many chieftaincy titles national and international awards has also quietly touched the lives of many Nigerians by the numerous philanthropic activities he has embarked upon. His endowments, scholarships, prizes, donations and sponsorships are too many to mention here.

However, it is very worth mentioning a game changer activity in his Village of Ikot Ekpuk in Oruk Anam Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, where his family was the only family in the village to have graduates in the seventies. He therefore instituted a scholarship program for all the children in the village from secondary school to university and other tertiary institutions. Today there are many graduates and other tertiary institution certificate holders in the village with lots of economic and social changes.

In order to continue, sustain and enhance his philanthropic activities, Chief Don Obot Etiebet, in 1994 founded the **OBOT ETIEBET FOUNDATION**, as his 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday gift to humanity for **SERVICE TO MANKIND** as the Foundation's motto says The Foundation is continuing in its philanthropic services in education, health, small business and entrepreneurship developments for the youths.

Chief Don Obot Etiebet, CON, a firm believer in free enterprise economy, equity, justice and accountability, is one of the leading politicians in Nigeria. In 1996 he successfully founded and nurtured the **National Centre Party of Nigeria (NCPN)** as a platform to pursue his Presidential ambition. The Party was one of the five registered political parties in 1996 by the then Military Government. While others were in the "Sidon Look" position then, Chief Don Etiebet was the only Presidential Candidate that honestly challenged the dreaded Military Dictator to a competitive general election. But he nearly lost his life in the process as he was hounded, targeted, arrested, detained, and made to rescind his Presidential ambition and to abandon his Party when in the March 1997 Local Government Election his Party won massively throughout the Country. The ramifications of that action and what followed thereafter are well known in Nigerian political history which is still hunting us today. However, the Chief survived that era to fight another day and that other day came in 1998 when he was one of the Founding Fathers of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). He became a Trustee of the Party and worked very hard to have the Party zoned the Presidential slot to the South and was one of the Presidential Aspirants who however was not elected the candidate at the Party's National Convention in Jos in 1999 but served as a member of the PDP Presidential Campaign team which won the general election that brought about the first PDP Government in the Country in May 1999.

A respected national political leader from the South-South Zone, he also ensured that the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) won massively and convincingly in his

Zone, returning all the six PDP governors in the general election to the Party in 1999. The Chief was the Leader of the Party in the South-South Zone and very influential in the politics of the Zone. But due to the interplay of personal and future political interests of some elected office holders and other leaders in the zone, they turned against him, and the Chief was schemed out. So, he left the Party and merged his group nationally with the then opposition All Peoples Party (APP) to form the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) and became its National Chairman and the Leader of Government Opposition. Today, the Chief is a proud member of the Board of Trustees and National Caucus of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

A very respected Traditional Chief, he is happily married with children and Six grandchildren presently.

The Chief keeps fit through hard work playing tennis and swimming. He is very interested in international affairs and diplomacy and likes to keep abreast of what is happening in the world always.