

Flora Ifeanyichukwu Nkemakonam Ilonzo, UN AmbP, was born on September 24, 1946 in Onitsha, Anambra State, Nigeria. She is a woman who has made remarkable imprint in her service to the people in the area of charity, healing, education and peace making. She had her early education in Ogidi, Umudioka and Aba, all in the South East geopolitical zone of Nigeria.

Dr Flora Ilonzo attended the Institute of Management and Technology (IMT) Enugu where she graduated in Fine and Applied Arts. In recognition of her passion for arts, the Anambra State government employed her as a state artist.

**Other Establishment Founded by Dr. (Mrs.) Flora Ilonzo are:**

In 1982, when she established the Centre for Psychic and Healing Administration (CPHA) to diagnose and treat ailments, people flocked to her place because of her humble disposition, openness and forthright approach to their health challenges.

No personal gains were intended. Her primary obsession was to keep people's constraints, handicaps and entanglements to their barest minimum. She appears to have succeeded by using her self-sponsored media programs to reach the widest audience possible. Today, CPHA is a busy outreach for students studying Herbal medicine. It is estimated that about 5 million patients have benefitted from her tender care and counseling sessions.

She also founded the Centre for herbal Studies to research into our traditional herbal remedies. The work of the centre has attracted several organizations, institutions and researchers, among who are, UNIDO, UNDP and several Universities. From 1997, the faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences University of Nigeria Nsukka sends its students every year to avail themselves of the studies and works of the centre. Our overseas trained pharmacists have also used the centre for their orientation prior to their induction into the practice in Nigeria.

Dr. (Mrs.) Ilonzo has recorded major breakthroughs in herbal medicine and treatment. This has earned her recognition and membership in international herbal associations,

Such as:

1. World drug Information Association (DIA) Member
2. Nigerian-China Friendship association (Corporate Member)
3. Nigerian-German Cultural association (Trustee)
4. Taiwan-Nigerian Friendship Association (Member)

Another outfit founded by Dr. (Mrs.) Flora Ilonzo, is Fin Ventures Limited. It is this company that facilitated the joint venture project at Ozubulu-Foundry and Machine Tools products Limited (FOMTOP). This is a multi-million-naira project between the Anambra State and the Government of China.

Dr (Mrs.) Ilonzo was formerly married to an indigene of Ukehe in Igbo Etiti, Enugu State. But she opted out soon

afterwards to save her skin from an unsuccessful union. That bitter experience later served as a springboard for her philanthropy as she began to champion the cause of the poor, the distressed and the down trodden. Former Mrs. Flora Ifeanyichukwu Eze had since been transformed as Dr Mrs. F.I.N. Ilonzo a happily remarried woman with children.

### **Resolving the Friction between Christians and Worshiper of Odo and Efuru Deity.**

In February 1982, there was a grave misunderstanding between the Christians and Traditionalists over the worship of Efuru deity in Ukehe, Igbo-Etiti, Enugu State. This escalated to the traditionalists attacking, killing people, raping young girls and burning houses of the parish priest and the catechist who lost his eight family members. Even the police who were sent to restore peace had to flee for their lives after some of them got killed. It was Flora Ilonzo who left Enugu at dead of night, entered the shrine very far into the forest to dialogue with the traditionalists whom she met naked carrying out rituals in preparation for further attacks in the night.

It is a taboo for women to step into the arena of the shrine. She went at risk of her life, pleaded with the old men and arrived at a compromise with them. That Maria Nwafe, Mr. Ugwu and Rev. Fr. Ogu must leave the town that night. But they refused. Flora Ilonzo was

forced to go to Bishop in Enugu that night to report the development. At Bishop's house, she met the Governor Jim Nwobodo, the speaker Ifeanyichukwu Enenchukwu and Duke Itanyi (major leader) conferring with the Bishop on how to resolve the crisis. It was there agreed that Mrs. Ilonzo should go back to Ukehe with directives, from the Bishop, to be delivered by Rev Fr. Anthony Ugwu. The Catholic faithful and Rev. Fr. were moved out of Ukehe that night to Ekwegbe.

The tragedy scheduled that night was averted. The traditionalists agreed with her that the shrine should be moved farther into the forest, but she refused to touch the shrine. She did, carried, and moved it to where it is today. After removing the shrine, the traditionalists gave her one month death notice and also refused to worship there until after one month is she will be able to survive, in the period of that one month, they higher assassins who attacked her and she was injured as result two of her teeth were removed. She was taken to the East Medical Centre for treatment and the government paid her bills.

After the one-month expired, a big portion of the forest was given to her, and in her usual gesture, she built Olinandu Secondary School there, now one of the science schools in Enugu State.

In recognition of this, she was given a chieftaincy title of Olinandu of Ukehe, she built houses for six widows who lost their husbands in the fracas, She also built St Luke's Nursery/ Primary School at Uke, Idemili Anambra State, and awarded scholarships to some girls who were the

victim of the practice of the traditionalists and a good number of students from Anambra and Enugu States up to University level. She was also installed Anyafulugo by the Umunri Kingdom, Anambra State.

During the celebration of peace, the Enugu State government donated some science equipments to the Olinandu Secondary School in appreciation to what Dr Flora Ilonzo has done.

All these attracted the attention of the Pope who visited Nigeria in February 17, 1982. In appreciation, he invited Dr. Flora Ilonzo to the Vatican in June 1982.

A woman of large heart, peace, compassion and philanthropy per excellence. Dr. (Mrs.) Flora Ilonzo has positively touched many lives through the following peace and philanthropic gestures:

1. Built Olinandu Secondary School Ukehe Igbo –Eti (1982)
2. Donated a Video Camera each Anambra Women Commission and Governor’s Office in 1993.
3. Donated 6 Electric typewriters to Anambra State Government at the inception of new Anambra State in 1991.
4. Built St. Luke’s Nursery/Primary School Uke, Idemili LGA and provided uniform for the first thirty pupils and paid staff salaries for one year. (1996)
5. Awarded scholarships to several students for primary, secondary and University Education, benefiting communities include Ukehe Igbo-Etiti LGA, Enugu State; Enugwu-Ukwu Njiloka LGA, Ifite Awka,

Awka South LGA and Onitsha all in Anambra State.  
Some of the scholarship awards are still current.

6. Donated three Computer sets to Anambra State Government House Awka in 2002.

Through her connections with Taiwan, Dr F.I.N Ilonzo recently attracted and distributed various medical equipment/materials and bags of rice to some hospitals, organizations and charitable homes in Anambra and Enugu States.

As a member of World Drug Information Association, Dr. (Mrs.) Ilonzo has attended several seminars and workshops in Africa, Europe and America where she presented papers on herbal healing, herbal farming, conservation and preservation of our forests etc.

She has also published some books” You and Your Health with Phytomedicine, Questions and Answers in Phytomedicine; You and Your Health with Phytomedicine Part 2; Our Food is Our Medicine

Dr. (Mrs.) Flora Ilonzo is a facilitator of the Foundry and Machine Tools Products Ltd Ozubulu. Her collaboration with the Chinese on herbal healing, led to the Chinese assisting Anambra State government to construct the factory which has been a mere proposal since 1970’s. In 1999, Flora I.N. Ilonzo fell back on her warm relationship with the People’s Republic of China and signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the development of Foundry and Machine Tool factory at Ozubulu, Ekwusigo Local Government, Anambra State.

She also collaborates with the Spanish in research into diabetes.

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### **WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNN'**

Dr. (Mrs.) Flora Ilonzo enjoys a working relationship with University of Nigeria Nsukka. The department of botany identified and labeled all the plants and herbs in her botanic garden and in a grove next to her, CPHA. This is of immense benefit to students and researchers. The Faculty also brings to CPHA, for academic purposes and uses the centre for the orientation of overseas trained pharmacists.

To celebrate her birthday in 2004, she donated faint silver cup for football competition for all the youths in Awka.

In recognition of her achievements, the pacific Christian University of Glendale, California USA awarded her a doctor of philosophy in business Administration in 1997.

She also received the prestigious professor ENI NJOKU award of the University of Nigeria Nsukka 1998.

Dr Flora Ilonzo is God's healing instrument. She cured a mad man who had roamed the streets for years feeding from the garbage dump and abandoned by his people. Today, Chinedu Onuoha from Imo State is an entirely new personality, rehabilitated by this gift to humanity.

Believe it or not, peace making has already become her favorable pastime even before she received an

award as a UN peace advocate. Surprisingly, before their demise, the former Biafran Leader, Chief Emeka Odumegwu Ojukwu and the Monarch of Enugwu-Ukwu, His Royal Majesty Igwe Osita Agwuna was reconciled as brothers by Flora I.N Ilonzo. She had invited the big wigs to her centre separately where they were joined by Chief Mbazuilike Amechi (The Boy is Good) at a ceremony she organized purely for reconciliation purposes.

On April 27, 2012, this great woman was honoured as an Ambassador of Peace (AmbP) and Zonal Director on Health AmbP Africa, Siberia and the Caribbean. Dr Ilonzo, Ozouwandu, Aguleri Kingdom, humanity will always keep your memory green for all your deeds of kindness.

Communities, churches and professional associations were not left out in honoring and recognizing Dr. (Mrs.) Flora Ilonzo.

Dr. (Mrs.) Flora Ilonzo is a mother of seven blessed with eight grand children.

== References ==

\*Maxwell Mbah (Orient Daily,Newspapper Awka Anambra State\*)

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[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flora\\_Ife  
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