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Emu-Uno: *Unveiling the Rich Cultural Heritage of Anioma People*

By Chukwunwike Ossai

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EMU-UNO

Emu-Uno: Unveiling the Rich Cultural Heritage of Anioma People

By Chukwunwike Ossai · Anthropology and Ethnography · Ozikoro.com

Emu-Uno is a big community inside the Ndokwa West Local Government Area in Delta State, Nigeria. It is located in a part of the Anioma region (Delta Igbo), with a strong culture, history and farming life. Towns like Utagba-Uno, Abbi, and Onicha-ukwuani are nearby.

According to Folktales, the founders of Emu-Uno settled down close to a good land by the Ase River, a small water body. They have family ties with the Ukwuani people around them. The name “Emu-Uno” means “Emu in the homeland,” so it is not confused with other “Emu” areas.

Colonization and After Independence

It was joined to British rule in the early 1900s. In the Mid-Western Region (1963-1976), later to Bendel State, before Delta State started in 1991.

Emu-Uno has an old form of leadership: Eze(king): He watches over the Culture.

Council of Elders (Ndichie): Family heads and titled elders

Age Grade: Groups working in the community

It is known as an independent community under Ndokwa West LGA It has little voice in the Local Government; t hey were given health centres and schools.

Food Crops: Yam, cassava, plantain, maize.

In the weekly market (like the Orie Emu market), they trade with Kwale, Ashaka, Ossissa,garri, and palm oil businesses.

Handwork (basket weaving and blacksmithing): Petty trade with motorcycle transportation.The youths' search for government work is unending.

They speak Ukwuani (a prototype Igbo) and are strongly connected to the Ndokwa/Ukwuani people.

They don't hear the cry of a ram while killing it. Therefore, it is taboo to kill a ram in Emu.

The marriage rites of Emu follow the Igbankwu processes of the larger Igbo people.

Religion: They still worship Ogwugwu(female) and Alusi(male) deities, but Christianity has taken over(Catholic, Anglican, and Pentecostal).

Things That Exist And Development

They have public primary and secondary schools, and close by is also the University of Delta, Agbor.

The problem is that there is a lack of classrooms and teachers in the schools.

They are Government Health centres, but people still use herbal medicines.

Pregnant women and children's well-being bothers them.

Cultural problems: Youths no longer practice Odinani and the Community's tradition, and Land disputes with neighbouring communities are beginning. Modernity is starting to overpower the old ways.

Emu-Uno is a small picture of Anioma Culture, facing modernity issues and its chances of growing. It holds its roots firm, but it is located in an area where, if money is spent on people and infrastructure, things may get better. Preserving its Ukwuani style and its growth is its main aim for its upcoming kids.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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An enthusiast in tech with deep passion for studying and showcasing the vibrant cultural heritage of southern Nigeria . Combining my skill with my obsession towards African history and traditions to create contributions that impacts the digital space.



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