

**Onodiongo Eyo's Inauguration Speech**  
**Presented on Saturday, March 20, 2021**

I want to say thank you, to all my elders in our community, all the past presidents, all the title holders in our society, all the men, women, and the youths, in their effort in standing firm to see that the dreams of our pioneer members come to pass.

I want to give a special thanks to our immediate past president Mr. Uwemedimo Umoren. In his able leadership in steering the affair of this great community and in giving me the opportunity to work with him in the past years. And, thanks to all our team members (Exco) as we continue in this new phase of assignment together.

The spirit that has lifted this community from the dept of despair to the great heights of hope has and will always be unity. We all cross over the Atlantic in pursuit of our own individual American dreams, but we are all Akwa Ibomites. Tonight's election has reminded us that while our journey has been long and our road has been hard, we have to pick ourselves up, we have fought our way back, and we know in our hearts that for AKISAN Atlanta, the best is yet to come.

In the words of President Joe Biden, “I pledge to be the president who seeks not to divide but unify.” I will seek unity, peace, and love with everyone. I will work with all my heart to win the confidence of members of the Akwa Ibom community in Atlanta. Being the only person in this position gives me the belief that the whole house unanimously supports, believes, and trusts in me. I will work every single day to keep that trust.

We have come too far to not succeed. History has taught us so much. We wine and dine with the best in the world, and we are practically living in one of the best countries on the planet. Let our visions and actions be an inspiration for generations to come. The battle to serve the soul of this community starts now. We must pursue all avenues of lifting our people up, showing them how to make the right choices. While you have elected us to carry on this duty, we do require your continuous support and contributions both in kind and in cash.

And now together on eagles' wings, let's embark on the work that God and history have called us to do with full hearts and steady hands, with faith in God and in each other, with love of AKISAN Atlanta, a thirst for justice. Let us be the community that we know we can be. A united, strengthened, and healed AKISAN Atlanta. The God that I

serve, the one that our dear state was named after, will see us through in this journey.

Once again I said thank you and God bless.