

## **His Royal Majesty, Eze Dr Sir. Ezo Ukandu**

### **Background information**

His Royal Majesty Dr Sir Ezo Ukandu is a Tradition ruler. His birth name is Ezo Ukandu. He was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June, 1936 to Ezo and Nwanyibuikwu Ukandu both from Ahaba Imenyi, Isukwuato in Abia State. Ezo Ukandu acquired a certificate in general education and eventually a diploma in business management and public administration. He went on to build business empires in Aba such as Ukandu motors, Ukatraco Nigeria Ltd. Multisystem Nigeria Ltd etc. in 1976 he was chosen unanimously by the people of Imenyi to be their king. This would earn him the title "Enyi-na-Obiangwu 1 of Imenyi kingdom.

In addition to being the paramount ruler of Imenyi kingdom. Ezo Ukandu is also the traditional head of Isukwuato and the former Chairman, Abia state council of traditional rulers. He is currently a member of south east traditional rulers. He has been married three times.

### **Background:**

Ezo Ukandu was the first child in a family of seven. He was born to Ezo and Nwanyibuikwu Ukandu. His mother Nwanyibuikwu, the first of two wives, married by his father, gave birth to three children with Ezo being the first son. A second wife married to Ezo's father also gave birth to four sons. Ezo's Father 'Dede' as he was fondly called and mother Nwanyibuikwu was engaged in medium scale trading. This included transporting food and livestock from various areas in and across the state. Ezo Ukandu grew up in Ahaba Imenyi local government area in Isukwuato where he also had his primary education.

### **Journey into Business**

Ezo Ukandu came to Aba city in 1957, with his younger brother Ojiegbe. During this period, he engaged himself in internship for over six years. It was during this period he studied and eventually mastered the intricate of the motor spare part business especially Mercedes and Peugeot cars. After six years Ezo Ukandu was finally able with his employees blessing, to set up his own business mostly selling motor spare parts. Ezo Ukandu has mostly cited honesty as the major reason for his success in business. Since Ezo had developed an honest and reliable reputation in business. Requests were made by both companies and individuals alike to bring in motor spare parts on a huge scale including motor cars. This led to Ezo opening the motor company Ukandu Motors which specialised in the sale and maintenance of Mercedes Benz and Peugeot cars. In a couple of years Ezo Ukandu had grown a business empire that included a vast car sale and maintenance business. He also dabbled into Agriculture and construction.

### **Philanthropy**

Ezo Ukandu has engaged in so many philanthropic acts over time. He has funded and supported so many charitable courses in the fields of education and sports. Ezo Ukandu is the Chairman and founder of The Ukandu Scholarship Scheme He has also been given a Certificate of Merit by the Youth Sport federation of Nigeria in recognition to his contribution to sports.

## **Being Traditional Ruler and the “Enyi-na -Obiangwu 1 of Imenyi**

In 1976, the people of Ahaba Imenyi unanimously elected Ezo Ukandu to be their traditional head and paramount ruler considering his various philanthropic endeavours in the community. By virtue of this position, he would go on to earn the title Enyi-na –Obiangwu 1 of Imenyi Kingdom.

## **Marriage**

In 1976, Ezo Ukandu married from in Imenyi. They went on to raise eight children. Also, In 1984 Ezo Ukandu married Juliet Nneoha Nwachukwu. A native of Ezoke Nsu community in Mbano, Imo state who was also a cashier at the now defunct ACB Bank at the time. They have six children. He is currently married to Nkechi from Ngwa area in Abia State.

## **Political Appointment**

In 2000 Ezo Ukandu was appointed deputy chairman, Abia State Council of Traditional Rulers. A position he retained till 2002 when he was now appointed as the Chairman, Abia State Council of Traditional Rulers.

## **Awards and Achievements**

His majesty, Ezo Ukandu has also been a recipient of several awards and achievements. Among them are

1. Certificate of Business Excellence given Aba Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture(1987)
2. Corporate Fellowship and Merit Award given by The Institute of Sales Management of Nigeria(1993)
3. Certificate of Honour by The Methodist Church of Nigeria (1993)
4. Gold Certificate Awards given by Imo State Sports Endowment Fund Committee.

## **Presently**

Ezo Ukandu resides in Aba, Abia State. Nigeria and is currently the Chairman, Starlink Global Hotels Ltd.