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Nigerian Federal House of Representatives at the capital, Lagos, (1956)

By Chuka Odike

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FEATURE
IMAGE

Nigerian Federal House of Representatives at the capital, Lagos, 1956.

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This photo from 1956 at the Nigerian Federal House of Representatives at the capital, Lagos, during Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh's visit, The photo would be a powerful reflection of the racial hierarchy imposed during British colonial rule in Nigeria.

The arrangement of Europeans, notably Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh, positioned above African representatives in a formal setting, symbolizes the imposed power dynamics where the British ruled, while Africans were relegated to subordinate roles. Even though by the 1950s, there were already Nigerian representatives in the Federal House, their influence was limited within the larger colonial structure.

The image encapsulates the visual representation of colonial authority—an era when political control was in the hands of the British, while Nigerians were mostly in advisory or consultative roles, setting the stage for the eventual push toward independence just a few years later.

Photograph of Nigerian Federal House of Representatives during Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh's visit, Lagos, Nigeria, 1956. (1956). [Photograph]. Nigerian National Archives, Lagos.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR****Chuka Odi**

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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