



FACT SHEET

The Ofala Festival is a significant cultural event in Onitsha, Nigeria, celebrated annually in October. It's a time for the Obi of Onitsha to emerge from seclusion and showcase the kingdom's rich heritage through royal dances, tributes, parades, and music. Here's a breakdown of the festival

Purpose: The festival marks the Obi's successful negotiation of the

kingdom's fortunes during seclusion and commemorates the discovery of yams as a food source.

© Celebration: The festival spans two days, with the first day, Iru Ofala, focused on the monarch's parade and dance, while the second day, Azu Ofala, features elaborate displays by age-grade societies in colorful uniforms.



- Recent Developments: The festival has grown in scope and recognition, incorporating international art exhibitions, lecture series, and the youth carnival.
- Recognition: The Ofala Festival has received endorsements from the Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation and a Certificate of Recognition for Excellence in Culture from the United Nations World Tourism Organisation.

Overall, the Ofala Festival is a vibrant celebration of Onitsha's cultural heritage, attracting national and international attention while promoting unity and cultural preservation.

OFALA 2025



Njiko na Ntachi

The theme for the 2025 Ofala festival serves as a reminder of the importance of community and resilience. By embracing this theme, the festival aims to:

- Foster Unity: Encourage individuals to come together, promoting a sense of belonging and purpose.
- Promote Resilience: Inspire individuals to draw strength from their cultural heritage and community, persevering through challenges.
- Uphold Enduring Communal Values: Strengthen and preserve the timeless values that define our community, guiding us towards a brighter future.







OFALA EVENTS



The Ofala Festival is a significant cultural event in Onitsha, Nigeria, featuring a blend of traditional and modern activities. Here's a breakdown of the main events:



Traditional Events

- Iru Ofala: The first day of the festival, where the monarch, Obi of Onitsha, parades his palace and dances to war drums, showcasing his royal regalia and performing traditional dances.
- Azu Ofala: The second day, featuring an elaborate display by the monarch's subjects, usually made up of age-grade societies in colorful uniforms, paying homage to the monarch.
- Inye Ukwu Na Nlo Eze Onicha (Spiritual Retreat): A ritual ceremony where the monarch undergoes spiritual purification for the benefit of the community.
- **Ogbalido:** A feast of atonement for brave men, particularly Ndichie (redcap chiefs) and big game hunters.









SPORTIVE AND CULTURAL EVENTS

Ofala Lecture Series: An annual lecture series named after Obi Nnaemeka Achebe, recognizing his contributions to public relations.



Oreze Art Exhibition: A showcase of paintings, sculptures, and ceramics featuring works by Nigerian and African artists.



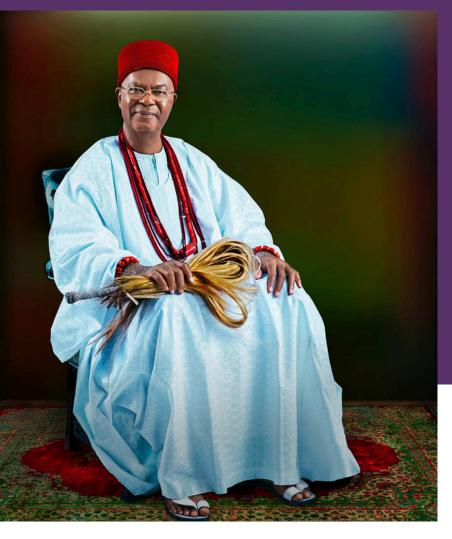
- Ofala Youth Carnival: A colorful street funfair showcasing Onitsha's cultural heritage.
- Ofala Thanksgiving Service: A thanksgiving service held to give thanks for the success of the festival and the monarch's reign, usually held at a local church.











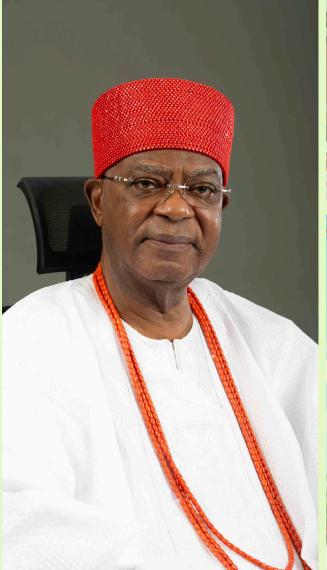
HIS MAJESTY, NNAEMEKA ALFRED UGOCHWUKWU ACHEBE CFR, mni

OBI OF ONITSHA

Igwe Nnaemeka Alfred Achebe is a distinguished leader and the 21st Obi of Onitsha, known for blending traditional leadership with modern governance. Here are key highlights of his life and achievements:

♠ Early Life and Education: Born on May 14, 1941, in Onitsha, Anambra State, Nigeria. He holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Stanford University and an MBA from Columbia University.

- © Career: Had a 30-year career with Royal Dutch/Shell Group, serving in various capacities, including Director of Shell Nigeria and Senior Corporate Adviser for Group Reputation at Shell International.
- Traditional Rulership: Ascended the throne as the 21st Obi of Onitsha on May 14, 2002, focusing on "Peace and Reconciliation based on Truth and Transparency as Foundation for Sustainable Development".







- © Community Development: Founded the Onitsha Advancement Foundation to promote community development and transformation.
- Global Contributions: Member of the Nigeria-Britain Association and Britain-Nigeria Association, promoting cultural and commercial interests between the two nations.
- Recognition: Received the National Honour of Commander of the Order of the Federal Republic (CFR) in 2004 and honorary degrees from several universities.
- © Current Roles: Chancellor of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Chairman of International Breweries PLC

OFALA 2025 CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 7, 2025 | 12 NOON

12 NOON: Nigerian Institute of Public Relations / Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Obi Nnaemeka Achebe Annual Lecture

Topic:

Lecturer:

Venue: Education Trust Fund (ETF) Hall, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam Campus.

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

6:00 PM: Inye Ukwu Na NIo Eze Onicha

Saturday, October 11 - Thursday, October 16, 2025

12 Noon- 6:00PM: Medical, Health and Wellbeing Community

Outreach

Venue: Various locations

Saturday, October 11, 2025

7:00 AM: Ogbalido

Monday, October 13, 2025

6:00 PM: Inyepu Ukwu na NIo Eze Onicha

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Traditional Iru Ofala

Wednesday, October15, 2025

Traditional Azu Ofala
Ofala HNI Event (by Invitation only)

Wednesday, October15, 2025

3:00 PM: Oreze X Art Exhibition Opening Ceremony, Venue: Ime Obi Multipurpose Hall, EzeChima Square

OFALA 2025 CALENDAR

Thursday, October 16, 2025

Ofala Youth Carnival

Friday, October 17, 2025

11:00 AM: Ceremonial Iru Ofala

Saturday, October 18, 2025

12:00 PM : Ceremonial Azu Ofala

Monday, October 20, 2025

3: 00 PM: Oreze X Art Exhibition Closing Ceremony

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

1:00 PM: Ofala Banquet (by Invitation only)

Venue: Ime Obi

Sunday, November 2, 2025

10:00 AM: Ofala Thanksgiving Service

Venue: Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Odoakpu Onitsha











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