

First Principal of NPS, Mrs Rita Muolokwu (2000-2013)

Mrs Rita Muolokwu was the first teacher of Najude Pioneer School. She was employed in the year 2000 and served the school as a classroom teacher before she became the headmistress and finally the principal of NPS. After 13 years of loyal service, she left Najude Pioneer School in December 2013 in order to further her own education and to relocate to her area in the south-east of Nigeria.

It was Rita who led the school successfully through a period of continuous growth, and it is thanks to her that Najude Pioneer School has a solid foundation on which it will continue to prosper in the future. When she started working, there was just one class with a handful of pupils. When she left, there were 350 pupils and students enrolled in the school. As she handed over the office of the school principal to Mr Aniah, she knew that her legacy will be in good and able hands. Rita and the work she did will never be forgotten, for she is one of the most important personalities in the history of Najude Pioneer School.

The following self-portrait and the interview were displayed on the website during her time in office as the principal of NPS:

Self-portrait of the Principal (2010)

My Name is Mrs Rita Iruaku Muolokwu. I am Igbo by tribe and I hail from the south-eastern part of Nigeria. I was born into the family of Engineer Michael Anosike and Mrs Dorothy Anosike. I had my primary education partly in the east and partly in the north at St. Michael Primary School Awgbu in Orumba North LGA and Aminu L.E.A. in Sabon Gari Zaria, respectively.

I attended the Government Girls Secondary School Soba Zaria, now Special Science School Soba. After my Secondary School, I got an admission into both the Wusasa School of Nursing and the Divisional College of Agriculture at the Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria. But the religious crises of 1987 in Zaria disrupted my studies and my parents relocated back to the village at Awgbu. I wasted two years at home without school. I applied at the Federal Polytechnic Oko and I was offered an admission into the Science Department to read Mathematics/Chemistry Education.

I got married to my husband Mr Joseph Chidi Muolokwu immediately after my three years program at the Oko Polytechnic. I came back to join my husband in Zaria in the year 1995. In 1996, I got an appointment with the Government Commercial College Zaria under the State Ministry of Education Kaduna. I served for two years until the storm of retrenchment hit the state in the year 1998. I was jobless until the advertisement of this project was published. I applied and to God be the Glory I was chosen as one of the successful candidates after a comprehensive interview. I was employed as a class teacher and took off duty on the 4th of May 2000. I was detailed to organize the school, which I did by the grace of God. I was able to convince the stubborn parents on the need of educating their children.

The school continued its gradual process of development until 2003 when Mr Linus came to help us. He served as a coordinator and teacher and added more grease to our elbows which led to the present feature of the school and its massive growth and continuing development. Today the number of pupils and students has increased to over 300 and the school has sent forth the pioneers of the school to different Senior Secondary Schools in Zaria, some of whom are about to enter University and the Federal College of Education. Besides the classrooms, the three teacher offices and the sickbay, the school has provided the teachers and students with amenities such as teachers' quarters with comfortable rooms, pupils' quarters, modern toilet facilities, a kitchen, a school shop, a community hall, a library, a football field, fields for farming, electricity supply by generators, satellite dishes and televisions, a printer, a photocopier, an automatic water pump with a water tank etc.

Today, the school can boast of a sound and even outstanding quality of education by employing professional teachers who are committed to duty and who work hard in the classroom. We have a parent-teacher association



(PTA), a body made up of parents of the pupils and the teachers. This organizational body contributes immensely towards the development of the school and also enables the parents to know how their children are faring. For educational purposes, the school organizes excursions for pupils, students and teachers on a yearly basis in order to help them diversify their knowledge. We have been to the zoo in Jos, Plateau State, to the Ahmadu Bello University and the National College of Aviation Technology in Zaria, to the Northern Nigeria Printing Press (Gaskiya Corporation) also in Zaria, to the oil refineries of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation in Kaduna, to a factory of a textile manufacturer also in Kaduna and to a flower company of Dangote Flower Mills Nig. Ltd. in Zaria. We have also gone to the engine facilities in Zaria where old locomotives and train wagons are being kept. We even made a trip to the Millennium Park in Abuja, the capital city of Nigeria. This was the first time the pupils visited the capital city of their country. Indeed, it was a wonderful and enjoyable trip. The pupils were privileged to see and enjoy artificial horse rides, beautiful slides, swings, water works, artificial water sports, water fountains etc. We also made lots of pictures and went round the city to see other things in our rented school bus.

We give God the glory for the immense contribution of the people in Switzerland to the growth and welfare of the people of Unguwar Najude and all the other villages in the region of Dogon Awo and Kuya in Ikara LGA, Nigeria.

Written Interview with the Principal (September 2012)

How do you cope to stay in a remote village such as Unguwar Najude?

„It's personal interest. I'm somebody who can easily adapt to any situation and I can live happily with any kind of people or persons as long as there's mutual understanding and love.“

If you think about your work, what makes you happy and what are you proud of?

„Whenever I think about my job as a teacher, it gives me joy to see my pupils growing in knowledge and our school growing in popularity.“

What are the most common daily problems at your job?

„The most common daily problems of my job as a principal and headmistress are how to improve in standard, how to get the teachers even more committed to their work and also how to convince the villagers to understand the need for education.“

What are the present problems and needs of the school?

„The present problem we face is a lack of appropriate means of transportation. The school has grown in recent years and is supposed to have a car or school bus in order to transport school materials from the city to the school. Another issue which would greatly help the school is the creation of a Senior Secondary School (SSS) in order to enable those students who have finished from Junior Secondary School (JSS) to continue their education and obtain their Senior School certificate.“

What do you think about the future of this Najude Pioneer School? What are your hopes and wishes?

„My hope for the future is that our school shall grow above every other school in the state. I would like to see our school being recommended across the state, known and heard of across the country for its academic excellence, and maybe even becoming a senior secondary school in the near future attracting international attention. I believe our God will do it for us and that the village will be transformed from what it is now to a better place in the future.“

What is your advice to your students concerning the importance of education in life?

„My advice is to see education as an eye opener. Education can lead the pupils to reach their destiny, it can make them to become great personalities in the future. With education, they can travel round the world, and education can make them to be a solution for many.“

Do you have any advice to your students concerning life in general? „My advice is to work hard in their studies. Even when they have finished school, they should always strive to work hard in order to achieve success in life. This includes discipline, following moral and ethic standards and continually educating themselves towards future challenges.“