

SPEECH DELIVERED AT THE VALEDICTORY HIGH COURT SESSION HELD IN HONOUR OF HON. JUSTICE A.B.C. EGU, PRESIDENT OF THE IMO STATE CUSTOMARY COURT OF APPEAL ON 7TH DECEMBER, 2011 AT THE HIGH COURT COMPLEX, OWERRI BY HON. JUSTICE B.A. NJEMANZE, CHIEF JUDGE OF IMO STATE

PROTOCOL

On 15th September, 1993, the following judges were appointed and sworn-in on 17th September, 1993 by His Excellency, Chief Evan Enwerem, Governor of Imo State:

1. Hon. Justice N.O. Adigwe(now retired);
2. Hon. Justice T.C. Anomnachi(deceased);
3. Hon. Justice B.A. Njemanze(Chief Judge);
4. Hon. Justice I.O. Agugua;
5. Hon. Justice G.C. Ihekire(now retired);
6. Hon. Justice M.M. Akuneme(now retired);
7. Hon. Justice A.B.C. Egu(now retiring President, CCA);
8. Hon. Justice L.I. Okonkwo(deceased).

Hon. Justice M.M. Akuneme;
Hon. Justice A.B.C. Egu; and
Hon. Justice L.I. Okonkwo were appointed and sworn-in as judges of the Customary Court of Appeal.

That Hon. Justice A.B.C. Egu is retiring today with good and ebullient health calls for gratitude, thanksgiving to the Almighty God and a worthy celebration. This is because within the period Hon. Justice A.B.C. Egu served as a Judge and President of the Customary Court of Appeal, he had many challenges. He had the challenge of health, but God saw him through. He was kidnapped, but by the mercy of God he was released without harm. The Customary Court of Appeal building was gutted by fire and Justice Egu lost all that he left behind in that building including all his very important documents like passport, title documents, judicial robes, etc. He was traumatized by this

inferno which gutted the Customary Court of Appeal. And true to his name, AMBROSE which connotes IMMORTAL, he survived all these challenges and like Boniface his Patron Saint, he took the pains like a monk. It was the special grace of God that sustained Hon. Justice Ambrose Boniface Chukwuemeka Egu in service and has seen him thus far.

And so we have gathered today to say with him "Chukwuemeka - Thank God". We can, therefore, with Hon. Justice A.B.C. Egu repeat in unison the words of Psalms 8:1-8 which says:

O Lord, our Lord,
How glorious is your name over all the earth
You have exalted your majesty above the heavens
Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings
You have fashioned praise
Because of your foes, to silence the hostile and the vengeful.
When I behold your heavens, the work of your fingers,
The moon, and the stars which you set in place -
What is man that you should be mindful of him,
Or the son of man that you should care for him?
You have made him little less than the angels,
And crowned him with glory and honour.
You have given him rule over the works of your hands
Putting all things under his feet,
All sheep and oxen, yes and the beasts of the field
The birds of the air, the fishes of the sea
And whatever swims the paths of the seas.
O Lord, our Lord,
How glorious is your name over all the earth."

And now as Hon. Justice A.B.C. Egu retires to the village, he must be reminded that though retired that he still wears the toga of a judge. This advice is given bearing in mind that Hon. Justice A.B.C. Egu was an irrepressible politician before his appointment as a judge. But the appointment repressed his political behavior. Now that he has been uncaged and released, he has to realize that he may be called back when the need arises to perform a judicial function.

On behalf of the body of judges you are leaving behind, I say, May the Almighty God guard and guide you in retirement. On behalf of the entire Imo State Judiciary, I say, Thank You, for the services you rendered to the Judiciary. I implore the members of the Judges Emeritus to welcome you with open and friendly hands.

May the Almighty God grant you peace, good health and protect you and your family as you retire. As we bid you farewell, we join you in saying the prayer in Ancient and Modern 162, Stanzas 8 and 9:

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the name,
The strong name of the Trinity,
By invocation of the same,
The Three in One, and One in Three,
Of whom all nature hath creation,
Eternal father, Spirit, Word.
Praise to the Lord of my salvation;
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.

B. A. NJEMANZE
CHIEF JUDGE
IMO STATE

7TH DECEMBER, 2011