

EDITOR'S NOTE: In The Okpe People, Rev. Dr. Charles E. Osume opened a new level of analysis in the understanding of Okpe History and the Okpe People. He was categorical in differentiating himself from the tentativeness of some Okpe and non-Okpe scholars when he declared that **“Okpe is not Urhobo.”** The Okpe People is a book on Okpe Renaissance, a bold Historical excursion in the re-birth of Okpe ethnicity and independence.

The Okpe People
By Rev. Dr. Charles E. Osume
(Nehemiah Projects International
Ikeja, Lagos. Nigeria, 2005)

The 167-page book is organized around two Parts. While Part One provides an overview of the Okpe People, Part Two grapples with the historical analysis of the Okpe People, beginning from the migration of Prince Igboze of Benin to Olomu (in contemporary Urhobo territory) to the founding of a settlement called Okpe r'Ikperere (Okpe Isoko); in contemporary Isoko territory by his son, Prince Okpe. Three of Prince Okpe's sons, princes Orhue (the eldest son), Evbreke (the third son) and Esezi (the fourth son) founded Orerokpe where they settled. Prince Orhoro (the second son of Prince Okpe) founded a settlement that bore his name, Orhoro – now known as Ozoro in contemporary Isoko territory. Prince Orhoro later joined his brothers in Orerokpe to establish the Okpe Kingdom with headquarters in Orerokpe. A critical element of Rev. Dr. Osume's analysis is that the Okpe Kingdom was founded as an independent polity of the Okpe People, and neither as an appendage nor a vassal of any other ethnic nationality. The Okpe People is a must read by all interested in the History of the Okpe

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NEHEMIAH PROJECTS INTERNATIONAL
3 Abigi Close, Akiode Village, Ojudu, Ikeja, Lagos. Nigeria
Tel: +234-1-898-4500; 802-317-1604
E-mail: nehproj2000@yahoo.com