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# Azuta Mbata Emerges as First Ikwerre President-General of Ohanaeze Ndigbo Worldwide

By Chuka Odike

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FEATURE IMAGE

## Chief Sen. Azuta Mbata

Article image · caption retained from the published Ozikoro article

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# Azuta Mbata Emerges as First Ikwerre President-General of Ohanaeze Ndigbo Worldwide

*By Chuka Odike · Ethnohistory · Ozikoro.com*

Former Senator John Azuta-Mbata, 65, has been elected the new President-General of Ohanaeze Ndigbo Worldwide, marking a historic milestone as the first Ikwerre man to lead the prominent Igbo socio-cultural organization. Sen. Azuta Mbata, who represented Rivers East Senatorial District from 1999 to 2007, was chosen as the 13th President-General during an election held on Friday at the Old Government Lodge in Enugu.

The election, conducted via voice vote, also saw Chief Emeka Sibeudu, former Deputy Governor of Anambra State, emerge as Secretary-General, while Prince Okey Nwadinobi from Abia State was elected National Deputy President. In total, 16 individuals were elected to various executive roles, ushering in a new chapter for the apex Igbo socio-cultural body. Sen. Azuta Mbata succeeds Fidelis Chukwu, whose tenure concluded the same day.

01

## A Historic Milestone for Rivers State

Azuta-Mbata’s election is a landmark moment for Ohanaeze Ndigbo, reflecting the inclusivity and unity the organization champions. Hailing from Rivers State, his leadership symbolizes the deep cultural and historical ties shared across the Igbo ethnic group, transcending political boundaries.

02

# Governor Mbah’s Call for Unity

Enugu State Governor, Dr. Peter Mbah, who hosted the election, delivered a passionate speech emphasizing the importance of unity among the Igbo. Reflecting on the founding vision of Ohanaeze Ndigbo in 1979 and its predecessors, the Igbo Federal Union and Igbo State Union. Mbah urged members to prioritize collective Igbo interests over partisan or regional divides.

“Our forebears understood that unity is a formidable force,” Mbah stated. “Like a quiver of arrows, one may be easily broken, but together we are unyielding. Failing to unite leaves us vulnerable, but standing together gives us strength and resilience.”

He praised past Igbo leaders like Dr. Michael Okpara for their patriotism and selflessness, calling on Ndigbo to embody the same spirit. “Ohanaeze Ndigbo remains the soul of the Igbo people, and unity is critical for our progress,” he added.

03

# Azuta Mbata Pledges Commitment

In his acceptance speech, Senator Azuta Mbata expressed gratitude to the governors and Ndigbo for their confidence in him. He pledged to work tirelessly to advance Igbo interests globally, calling for collective support to achieve the organization’s goals.

Retired Archbishop Emmanuel Chukwuma of the Enugu Anglican Communion also appealed to all Igbo people worldwide to rally behind Azuta Mbata’s leadership.

04

# High-Profile Attendance

The event was attended by prominent South East governors, including Charles Soludo (Anambra), Alex Otti (Abia), Hope Uzodimma (Imo), and host governor Peter Mbah (Enugu). Ebonyi State Governor Francis Nwifuru was represented by his deputy Mrs. Patricia Obila.

Other dignitaries, including The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Bola Tinubu and Rivers State Governor Sim Fubara who gave Sen Azuta Mbata his backing, extended congratulations to the new President-General, expressing confidence in his leadership.

05

# A Legacy of Leadership

Senator Azuta Mbata brings a wealth of experience to his new role, having served as a Senator, CRO of Mounir Construction Company (MCC), and as a member of the Governing Council of Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt. His election signals a new era for Ohanaeze Ndigbo Worldwide, with a renewed focus on unity, resilience, and progress for the Igbo people.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

## Chuka Odike

I'm a dedicated civil engineer with a passion for infrastructure development and community empowerment. With a strong background in engineering, my work focuses on creating sustainable solutions for urban and rural development projects. Outside of my professional career, I'm deeply interested in Igbo history and culture. I actively explores ways to impact society by using historical lessons to inspire and educate others about the rich cultural heritage of the Igbo people, aiming to bridge tradition and modern development.

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