

DR COSMAS MADUKA;

From a humble beginning to the crest of Success

Every great man you come across today has a story to tell. Such stories will certainly not come laying on bed of roses. It must come through consistent commitment and dedication to hard work resilience and determination. Such is the story of Dr. Cosmas Maduka a 64-year-old Nnewi man born in Umudim, Nnewi, Anambra State. Nnewi, a town in Anambra state is noted to have produced great illustrious men and women who have acquired solid evidence of riches and wealth through hard work. Dr. Cosmas Maduka was just four years old when he lost his father Mr Peter Maduka. The young Maduka did not allow the circumstances of life that befell him at an early age to affect his humble beginning and crave for success. According to him my mother was my inspiration who taught me to believe in God and myself. At a young age he started hawking akara on the streets and doing menial jobs to sustain himself and his family. He never allowed the circumstances he found himself to relegate him. He went through thick and thin and suffered greatly but he was focused and determined. According to him the turning point was when I had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ before the age of 15 years and that was where my story changed. In his word 'my encounter with Jesus Christ revolutionized my life. The principles I was taught in the Bible placed me at a higher pedestal ahead my peers and I began to move beyond my imagination'

Today, Dr. Cosmas Maduka is the Founder and Chairman of Coscharis Group of Companies. Maduka is the number one distributor of ABRO products in the world. He is also the number one distributor of Ford, BMW, Mini Cooper, Jaguar, Land Rover, Rolls Royce, Renault etc in Nigeria. He doesn't just sell, he maintains. He is into beverages and farms including fish farming, rice production and palm plantations. Maduka has one of the largest farms in Igboland and it is located at Anaku, headquarters of Ayamelum LGA in Anambra. He is also into manufacturing, ICT, banking,



real estate, Medicine, Pharmaceuticals, Technology, Petrochemical, Auto care and Auto Components, Automobile Sales and Services, Agric and Agro Allied business sectors across West Africa. He was once a director in Access bank. He is also motivational speaker and plays mentoring role to upcoming entrepreneurs.

Today he has a PhD in Business Administration from the University of Nigeria Nsukka. A devout Christian and Minister of the gospel Dr. Cosmas Maduka love for God transcend every other consideration in his life. According to him everything that has happened in his life from the beginning had been made possible by God and so he holds an unalloyed trust, confidence and faith in God. He believed that life outside God is a waste and that is why till date he goes out for Evangelism at the slightest opportunity. In his recent outing as a Minister of the gospel in 2022 RCCG Young Ministers Conference he admonished the mammoth congregation that perseverance is what it takes to succeed. 'You got to be responsible. You must pay the price. You will never fulfil your vision without prayer. Look inward and be intentional about what God has deposited in you. You have to plan for your future. Success does not happen

by accident. You must plan and work for it. Whatever adversity a man goes through is a purifier that will burn off the future challenges of life. According to the Minister of God there is no substitute to knowing and serving God through His son Jesus Christ. Only Jesus can save and give a man a great and lasting future.

Dr. Maduka paid a glowing tribute to his late wife Charity who according to him was his first employee when he started importation from Japan. Whenever he travelled to Japan, his wife stayed in the shop, when he sent a consignment of goods, Charity sold them and when he returned, he collected the cash and returned to Japan. Indeed, there is always a woman behind every successful man. Cosmas started out with just a primary 3 education and with the active support and encouragement from Baba God and his loving and caring wife he updated his knowledge and advanced towards his educational pursuit. He was married to Charity Ikedife and had 4 sons and a daughter all alive and doing well. His wife Charity who is a native of Otolu in Nnewi Anambra State died from a massive stroke at Nnewi in 2021 and was honoured by Dr. Maduka with one of the best attended and celebrated burials ever conducted in recent times Nigeria.

Cosmas Maduka whose greatest passion and joy is to Minister the word of God is a multi-billionaire who by dint of hard work, commitment and dedication the cause of the gospel rose and still rising to the top. He pulled himself up from the debris of poverty to become one of the most successful and respected business man and Minister of the Gospel not only in Nigeria but across the world. Just like the Biblical Paul, Cosmas Maduka believes that for him to live he must be about His Father's work as preaching the word and winning souls has become his best past time. For Dr. Cosmas Maduka he has tasted the goodness of God and like he says quite often nothing ever will stop him from reaching his goal which is to make Heaven and mentoring as many as possible to also see the great light.

O'TEGA OGRA:

A Supernova and Corporate Communicator per excellence

An alumnus of Babcock University, one of Nigeria's prestigious private institutions, the young O'tega Ogra worked at GTBank as Corporate Communications Manager, and later at Wema Bank Plc, as Head, Brand Management and Head, Corporate Communications and Digital Marketing Unit. He joined the BUA Group in 2015 as Group Head, Corporate Communications. With an indefatigable commitment to work, diligence, creativity and proficiency, O'tega Ogra, has worked himself to the status of a Supernova and corporate communicator per excellence while still blazing the trail and paving the way into the future. It is expected that this doyen of corporate communication will continue his exploits in 2023 and beyond.

In 2017, he was among 105 Nigerians, aged 18 to 31, shortlisted for The Future Awards Africa (TFAA). At that 12th edition of the prestigious ceremony on December 9, O'tega Ogra, 30, was in Category 5, one of five young people making a difference in their spheres of work, showing exceptional creativity, influence and social impact. Fast forward five years later, his name was in the list of Most Influential People of African Descent, MIPAD, released in November 2022.

O'tega Ogra, who is presently BUA Group's Head/Director, Brands and Corporate Communications, was recognized in the Top 100 Under-40s Media and Culture list of the MIPAD, in honour of his outstanding and positive contribution to influencing and advancing issues impacting



people of African descent worldwide through media, culture, social impact, and communications, especially in the African private sector. The list was released during the MIPAD 2022 Recognition Week following the opening of the 77th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York City in the United States of America. The accolade was well-deserved because it was a recognition of years of unbroken impressive run of a trail blazer and a fitting tribute to an achievement-laden career that is continuously on an upward trajectory. Ogra has long been in the limelight and at the fore front of corporate communication. For over a decade now, he has been a supernova, a leading light with a track record that certainly cannot be ignored. The corporate world is blessed with brilliant communication brains but only a few stand out in his class as czars of the art and craft of corporate communication not only in Nigeria but across the globe. Ogra's flag has been flying strongly for the past 14 years, to the extent that it is clear that his

achievements are neither fluke nor a contrivance of fate. Here is a man who knows his onion. His track record tells a good story of his rapid rise to the height of his profession and his exceptional problem-solving competence and knack that makes him a gem in the corporate world. He is a classic example of someone who worked his way up the ladder, having acquired experiences in many capacities as a brand strategist, digital marketer, content creator, crisis manager, corporate communications expert, event manager/organizer, web designer, business manager, and entrepreneur, among others. With his talents, resourcefulness, hard work and great ethics, Ogra traversed the corporate world, leaving a trail of excellence.

With Ogra the sky is just the beginning as his dream to work and project Africa positively to the world is already influencing a crop of young and brilliant minds who have keyed into his vision. This was clearly encapsulated in his acceptance speech at the MIPAD honour where he said: "I thank MIPAD for this recognition. It means there is a lot more work to be done especially for the young people in Africa. We must also channel our work and influence into projecting Africa positively to the world and changing the narrative of the continent for good." For the young and dynamic Ogra he is surely riding on the wings of destiny as his day is yet dawn. We celebrate you as you have become a pride not only to Nigeria your country but also the entire Africa. Keep the flag flying.