

**CITATION FOR
PROFESSOR PETER ONYEKWERE EBIGBO**

MR. PRESIDENT, SIR,

Standing before you is PROFESSOR PETER ONYEKWERE EBIGBO, Dr of Philosophy (D Phil); National President, African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect, (Nigeria Chapter); National and sub-Regional President, Association of Institutions and Initiatives for the care of Mentally Handicapped Children in West and Central Africa; Foundation President since 1995, Nigerian society for Psychotherapy; President, African Regional Chapter of the International Federal for Psychotherapy, (IFP); Winner, UNICEF Merit Award for service to children, 1995; ,Winner, the Nigerian Association of Women Journalist Award for Child Advocacy, 1997; Winner, Merit A ward from the Planned Parenthood Association of Nigeria; Winner, the Child Welfare League of Nigeria Award for service to children, 1995; Winner, the Nigerian Association of Nurses and Midwives Merit Award; etc and Professor of Clinical Psychology, Department of Psychological Medicine, University of Nigeria.

Born on the first August 1947, he had his early education in Orlu. After his secondary education at the Bigard Memorial Senior Seminary at Enugu in 1969, he proceeded to the then West Germany, where he obtained his first, second and third degrees in Clinical Psychology with flying colours in 1972, 1974 and 1977, respectively, in Julius Maxillian University of Wuerzburg.

He returned to Nigeria, and joined the Department of Psychological Medicine of the University of Nigeria, in 1978. It was here that Professor Ebigbo started his brilliant academic career, rising rapidly from Lecturer II to a full Professor of Clinical Psychology in 1985.

Professor Ebigbo had written and published extensively; he is joint author of a major and landmark textbook in Clinical Psychology, and in addition, has to his credit numerous publications and technical monographs of great academic and Professional value. Notable among his contributions is the standardization of Psychosomatic complaints of some Nigerians, leading to the development of the

so -called Enugu Somatization Scale, an indigenous psychodiagnostic tool which helps to facilitate the management of ill patients in Nigeria.

Recognizing the need for an appropriate instrument for the measurement of intellectual maturity in Nigerians, he developed a Nigerian modified and standardized form of the Draw- A-Person test

and the projective Rorschach blot technique for use in Nigeria.

He initiated and popularized the use of the Family Therapy Technique from which the ecological oriented Harmonization Restoration therapy was evolved. He also developed other psychotherapeutic technique in the management of mentally ill patients in Nigeria, including the Stress Inoculation Programme

All these psychotherapeutic methods took into consideration the psychocultural factors and the beliefs of Nigerians, and are therefore pragmatic and applicable to Nigerian situations.

Professor Ebigbo carried out descriptive studies on the effect of local knowledge, attitude, beliefs and practices on the mental and physical health of Nigerians in Enugu, with special reference to. The Ogba- Nje phenomenon, the mermaid belief, arranged marriages, breast-feeding and even normal pregnancy. The findings in these studies are interesting and they have added to acknowledge in this area.

Through an intensive nation wide study, Prof Ebigbo had collected much valuable and comprehensive data on the magnitude of Child Abuse and Neglect, and their pattern in Nigeria. As a follow-up on this, Child Monitoring Centres had been established in some area of the country.

Prof. Ebigbo identified the need for special educational and rehabilitative facilities for handicapped and other emotionally disturbed children; and using his research knowledge and professional expertise, he established, and managed with his wife, the Comprehensive and therapeutic Projects which have been in existence for 20 years.

He motivated the founding of various NGOs in the country: The African Network for the Prevention of, and the Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN); The Association of Institutions & Initiatives for the Care of mentally Retarded Children in West & Central Africa (Nigerian Chapter); The Nigerian Society for Psychotherapy, among others. Through these organizations, the problems of child' abuse, child neglect and mental retardation were highlighted, and he has spearheaded efforts to eradicate or reduce child abuse and neglect to its barest minimum in Nigeria. To achieve this, Prof Ebigbo has been in the forefront of moves for a major review of Nigerian laws relating to Child Abuse and Neglect.

Mr. President, Sir,

I present to you, Professor Peter Onyekwere Ebigbo, a distinguished Nigerian, a prolific researcher

of international repute, who through his innovative research and professional activities has positively touched the lives of many people, and has contributed immensely to knowledge and the practice of Clinical Psychology in Nigeria.

I respectfully request you, Sir, to invest this outstanding Nigerian scholar with the Nigerian National Order of Merit for the year 2000.