

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, (NIA) ANAMBRA STATE CHAPTER.

The Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA) Anambra State chapter formally came into existence on June 6, 1995, following its proclamation and inauguration by the then NIA President, Arc O. C. Majoroh at Ikenga Hotel, Awka. Before then, architects in Anambra State used to be part of the Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA) Enugu State chapter, being the parent chapter existing before the creation of the New Anambra State. Also a local chapter was being organized at Onitsha by members living in Onitsha and Awka in Anambra State. The process that led to the proclamation and inauguration of the Anambra State chapter was a combined efforts of architects of Anambra State origin living in both Enugu State and Anambra State led by Arc I G Chendo as the Inaugural Committee chairman and Arc Ike Onwualu as secretary. Other members of the Inaugural Committee include Arc Chris Akagu and Arc B S A Okoye.

The following persons were elected into the first executive members of the State chapter:

1. Arc J O C Enwonwu (fnia) Chairman
2. Arc E J Aguluka (mnia) Vice Chairman
3. Arc S M Onwuasoanwa (mnia) Secretary
4. Arc M N Ezennaya (mnia) Treasurer
5. Arc D C Oduche (mnia) Public Relations Officer
6. Arc Chris O Eyiuche (mnia) Assistant Secretary

Soon after the inauguration of the State chapter, the first meeting of the chapter was held on August 17, 1995 at Niger Heritage Hotel Onitsha which then became our temporary meeting venue. The owner of the hotel, Arc J. O. C. Enwonwu, being the chairman, granted the Chapter space in his hotel for our meetings. The Executive under the leadership of Arc J. O. C. Enwonwu continued to lead the Chapter until December 1998 when the euphoria of the inauguration had died down and nonchalance poor attendance to meetings crept in. New executive members were then elected to offices to inject new life into the Institute. The new Executive Committee members so elected were:

1. Arc E J Aguluka (mnia) Chairman
2. Arc Chukwudi Atakulu (mnia) Vice Chairman
3. Arc S M Onwuasoanya (mnia) Secretary
4. Arc Mark Ezennaya (mnia) Financial Secretary
5. Arc Peter Okpala Assistant Secretary
6. Arc Damian Oduche (mnia) Public Relations Officer.
7. Arc Obiora Anyika (mnia) Treasurer
8. Arc J C Ezeonu Ex Officio I
9. Arc N Ume Ex Officio II

After the election of the new executive members, the first meeting under the new executive was held on January 19, 1999 at Awka in the chairman's house with a sumptuous entertainment. After the meeting, the new executive swung into actions aimed at moving the chapter forward. Among the actions considered was social evenings to bring members together. Arc Chukwudi Atakulu offered and hosted the first social evening of the Institute on February 10, 1999 at Amota Restaurant, Onitsha.

Movement of Chapter Meeting Venue to Awka.

Due to poor attendance to meetings at our Onitsha meeting venue at Heritage Hotels Onitsha by members, it was decided to change the meeting venue to Awka at Tracy Hotels. The meetings held every third Wednesday of the month in rented spaces. Then, later, a new office secretariat was secured for the Chapter at number 321 Zick Avenue Awka through the efforts of Arc S K Maduke. The Executive was able to bring back to life the Institute in the State. One of the outstanding achievements of the Institute under this executive was a resounding success in its 5 days Architecture Week organized by it in October 2000. However, the progress of the Institute began to

nosedive when the Chairman Arc E J Agulu was involved in a national assignment that took him away from the State to Abuja for a considerable length of time and he was not able to transmit power to the Vice Chairman, Arc Chukwudi Atakulu. Therefore, in 2004, a new executive led by Arc Mark Ezennaya was elected to office after the expiration of their tenure. The elected members include as follows:

1. Arc Mark Ezennaya (mnia) Chairman
2. Arc Osita Okafor (mnia) Secretary
3. Arc Peter Okpala (mnia) Financial Secretary

(Please look into the minutes book and fill up other members of the executive.)

The next executive of the Chapter led by Arc Peter Okpala was elected to office in May 2011 after the expiration of the tenure of Arc Mark Ezennaya led executive. The members of the Executive are as follows:

1. Arc Peter Okpala (mnia) Chairman
2. Arc Emmanuel Ndefoh (mnia) Vice Chairman
3. Arc Paul Osita Okafor (mnia) Public Relations Officer
4. Arc I K Okereke Secretary
5. Arc Ben Nweke Financial Secretary
6. Arc Chike Onyeneto Assistant Secretary
7. Arc Cyprain Nwonu Treasurer
8. Arc Francis Okoye Provost
9. Arc E J Aguluka (fnia) Ex Officio
10. Arc Mark Ezennaya (fnia) Ex Officio
11. Arc Damian Oduche (fnia) Ex officio
12. Arc Amechi Ekume Ex Officio

Under this administration, the Institute had a very great uplift, bringing the State Chapter back into the reckoning in the affairs and activities of the National body. It organized very well attended annual conferences for six years for the Chapter and moved the Chapter's secretariat from its place at an old and dilapidated building at number 321 Zik Avenue Awka to its present befitting location at the Secretariat Road Awka. It introduced many reforms in the Institute's organizational approach that encouraged members to get more interested in the affairs of the professional body. It partnered with agency, Awka Capital Territory Development Agency (ACTDA) under the headship of Arc Michael Nwankwo to improve planning approval processes in the State. It also worked hard and ensured that the Anambra State representative in the Architects' Registration Council of Nigeria (ARCON) was appointed from among our members in the State. Before the, it used to be from the members of the Enugu State Chapter.

At the expiration of the tenure of the Executive in 2017, a new executive under the leadership of Arc Osita Okafor was elected.

List of Exco Mem ers of NIA, Anambra State Chapter (2017 - 2020 are as follows:

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|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Arc. Osita Paul Okafor | Chairman |
| Arc. Ifeanyi Okoye | Vice Chairman |
| Arc. Amobi Nwafor | General Secretary |
| Cyprian Nwonu | Assistant Secretary |
| Sopuruchukwu Ezeokonkwo | Treasurer |
| Valentine Okorie | Fin. Sec. |
| Francis Okoye | Provost |
| Ikpe Okafor | PRO |
| Arc. Peter Okpala | Ex-Officio I |
| Arc. Damian Oduche | Ex-Officio II |

The election of August 2020 saw the re-election of the Chairman and most of the exco members. The following new officers were elected to replace some officers:

Arc. Dr. Ikenna Michael Onuorah - Treasurer

Arc. Zel Okeke - Provost

Arc. Uju Jonas- Ex-Officio II

Despite the controversy surrounding the

professional prac, the chapter as able to grow in the full membership class and added about 25 full members into NIA among other classes of membership at the same time about six (6) new members got elevated into the college of fellows:

Arc. Don Ifejika

Arc. Mike Nwafor

Arc. Tony Ibekwe

Arc. Okechukwu Ezeobi

Arc. Bons Obiadi

Arc. Charles Egbudom.

A Remarkable achievement was recorded in February 2023 when the chapter was assigned a free two (2) room office space at the federal ministry of housing and urban development secretary, Awka and a conference space for meeting days. This was granted and approved by the ministry's controller Arc. Iwuchukwu Okafor.

The second tenure (2020-2023) EXCO led by Arc. Osita Paul Okafor came to a close in November 2023 after an election and handover to the newly elected officers.

The election saw the emergence of a new and vibrant Chairman Arc. Dr. Ikenna Michael Onuorah alongside other officers to lead the chapter.

The following are the newly elected EXCO members:

Arc. Dr. Ikenna Michael OnuorahChairman

Arc. Obianuju Miriam Jonas.....Vice Chairman

Arc. Sopuruchi Nice Obiefuna.....General Secretary

Arc. Dr. Irving Okoye.....Assistant Secretary

Arc. Dr. Ugochi Aniakor Treasurer

Arc. Chibuzor Okoli.....Financial Secretary

Arc. Zel Okeke ,.....PRO

Arc. Nonso Igweze-.....Provost

Arc. Osita Paul OkaforEx-Officio I

Arc. Hon. Ifeanyi Azuka Okoye Ex-Officio II

Written By Arc. Osita Paul Okafor (MNIA, PHF)

Chapter Chair 2017-2023)