

ESEZI II



*His Royal Majesty Ezezi II
Orodje of Okpe Kingdom
OBE; MBE
(Reign: 1945-1966)*

After agreeing that the Ezezi Ruling House should provide the next Orodje of Okpe, the Okpe leaders indicated Mr. Yegbeburun, being the oldest male in the Ezezi Ruling House, as their choice for the Orodjeship. Citing his advanced age, Yegbeburun declined but recommended his nephew, John Deveno Mebitaghan, who ascended the throne in January 1945, as Ezezi II. It was not until 1956 before Ezezi II was recognized by the British colonial government of Nigeria.

Born in 1898, Ezezi II began his rule over the Okpe Kingdom at a crucial time in Nigeria's history. He was a member of the House of Chiefs in the Western Region, when Delta State was part of the Midwest then a constituent of the defunct Western Region of Nigeria. In that capacity he participated in the Nigerian Constitutional Conference in London in 1957 and 1958. He was conferred the British titles of Order of the British Empire (OBE) and Member of the British Empire (MBE), in recognition of his contributions to Nigeria. He contributed immensely to the development of Orerokpe and to the establishment of educational institutions in Okpe Kingdom. He joined his ancestors on March 19, 1966. His peaceful reign was a reassurance to those who had engineered the restoration of the Orodjeship.