

# **A White Paper on the Need for Equipping Agulu General Hospital**

**Presented by  
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On Behalf of The Institute for Agulu Development (IAD-USA)  
at the Meeting of  
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**To**

**His Excellency, Mr. Peter Obi  
Governor of Anambra State  
Government House, Awka  
Anambra State**

## **Agulu General Hospital - a Beautiful Structure, Sans Heart and Soul of a Hospital**

### **A Brief Introduction of the IAD**

The Institute for Agulu Development (IAD), is a tax exempt 501 (C) (3) [of the Internal Revenue Service code (Federal ID #52-1841298)] organization based in the USA. It is an association of Agulu indigenes resident in the United States. The organization's major purpose is to contribute to improvement of health issues, medical facilities, general welfare, and promotion of literacy for all children and adults in Agulu and other third world countries.

### **Vision**

A key part of IAD's vision is to create a medium where all Agulu indigenes living in the United States would be able to interact with each other on constant bases, and meet once a year at the national convention to jointly brainstorm and exchange ideas on developmental issues facing Agulu as a town. Part of the initiative is maintenance of a current directory of Agulu citizens in the USA, the establishment of Agulu group e-mail system for dissemination of information among Agulu indigenes all over the world to keep them apprised of relevant information about Agulu, and to embark on developmental projects that benefit Agulu as a community. Some of the projects IAD has executed in Agulu include secondary school scholarships for indigent students, livestock assistance program for local less privileged women, and free healthcare program for the whole community.

## **Free Preventive Medical Mission**

At the Atlanta 2009 annual convention, the Institute for Agulu Development ratified the idea of launching a free healthcare program to help our less privileged brothers and sisters at home who ordinarily, would not be able to afford the cost of doctor's office visit for simple medical check-ups. The whole idea is to find a means of reaching and encouraging this group of individuals to avail themselves of the opportunity to submit to basic medical checkups to combat preventable minor ailments which if left unchecked, may result in a more devastating or life-threatening condition.

In 2010 IAD launched its first Medical Mission Program using Agulu General Hospital as the hub for providing free preventive healthcare services to Agulu community. This started initially as an annual event, but has progressed to a bimonthly event due to the unmet health needs of our people and the need for continuity of care of their chronic medical conditions. We have successfully done this for the past three years and would like to continue to provide this needed basic primary healthcare.

## **Agulu General Hospital**

Over these three years of medical mission in the beautiful structure (Agulu General Hospital), we have been contemplating what can be done to put this empty gigantic new edifice which your administration completed with other philanthropic Agulu indigenes to its proper use. For now, it remains a white elephant project. Worse still there is no functional alternative in its environs stressing further reasons to make this facility a functional one. Currently the millions, if not billions of naira invested in it remain wasted as it does not yet serve its desired purpose.

Your Excellency, it is our thought that if Agulu General Hospital is designated a Satellite Primary Care Hospital, or given the status of specialty unit (e.g. Eye unit, etc) attached to your newly rebuilt Amaku Teaching Hospital, its potential and usefulness will more likely be realized. Resident doctors/medical students from Amaku teaching hospital will use it as one of their outlets or catchment hospitals. Medical emergency victims around its catchments area which covers Awgbu, Agulu-uzoigbo, Nanka, Obeledu, Adazi, etc. can be stabilized there before transfer to a higher level of care at Amaku if needed. Preventative care program like ours will have the opportunity to bring home oversea volunteer specialists who can perform simple basic surgeries like breast lump removal, hernia repair, cataract surgery, men's health prostate surgery, etc. and significantly reduce what our people still die from in this 21<sup>st</sup> century

Our oversee partner Charity organizations like AmeriCares, MAP International, Plaza Hospital, Baylor Hospital, all in United states have helped us provide free medical care all these years, and are still eager to help us equip the Agulu General Hospital to enable us provide these needed services at this marvelous structure . There is no need stressing the essence of a functional hospital in a community. We are lucky we now have the structure

through the philanthropic contributions from sons and daughters of this enviable community, but the heart and soul of a hospital is still lacking. We also believe that basic radiological and laboratory services can also be provided at this empty, but beautiful hospital. We have the skills it takes; all we need is the mind set to make it happen.

We cannot achieve this dream without partnership with your Government; hence we hereby solicit your Excellency's help to resuscitate and upgrade this hospital in which so much has been invested. On our part, we have made healthcare and equipping the hospital the central theme of our 2012 convention.

We applaud your administration for all it has done for this community and Anambra state, including the recent Agulu Lake development project which is in progress. Thank you for giving a listening ear.

God Bless Agulu, God Bless Anambra state, God Bless Nigeria.

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