

Congratulations to Professor Charles Egbu ¹

Reuben Okereke, PhD

A Nigerian born Quantity Surveyor, an erudite professor and international scholar, a former professor of Quantity Surveying and project management at the University of Salford, UK and the immediate past Dean of Faculty of Built-environment at London South Bank University, Prof. Charles Egbu has just been appointed as the Vice Chancellor of the prestigious Leed Trinity University in the UK. The history of my PhD program cannot be complete without the mention of the name of this great scholar.

Photo at right: Prof. Charles Egbu appointed VC of Leeds Trinity University, UK. 1st black VC of a UK University or College. He is from Abatete, Idemili North LGA, Anambra State, Nigeria.



In 2012 when my PhD program was getting stagnated as a result of some challenges posed by a powerful cabal in my faculty, the then Vice Chancellor of my University, Imo State University, Owerri, Nigeria who was from my faculty Arc Prof. U A Awuzie recruited a professor of Quantity Surveying from ESUT as an adjunct lecturer solely to supervise my PhD thinking that that would solve my problem. During the next seminar that followed in 2013, my new supervisor who put up a very gallant fight was however overpowered by the cabal who subsequently cancelled my work and ordered me to start afresh at my 7th year.

I went to the VC, Prof. Awuzie and complained and he was very angry and ordered me to forget about them. He said I should get an overseas admission so that he can arrange a TertFund scholarship for me.

Just like Nigeria, very few Universities in UK offer QS up to PhD level. I however applied to London South Bank University and coincidentally, the dean of the faculty whom I never knew from Adam turned out to be an Igbo man. That is Prof. Charles Egbu.

He took special interest when I mentioned that I had already spent some years in a PhD program in my University with up to four seminars before it was cancelled. He asked me to upload all my seminar papers for evaluation which I did.

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He circulated all the papers to prominent professors in his faculty as well as their admission office, all whites, and requested their individual comments confidentially. 100% of them turned in a positive comment accepting all the papers, all of which he passed to me to see, which confirmed his own conviction as well.

The University consequently offered me admission to come over to London and conclude my PhD within one year. Most unfortunately, by the time I got the admission letter, Prof. Awuzie had been removed from the office as VC and my application to our DAP for the TertFund scholarship never saw the light of the day.

Not quite long after the above the present dean of my faculty, Arc. Prof. Ike Onyegiri became the dean and angered by what he had been observing from the side immediately set up what I have called my PhD redemption army of professors, reinstated my program and matched the cabal (which rose again very powerfully) into total capitulation in 2018. Every other thing concerning my PhD program is now history. Also another international scholar and professor of Quantity Surveying, another VC in the making, all the way from the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria, Prof. Ahmed Doko Ibrahim, joined forces with the redemption army to set free my PhD. So if you see me celebrate or sing praises of any of the personalities mentioned above, do not say that Reuben is becoming a sycophant.

Therefore as congratulatory messages keep on pouring into many relevant and professional platforms and institutions around the world, I join my voice in saying super congratulations to this great scholar of our time Prof. Charles Egbu for making the Igbo land, Nigeria and Africa very very proud.

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Q.S. Dr. Reuben A. Okereke, PhD, QS & Sust. Dev., MSc. Const. Mgt., MSc. Env. Res. Mgt., FRQS, FIIA, FAPM, ACArb, CIPM, MAACEI., is a multi-talented and erudite scholar. A versatile professional with academic qualifications in Quantity Surveying, Project Management, Construction Management and Environmental Resource Management. His Quantity Surveying professional experience of almost three decades spans through his employment with consultancy and construction firms in Lagos, Nigeria, work as Project Manager in the Bank for eight years, services as in-house consultant Quantity Surveyor for several years for the Imo State University Owerri, Nigeria, experience as Consultant Quantity Surveyor in private practice as well as several years of teaching in both the University and Polytechnic. He is currently serving his second term as the head of department of Quantity Surveying, Imo State University, Owerri, Nigeria. He can be contacted at raphicaben2013@gmail.com