



Ozi Ikòrò

AFRICAN HISTORY · CULTURE · INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

PROVERBS & IDIOMS

Proverb:

*Ọ bughị egwu ọ bụla ka ana-agba
chiri ụtaba na aka*

By Idenze Ezeme

Ozikoro.com · Proverbs & Idioms · 1 min read

FEATURE
IMAGE

NO FEATURED IMAGE IN THE RECORD

The article carries no featured image, so this panel is left as an honest empty space rather than filled with one.

Ozi Ikòrò
PROVERB

Proverb: Ọ bughị egwu ọ bụla ka ana-agba chiri ụtaba na aka

By Idenze Ezeme · Proverbs & Idioms · Ozikoro.com

This Igbo proverb, Ọ bughị egwu ọ bụla ka ana-agba chiri ụtaba na aka (Not every dance is performed with tobacco/snuff in hand), carries a deep lesson about adaptability and situational awareness.

In traditional Igbo society, different dances were performed for various occasions; some were solemn, others were celebratory, and each required a fitting attitude and preparation. Snuff (tobacco) was often associated with leisure, enjoyment, and, sometimes, heightened sensory experience. However, not every dance or event was suitable for such indulgence.

Metaphorically, this proverb teaches that not all situations in life require the same mindset, tools, or approach. What works in one context might be completely inappropriate in another. For example:

- A person who handles every disagreement with aggression will soon create unnecessary enemies.
- A businessman who treats every deal as a high-stakes gamble may suffer losses.
- A leader who uses the same style of governance for all situations may fail to address unique challenges effectively.

The proverb is a call for wisdom, discernment, and flexibility. One must evaluate the circumstances before deciding on the best course of action.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Idenze Ezeme

Nze is an Igbo history and culture enthusiast with an in-depth passion for exploring the rich cultural heritage, traditions, and historical narratives of the Igbo people. His works is mostly focused on pre-colonial Igbo societies, traditional belief systems, leadership systems, and the impact of European colonialism.



Ozi Ikòrò

History worth reading.

African history · culture · indigenous knowledge
