

Ozundu Launched! Amuzi Makes History!

A non-governmental organization, the Patriotic Citizens of Amuzi (PCA), based in Amuzi, Ahiazu-Mbaise Imo State, that created a COVID-19 prevention face mask brand called "Ozundu", has launched and distributed them to the community. On Friday, May 29, the Ozundu face mask was officially unveiled by the Honorable Member representing Ahiazu Local Govt Area (LGA) at the Imo State House of Assembly, Hon Sam Otuibe.

Ozundu which

means life saver in the local Igbo dialect was distributed alongside other palliatives, that are also essential in the fight against COVID-19, such as food, sanitizers, soaps, and containers fitted with taps for hygienic hand washing. Health education on COVID-19 prevention and proper use and care of the face mask, hand washing and sanitizer application techniques were presented by a team of healthcare professionals. They include Dr Patricia Iheanacho, a physician resident in Imo State, the PCA Health Committee Chairman

The Ozundu Face Mask launched and distributed with palliatives as Amuzi makes history as first fully masked African Community against Covid-19

and President of the West African College of Nursing (WACN) Imo State Chapter Mrs Catherine Otuibe, and the Assistant Chief Nursing Officer at Nigerian Center for Disease Control (NCDC) Mrs Comfort Iwu. Mrs Iwu was representing the lead health educator for the day, Dr. Chinemerem Dan Orwuliri an Amuzi son, who leads the NCDC COVID-19 RapidResponse Team in Imo State. Mr Chris Anyanwu, the Amuzi-born manufacturer of the PCA branded sanitizer, that was purchased for distribution at the event, gave a presentation on the quality of his sanitizer brand, and guideline on use of sanitizers.

Positive congratulatory reactions about the historic event, have been pouring in from across the world. Commenting about the event, the PCA Convener Professor Eddie Oparaoji said, "we, the members of the Patriotic Citizens of Amuzi (PCA), wish to sincerely thank our Royal Fathers, the entire Amuzi community, and most importantly our resource persons and sponsors for all your support. We also express our profound gratitude, and appreciation to our valued guests for gracing this historic event. Your presence validates its global historic significance in the fight to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We may not be here in the next 100 years when our generations yet unborn, across continental dives would read with pride how we played our role, on this day, by

putting into action, measures to defeat a deadly COVID-19 pandemic."

It would be recalled that in order to help slow the spread of COVID 19 pandemic the United States Center for Disease Control (CDC), and Prevention and other related health agencies had recommended the use of face masks to cover the mouth and nose, to block the release of virus-filled droplets into the air during cough or sneeze. This helps slow the spread of COVID-19. Cloth face masks are best for people to use outside of health care settings.

The Ozundu face mask was subjected to the "candle blowing test", which it passed. This simple method determines whether a mask is protective enough or not. If you cannot blow out a candle while wearing a mask that means it is a protective mask. This test and approval of Ozundu as good quality face mask was conducted publicly by the West African College of Nursing, Imo State Chapter.

The PCA embarked on this project, following concerns and recommendations of its Health Committee, Chaired by Mrs Catherine Otuibe, who is also President of the Amuzi Progressive Union, women's wing. The committee had observed that this rural agrarian community was vulnerable to COVID-19, for being noncompliant with the Center for Disease Control (CDC)'s recommendation on

wearing face masks, and recommended that those most at risk, but can't afford a face mask, be issued one.

According to reports, Professor Viola Orwuliri a Biochemist, in agreement with the PCA Health committee's recommendation, said, "This is worrisome and very important as social distancing is not observed also in public transport (buses, taxis, tricycles and 'Okada'), markets, village meetings, many shops and super markets etc. The mass mask program will reach many more people. I wish each person can have two masks so one can be washed each day used. They

must be taught how to take care of it at the end of use, otherwise, people can infect themselves."

The Patriotic Citizens of Amuzi (PCA) Organization was established to work alongside other progressive Organizations or entities to move Amuzi and Amuzians into the global community. It is envisioned that the PCA would reignite dialogue, strengthen and re-energize the name Uhi Amuzi - to mean togetherness, and be a rallying platform to harness all Amuzi resources across the world, and make her an appealing global economic space.



Hon. Sam Otuibe unveiling the Ozundu face mask



Men, Women and Children were masked



Cartons of mask for free distribution to Amuziana



Chairperson PCA Health Committee, Mrs. Catherine Otuibe (center) with Hon. Otuibe and COVID-19 Health Educators



The Ozundu face mask subjected to Candle blowing test



Priests and PCA members don the Ozundu face mask



PCA women leaders