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**TUMULTUOUS BUT IMPACTFUL: A HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF
DR. CHRIS NWABUEZE NGIGE'S ADMINISTRATION IN
ANAMBRA STATE, 2003-2006**

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Abstract

Anambra State in the 2003 was pronounced by the judiciary to have witnessed electoral irregularities. The state is also known to have recorded a case of abduction of a sitting governor and reclamation of electoral mandate. In between these peculiar events was governance that has been adjudged to be one of the best in the history of the state, considering its impact on the political and social milieu of the state. This study presents a dispassionate account of political events in the three-year administration of Dr. Chris N. Ngige in Anambra State. Indeed, the administration is epochal and remains a very significant aspect of the political history of Anambra State and Nigeria. The importance of the Ngige administration is seen from the precedence it established and the discontinuity it fostered in some areas where the state was politically ailing. This is an angle to the events that took place before, during and after the administration that tends to be overlooked, or the gains thereof easily arrogated to somebody else. Therefore, placing the administration in proper perspective is necessary. The study adopts the historical research method, where historically significant data from different sources are assembled and interpreted thematically in as much dispassionate manner as possible.

Keywords: Politics, Godfatherism, Elections

Introduction

Democracy in Nigeria has been subjected to various levels of trial. Different phenomenal events have taken place in the country threatening the sustainability of popular or democratic system of government that was achieved in 1999. Among the threats to democracy in Nigeria are

electoral malpractices and godfatherism. These two monsters effectively reared during the Dr. Chris Ngige administration in Anambra State. The ability of the governor to directly or indirectly; knowingly or unknowingly address these menacing monsters to a great extent contributed to the strengthening of democracy in the country.

The administration of Dr. Chris Nwabueze Ngige began on May 29th, 2003. This was a month after Chris Ngige of People's Democratic Party (PDP) won the April 19th Anambra state gubernatorial election of 2003, having generated 452,820 votes to beat All Progressives' Grand Alliance Party (APGA)'s gubernatorial candidate, Peter Obi's 279,647 votes, A. D.'s gubernatorial candidate, Chief Chinwoke Mbadinuju's 62,490 votes and the minority votes of other candidates. The gubernatorial victory of PDP's Chris Ngige was very controversial due to the fact that the election was alleged to have been rigged by some forces within and outside Anambra State. According to Peter Obi, the victory of Chris Ngige in the 2003 Anambra gubernatorial election was villainously planned by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), and Chris Uba himself to undermine his own claimed victory in the electoral polling units during the election.¹ INEC, according to Obi, conspired with PDP to overturn the election in favour of Ngige. Peter Obi asserted that the plan was masterminded and perpetuated by a political gladiator within the party known as Chris Uba.² Despite the announcement made concerning the election results, Chris Ngige was not out of the woods yet as Peter Obi undertook a petition against the new Governor of Anambra State, stating that the results of the 2003 Anambra gubernatorial election were miscalculated, overrated, misrepresented and underrated and that he (Obi) was the acclaimed victor of the gubernatorial election, not Chris Nwabueze Ngige, the governorship candidate of the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP).³

Within the web of judicial proceedings which ultimately created a chaotic atmosphere within the state, Chris proceeded to begin his programmes towards the rebuilding and transformation of the state. His initiative programmes were promised by him during his campaign for the Anambra state governorship then.⁴ As the governor of Anambra State, he made tireless efforts towards reforms within the educational, healthcare, mining, industry, tourism, sports, agricultural and electricity sectors within the state. He attempted to build 21 libraries in Local Government Areas ⁵ , restricted non-professional teachers from acquiring top

academic positions in the primary and secondary academic institutions within Anambra State, tried to build stadiums to enhance the activities of sports in the state, and tried to computerise agricultural production in the local areas and tried to build hospitals. Within the short span of his governorship tenure, he had built schools, had built roads, renovated and rebuilt health care centres⁶, tackled drug trafficking and drug abuse⁷, recovered the state treasury⁸, encouraged state media production and entrepreneurship within the state⁹, computerised the production of local agricultural crops¹⁰, and most importantly enhanced the security protocols and enforced security measures within the confines of Anambra State¹¹ and many others. Not only did he try to put enough efforts towards state affairs, Ngige contributed funds towards various projects, the establishment of Anambra vigilante groups and renovations which attempted to transform Anambra State in a dynamic and static way.

Before he could finish his projects and other renovations within the state, Chris Ngige was called to the state election tribunal hearings where he was demanded to answer for the electoral fraud that followed during the 2003 Anambra gubernatorial election.¹² After long periods of hearings and proceedings, the verdict was given and the verdict given by the Election Tribunal Chairman, Justice Garba Mohammed Nabaruma, fell in favour of Chris Ngige's political arch rival, Peter Gregory Obi on August 12th, 2005, stating in the verdict that Peter Obi scored 241,459 votes while Chris Ngige scored not less than 175,221 electoral votes.¹³ Ngige was displeased with the verdict and vowed to get even with Obi and the Anambra state tribunal.¹⁴ Chris Ngige later appealed to the Nigerian Federal Court of Appeal¹⁵, but the annulment was confirmed on March 15th, 2006, in a judgment awarding victory to Peter Obi of the All Progressive Grand Alliance Party.¹⁶ No further appeals were possible, and Chris Ngige accepted the judgment in good faith, calling on the people of Anambra State to give their support to his successor. On March 17th, 2006, Chris, without officially conducting a state hand-over ceremony for the new governor, left bitterly the Anambra State governorship, marking the end of the Ngige administration and the beginning of a new state government under Governor Peter Gregory Obi.¹⁷

Theoretical Framework

This paper is based on regularity theory of historical causation. Regularity theory stresses the notion that the cause of an event is a factor of time

temporarily anticipated and regularly related with a type of an historical event. This theory originated from the Scottish philosopher, David Hume. Most scholars of this theory speculate on the fact that Chris Nwabueze Ngige's victory in the 2003 Anambra governorship election was caused by a series of events that might have altered and threatened the electoral process within the state. David Hume posits that the causes of an event necessarily exist because the causes themselves are in existence for a reason.¹⁸ David reasoned that everything that happens in the world must have a cause and when events are excluded from a cause, they are excluded indeed.¹⁹ He asserted that the effects of an event are capable of connecting themselves with objects related to historical events of importance.²⁰

Some important scholars of regularity theory are of the opinion that Chris Ngige failed to accomplish his objectives in some sectors such as sports, tourism, mining, and electricity due to some internal factors responsible for his incapability to enact his reforms in those sectors. This failure to accomplish effective reforms within the sectors of the state may be as a result of the series of judicial proceedings and hearings Ngige endured which questioned his legitimate victory in the 2003 election. Not only did the state tribunal hearings prevent Ngige from following his objectives toward state transformation, the hearings also favoured the man who claimed that he was cheated of his electoral victory in the Anambra state polling units, Peter Obi. Another factor included the political mayhem that devastated and ransacked the state on Wednesday, November 10th, 2004.²¹ Some hypotheses claim the possibility of historical probability which states that events are sometimes judged based on past experience²² and the present situation itself is a resemblance of the past.²³ It may be so because the present is itself a similar pattern with the past. Such pattern can be used in comparing the achievements of Ngige's government with the recent reactions that affected and provoked certain attacks against Governor Ngige. The rigged election of 2003 might in some way had influenced the recent tribunal scenario which might have interfered with the activities of the Ngige government towards state transformation and effective state infrastructures. Other scholars assume the hypothesis that one of the factors behind the successes of the reforms that Ngige initiated through the State National Assembly was that Ngige indeed had in his capability some radical initiatives to achieve these reforms before he vacated the office of State Governor.

Political Blueprint of Governor Chris Nwabueze Ngige

It was evident that Governor (Dr.) Chris N. Ngige outlined his priorities when he won the April 19 Gubernatorial Election on April 20th, 2003.²⁴ These are the priorities that he listed at the time of his victory:

- Create a new welfare package for the Anambra civil servants and labour working class.
- Restore Anambrarians' confidence in governance thus liquidising the arrears of workers' salaries.
- Re-opening of schools and public offices closed as a result of labour strikes and teacher unions' strikes in the state.
- Ensure that state security becomes a main responsibility of his government, and the lives and properties of all Anambrarians are thoroughly safeguarded by security agencies and vigilante groups that will be initiated and sponsored by the Ngige administration.
- Strengthening the commercial interests of Anambra State through the establishment of commercial markets in Awka and other Anambrarian urban communities.
- Agriculture will become a big computerised commercial commodity and an economic boost for the State.
- Tourism in the State will become a big attraction and a generating economic powerhouse for Anambrarians in the South-Eastern zone of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and beyond the Negro continent.
- The IGR allocation scheme policy Ngige will help initiate as Governor will serve the economic interest of the State through the collection of state taxes and other revenues from private and corporate indigenes of Anambra State.
- Sanitise the Anambrarian environment and ensure that there is cleanliness in every city and town in the State.
- All debts owned by Anambra State will be sorted out and handled by committees initiated by the Ngige administration.

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- State media enterprise will become a strong instrument and an important mouthpiece in state affairs.
- The state economy will be restored and transformed into the largest state economy in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

During an interview with *Daily Champion* on April 11th, 2003 during his campaign, Dr. Chris Ngige argued that the previous administration had recklessly generated ₦50 million into the Internally Generated Revenue firm which eventually peaked into ₦120 million through the help of a private consultant recruited by the Dr. Mbadinuju administration.²⁵ According to Ngige, this didn't sit well with the labour working middle class in the State as many of them lost more money from the revenue firm than the upper class. He promised to sort out the issue by generating 800 million naira into the IGR in order to create an economic balance between the working class and the upper class.²⁶ Dr. Chris Nwabueze Ngige even boasted that he could generate ₦500 million with his eyes shut and still maintain the IGR scheme for all Anambrarians.²⁷ He insisted that he did not want to run a big and expensive government but a small and professionalized government where state civil servants could work and perform their duties at the behest and wishes of the people of Anambra State.²⁸ Ngige made another promise to the people of Anambra State that was profound and striking. He undoubtedly promised the Anambrarian people to scrap the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) firm contracted by the former governor and install a new IGR firm that would economically serve Anambrarians in general.²⁹

On the area of the environment, Ngige had previously promised to clean up Awka in 30 days.³⁰ He stated that he would see to it that Anambra State would become one of the cleanest federal states in the country and as Governor, Ngige would ensure that sanitation activities would be carried out in the early morning of every week.³¹ Environmental sanitation, he vowed, would remain one of his administration's top priorities towards environmental cleanliness in each city and town in Anambra State.³²

State security, according to Ngige himself, was a serious internal issue that needed the wisdom of a true and wise leader to tackle. At the time, the *Bakassi Boys* were in the center of internal security crisis in the state as they perpetuated many killings against many guilty souls and innocent lives, including human rights activists and trade union leaders who

criticised and attacked their motives in private and in public.³³ He pledged, after the election, to ban the *Bakassi Boys* from Anambra State and initiate reliable and stronger vigilante groups to assist the Nigerian police in the crackdown of criminals and to protect the lives and properties of Anambrarians.³⁴ Ngige ensured Anambrarians that he, as Governor of Anambra State, would reshape and facilitate the state's educational system. According to Ngige, the educational system in Anambra State was in ruins and in shambles and needed effective and efficient reforms in which state education would become possible and manageable for all Anambrarians.³⁵ Ngige assured that education would become one of the top priorities of his administration to help facilitate educational programmes in order to give Anambrarians affordable education at state primary, secondary and tertiary levels.³⁶ He earlier witnessed the gradual decline of state education as schools and colleges were closed due to prolonged strikes and protests as a result of Mbadinuju's sudden failure to pay salary arrears to teachers. He again assured that his administration would ensure that schools and colleges were reopened and students returned to the classrooms and the teachers back in the classes teaching with their salaries and arrears in their pockets.³⁷

In the tourism sector, he promised to turn Anambra State into a tourist attraction both at the national and international level.³⁸ Anambra State, to Governor Chris Nwabueze Ngige, was to emerge as one of the brightest tourist states in the country at the end of the Ngige administration.³⁹ Governor Chris Ngige pledged repeatedly to turn Anambra cities and towns such as Awka, Nnewi, Onitsha, and Ihiala into Anambra's most important tourist sites nationwide.⁴⁰ Ngige assured his fellow Anambrarians that cultural sites within the state's urban and rural communities would be regarded as state contribution to cultural heritage foundation which would serve as a benefactor for cultural development in Anambra State.⁴¹ He insisted that cultural foundation would be displayed for all foreign tourists to understand the vital importance of Igbo culture and tradition within the South-Eastern region of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and would be appreciated by Nigerians and foreigners worldwide.⁴² In the area of healthcare, Governor Chris Ngige entrusted himself with the utmost responsibility of providing healthcare services for all Anambrarians.⁴³ During his inaugural ceremony on May 29th, 2003, Ngige promised that healthcare would be a big priority in his

government.⁴⁴ He assured the people that his administration would ensure that healthcare reforms would be prioritised to safeguard healthcare services for all. Ngige insisted that researches would be made available to counter tuberculosis and AIDS.⁴⁵ He even promised to renovate healthcare centres abandoned by the previous administration and create state professional opportunities for doctors, medical practitioners and medical experts in the healthcare facilities in order to tackle the spread of air-borne diseases and revolutionise Anambra State into a health-free regional state in the South-Eastern part of the country.⁴⁶

Concerning the communication sector, he assured the Anambrarian people that the state media would become a great vital instrument and mouthpiece of the state in matters relating to commerce, politics, healthcare, sports, science and technology, economics, entertainment, agriculture, and education.⁴⁷ Ngige rightfully stated that the media itself was the main centrepiece of social change in state affairs.⁴⁸ He explained that without the importance of the media in state politics, the masses themselves cannot become a part of the change they seek in society. He further indicated in his speech at the inaugural ceremony that his government would be very resourceful in the production of state media information and in sponsoring the efficiency of the media in its fundamental and civic right to cover state affairs around Anambra State.⁴⁹

Personal Weaknesses and Political Travails of Governor Chris Ngige

Governor Chris Nwabueze Ngige was himself lacking in integrity and honest sensibility. His tenure as governor was marked by political tensions between his political godfather, Chief Chris Uba and himself which created series of catastrophic or horrific events that negatively affected the State in more ways than one.⁵⁰ Chief Chris Uba (Eselu), aka Onwa Aguata was a well-known political figure in the heydays of the Ngige administration period and the pre-Ngige era during Ngige's campaign for State Governor in 2003. He was very close to Governor Chris Ngige and was very helpful in Ngige's campaign for the Office of the Governor during the April Gubernatorial Elections of 2003.⁵¹ Chief Christopher Uba, a native of Aguata, had bragged about putting people into the governor's cabinet and being responsible for removing Chinwoke Mbadinuju from power and installing Ngige as the Governor.⁵² One may ask, why did Governor Chris Ngige employ the services of a powerful kingpin like Chief Christopher Uba in helping him win the seat of

Anambra Governorship? The reason is simply the obvious. He needed someone like Chief Christopher Uba to get him elected by all means necessary.⁵³ When he was inaugurated as Governor of Anambra State, Ngige blatantly refused to pay his godfather the sum of ₦10 million for election expenses.⁵⁴ When Chris Uba saw that he was refusing to pay up, he chose to strife with his godson and that allegedly tried to remove his godson from power several times. In the early morning of 10th July, 2003, Governor Chris Ngige, while discussing with visitors at the Government House, was forcibly removed by armed policemen and taken to an unknown place where he was kept in custody.⁵⁵ The late Chuka Okadigbo considered the abduction as “an illegal, unauthorised and unscrupulous method”.⁵⁶ While in custody, he discovered that Chris Uba was responsible for his abduction. He was eventually rescued from the kidnappers and returned to his office, untouched.⁵⁷ When he returned from office, he was told that his deputy governor tried to replace him as Governor of Anambra State.⁵⁸ The deputy governor was eventually impeached by the State House of Assembly⁵⁹, and was replaced by Mr. Ugochukwu Nwankwo, a former State Commissioner for Finance previously appointed by Governor Chris Nwabueze Ngige himself.⁶⁰ But the strife was not over yet. The tension between Ngige and Uba continued to become a big issue for the State until Ngige was removed by court order on August 12th, 2003.⁶¹

Ngige’s relationship with the PDP kingpin was very hard and rough in a way that it was very difficult for the governor to run the State.⁶² Despite the fact that Ngige hailed Chief Christopher Uba as a friend and a strong ally, Chris Uba was not always a good friend to him. Chris Uba was, in every sense of the word, a psychopath and a political cheat who always felt that he deserved more than he deserved. For three years, he continuously demonized the Ngige government for its ungratefulness to him. Even though Ngige was demonized and attacked by his godfather, his government insisted on enforcing effective policies for state infrastructure.⁶³

The governor was accused of instigating thug attacks against prominent PDP colleagues who had crossed him several times while in office. One case was that of a PDP Senator who was brutally beaten by unarmed men at the Michael Okpara Square, Enugu City while attending the PDP Zonal Meeting and was hospitalized.⁶⁴ The Senator later took the matter to the Enugu High Court and sued the governor for attempted murder. The

Court indicted him for attempted murder on January 2nd, 2004 and ordered the Nigerian IGP, Alhaji Tafa Balogun to remove the Governor from his seat.⁶⁵ The whole case was eventually ignored by the Ngige administration and later forgotten by the Court.⁶⁶ Other lawsuits would later come to try to remove the Governor.⁶⁷

Governor Chris Nwabueze Ngige's affiliations with known political thugs like Chief Chris Uba had created many enemies for the governor within political circles in the State. APGA politician, Late Retired Army Lt. Colonel Chukwuemeka Emeka Odumegwu-Ojukwu never recognised his governorship and accused Chris Ngige of cheating his way into the Office of the Governor by illegal means.⁶⁸ Even those who contested against Dr. Chris Ngige during the April Gubernatorial Election of 2003 alleged that he was deeply responsible for several electoral mishandlings of ballots in several LGAs in the State. Peter Obi, his APGA opponent during the April Gubernatorial Elections of 2003 refused to recognise him as the elected governor of Anambra State, and accused him of interfering in the election⁶⁹, but Chris Ngige also accused Peter Obi of rigging ballots in his LGA.⁷⁰

Despite his 3R policy toward state infrastructure, Anambra State was in turmoil as the Bakassi Boys of yesterdays continued to initiate series of brutish attacks against Anambra indigenes. Throughout Ngige's tenure as governor, the Bakassi Boys pushed attacks against rural communities, killing and detaining people who they suspected to be criminals. The accounts of the survivors of their attacks spoke for themselves in many shocking details.⁷¹ His security policies were not enough to stop these atrocities from happening. His healthcare programmes proved to be a disaster as many of his social initiatives towards health reforms did not stand the test of time due to its early failed phases. Within the short time he had as a Governor of Anambra State, his government was plagued with numerous attacks from political opponents who deemed him very rough and unethical. It is known that the government of Governor Chris Ngige was not only met with personal challenges but with very political, social and economic challenges as well. The governor did his entire best to dodge the thought of leaving office at a time when he himself was not ready to do so.⁷²

Governor Chris Nwabueze Ngige might have done some infrastructure in some parts of the State but he could have done more in some areas such as

aviation, rail transportation, education, tourism, and electricity. He could have built railways, airports, tourist sites, and electrical facilities in order that the State might benefit from them. Most importantly, the Ngige administration could have inspired other Anambra indigenes who might one day aspire to go into Anambrarian politics through the establishment of railways, airports, universities, boreholes, hospitals, clinics, libraries, and street lights in order to surpass or outdo the policies of his administration and encourage other developments in aviation, agriculture, tourism, education, healthcare, security, environmental sanitation, communication, technology, sports, and many others. Like Mbadinuju, he could have achieved more in building 6 or more state universities in order that passionate young Anambrarians might enjoy and be enriched in education and in various university activities. Unfortunately, he was denied such opportunity because he lost a lawsuit case against Peter Obi concerning the April 19 Gubernatorial Elections of 2003.⁷³ Aviation would have saved him the embarrassment of being considered an unproductive governor if not for his negligence on aviation. Tourism would have marked him as the most cultural governor of his generation and would have inspired other future governors to do so as well if not that he was less efficient in tourism development. Railway stations would have deemed him the Anambra King of Railway Transport if not that he cared less about encouraging railway development in Anambra State. His careless character kept him away from doing such enormous developments in those areas. His trusted relationship with his godfather was the immediate end of his administration. The Okija shrine incident where he was seen half-naked performing oath rituals deepened people's perception of his personality as immortal, sinister and opportunistic. That perception is still walking and living among the people of Anambra State. Ngige had been accused by many as a copycat and an imposter even to the extent of his policies being a copycat of another. Peter Obi once accused him of taking some of his programmes for himself and metamorphosing them into his own in order to initiate certain developments in Anambra State.⁷⁴

The godfatherism in his administration was the architect of his administration's collapse. He trusted his godfather too much to the extent that he never expected Chief Chris Uba to betray him the way he did.

Governor Ngige was ousted from office and reduced to nothing more than a fish in the eyes of the Anambra public.⁷⁵ He might have helped

recovered money stolen from the state, built libraries and done other things in particular, but at the end he could not change the status quo of the State completely or improve the healthcare sector as he promised before he was elected governor of Anambra State on April 20th, 2003. Prison reforms were in their worst as most of the prison facilities in the State at the time of Chris Ngige's 3-year tenure as Governor had become rat infected and neglected. The governor, instead of enforcing efficient prison reforms in these prison facilities, ended up releasing 19 prisoners to show his so-called generosity to his people.⁷⁶ The release of the 19 prisoners was just another play act that he organised to gain sympathy from the Anambra public as a caring human being.⁷⁷ Governor Ngige's act did not only deceived the Anambra public, it also wrecked any possibility for any real prison reform in Anambra State due to serious negligence and carelessness on his part. Some historians suggest that the act of releasing prisoners was another opportunity for him to be understood as a man who could change things for the sake of all indigenes. But the question is: Did the release of these prisoners change the State Prison System for good? I doubt it ever did. The release of those men only escalated the crises that Ngige went through. He could have better the conditions of prisoners locked up in prison facilities across the State but he chose not to because he felt it not necessary in his social agenda for Anambra State. He thought that those prisons were already alright on their own. Till this day, Anambra prisons are still messed up and are in dire need of efficient reforms, especially on the establishment of new prison facilities.

The sports development in the State suffered entirely under his administration. His administration tried to build stadiums in some parts of Awka but this never happened because the governor was already occupied with the lawsuits against him, thinking on how to win the tribunal case against him. Although he did some sports infrastructure in educational institutions controlled by the State, he still failed to enhance sports in Anambra State effectively. If Governor Chris Nwabueze Ngige had encouraged more reforms in the State sport sector in Anambra State, then Anambra State would have been one of the biggest Sports Developer in the South-East till date. Few Sports facilities were encouraged in schools and colleges but this did help a little the progress of sports in the State.⁷⁸

Godfatherism under Governor Chris Ngige's 3-year tenure as the Governor of Anambra State marked the governor as a man who tried to muscle his way out of a game he started at the beginning of his campaign for Anambra State Governor but eventually got cooked by the very game he couldn't finish. Though he may be loved by most Anambra indigenes as a man of the people who saved them from catastrophes and calamities created by Dr. Chinwoke Mbadinuju's social and economic policies when they needed him the most but to others, he will be hated and revered for the godfatherism he encouraged during his administration and the impact it had on the State negatively in the social sector of the Anambra society. It seems that the godfatherism between him and Chris Uba was far worse, animalistic and brutish than that of Dr. Chinwoke Clement Mbadinuju and Sir Emeka Offor's godfather and godson relationship.⁷⁹ Ngige will forever be remembered as the man of the hour who promised much of the world, provided what he could for the moment but offered nothing but uncertain bitter realities that gradually crumbled the Anambrarian society in more ways than one.

It was evident that the governor had appointees that were assigned to handle specific matters that concerned the Anambrarian people. Even though he appointed these people to do specific duties on matters involving Anambra State, those appointees were not originally picked by him but rather by his godfather, Chief Christopher Uba.⁸⁰ Uba did help in picking appointees that rather served his own personal interests than the initial plans of the sitting governor i.e. his godson, Governor Chris Nwabueze Ngige for the Anambra people.⁸¹ Uba initially planned to offer these appointees as a show of seeking favors from his godson as a result of rigging for him during the April 19th Gubernatorial Election of 2003. Ngige was told to pay up ₦3 billion and an additional sum of ₦860 million to Chris Uba for installing the governor in power and for a building contract Chief Chris Uba had yet to complete.⁸² Unfortunately, Ngige turned out to be another Mr. Hyde as he refused to return the favour to his godfather after everything Uba did for Ngige.⁸³ In retaliation, he began using some of Ngige's appointees against him and resorted to remove the governor from public office by any means. It was alleged that Uba was the original mastermind behind the abduction of Dr. C. N. Ngige on July 10th, 2003 that occurred at the Government House at Awka.⁸⁴ He even ensured Ngige's deputy governor became the next governor but it proved futile when Ngige returned untouched to the State

Government House some days later. This eventually led to the impeachment of the deputy governor.⁸⁵ Chris Uba's meddling of Ngige's appointees during his tenure was unfortunate and uncalled based on the reality that Ngige was the governor, and not Chief Chris Uba himself. This showed that the governor allowed his godfather to meddle in governmental affairs which was none of his business. This is definitely a strong indication that godfather politics itself is an enormous danger to any form of democracy in the world at large.

Ngige shared the ultimate blame from the start because he broke government protocol by asking everyone to stand in ovation for Chris Uba during his inauguration ceremony⁸⁶, and acknowledged him as a friend several times, and worst of all, swore an oath of loyalty to him at the Okija Shrine in the Ihiala District of Anambra State.⁸⁷ After everything Ngige did for his loving friend, this loving friend ironically ended up kidnapping him and attempted to force him out of office.⁸⁸ Despite the clashes, Ngige did the worst that was beyond anything he ever did wrong. He refused to hand over power to Mr. Peter Obi on March 18th, 2006.⁸⁹ Mr. Obi had to collect INEC certificate for him to be sworn in as the new Governor of Anambra State.⁹⁰ This shows the reality that Dr. Chris Ngige has always tried to hide his shame and contempt for others by trying to think he can weasel his way out of any problem. Even though he thinks he has won, it is clear that at the end, the possibility of a victory at the end of the tunnel becomes gradually an illusion.

Conclusion

Dr. Chris Nwabueze Ngige is a man of many contradictions and many misconceptions that surround his personality. He is one that can be very rough and intoxicating, and can sometimes be very influential, innovative and energetic within the social and economic sphere of Anambra State and Nigeria as a whole. He is portrayed by many as a raving bear that scavenges for power and can go through any length to get to any seat of power in the society. Others assume he is nothing more than a simpleton who strives to excel when things are quite difficult to figure out. Ngige, a native of Alor Community, has experienced both good and bad times that always made him to be either a kind-hearted, energetic and tough fellow or a bad and sinister politician who is always scheming his way into anything that attracts his eye. His election into public office was an outrage that rocked Anambra State in a negative light due to the

circumstance surrounding his sudden nomination for governorship and his immediate victory in the national electoral polling units on April 20th, 2003.⁹¹

Governor Chris Nwabueze Ngige's administration was a social centre for big dreams and huge capacities which was set on transforming the State in a positive and dignifying manner.

Ngige had his socio-political and economic blueprint which was set on making the State one of the most prosperous and developed states in the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Ngige was a dreamer and a developer in his own right; he thought the State would benefit from his initiatives if strategies were put in place to make them a reality in Anambra State. His heart was in the right place but his development plans were plagued by social and political scandals that threatened to throw his political, social, and economic goals for the people of Anambra State to the mud. It was known that Chris Ngige had an unbeatable strategy to transform the State and build a stronger and tactical security network in the rural communities in the local government areas. Though genuine at heart, he bargained his way into public office through the illegal machineries of godfatherism and nepotism. He got his wish to become a governor but the governorship was itself a living horror for him as his godfather did everything within his power to remove him from the Office of the Governor of Anambra State.⁹² It is paramount to understand that Ngige's government made some lasting achievements in education and transportation. His social policy on education and transportation helped secure Anambra's future in the South-Eastern Zone of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The revitalization of state universities and colleges were completely necessary for the government of Dr. Chris Nwabueze Ngige in order to groom a new generation of youths for the society at large.⁹³ Today, those universities are still reaping from the education policy of Dr. Chris Ngige. Roads repaired by Ngige are still functioning the way he left them when he vacated office in March 2006. But the healthcare system under his administration suffered due to insufficient funds from the government unavailable at the time. Though facilities were built or renovated by Dr. Ngige, they ultimately fell apart as the new governor was being sworn into office.⁹⁴ Dr. Ngige is himself a first class medical doctor with a distinction for anything related to success and excellence. Though a medical doctor, he has done his utmost best to work towards excellence in all aspects of national life. Through his numerous

titles, awards and honours, Dr. Chris Nwachukwu Ngige has shown to his enemies and his critics that he himself is a brilliant antelope that can gallantly get anywhere in the road of success.

Dr. Chris Nwabueze Ngige's administration had troubling moments like his predecessor's before his. State Security was at its worst with the flaming sinister presence of the Bakassi Boys and the rise of kidnapping, armed robbery and ritual killings in Anambra State, the economy of the State was in disarray, education was falling apart as a result of teachers and civil servants left out of salary arrears and schools and colleges closed as a result of teachers' strikes, deplorable federal and state roads were costing billions of state funds and wasting the lives of ordinary Anambrarians, healthcare facilities were collapsing as a result of insufficient funds from the Anambra State government, state housing was severely ravaged by internal financial factors that needed to be fixed thoroughly by state infrastructural policy workable for Anambrarians and many others.⁹⁵ Ngige was able to take care of some of these internal problems but some of these problems were not completely solved by his administration due to the political scandals that surrounded his government and most especially, his public position as the Governor of Anambra State. His "3R" social policy was designated to achieve the full objectives of Ngige's government while in power and those objectives were almost successful if not for the scandals and crises he and his government had to go through during the three years of his government.

Dr. Chris N. Ngige is one of those Anambrarian politicians who sees a brighter future for the people and continuously hopes for it to come sooner. Anambra State has in the past seen governors like Ezeife, Mbadinuju, Ngige, Obi, and others come and go with their promises and aspirations and these former governors still hope that others after them will surpass their aspirations and dreams for the people. Anambra State continuously hopes for great men and women to rise up and initiate efficient social, economic, and political reforms in society in order to boost social and economic progress in the State. Anambra State is itself a ticking nuclear bomb just waiting to explode because there are government policies that are themselves projecting to be something contrary to what the indigenes of the State want or expect them to be. These government policies are intentionally dividing the people as many are cheated out of social and economic possibilities which may prove to be beneficial for all indigenes of the State. There are some indigenes of Anambra State that

seem to respect the former governor for his social and economic contributions to the progress of the State while others demonize him as a rough animal who is willing to dine with the devil to get his way in the realm of national politics. Moreover, few may consider him a visionary idealist that set his vision to action but got side-tracked along the way due to the political scandals that surrounded his relationship with Chief Chris Uba, his so-called trusted godfather. Godfatherism will continuously plague the walled corners of Anambra politics if political elements with the right vision do not put a stop to its influence on the Anambra society. It may just be justifyingly honest to say that godfatherism will stop influencing Anambra politics but it is impossible to state otherwise.

Dr. Chris Nwabueze Ngige will forever be remembered in the next 890 years as the visionary governor who gave his best to the indigenes of Anambra State but that best proved to be not good enough for the State. Many Nigerian scholars in the nearest future will call him a failure and a simple-minded moron, some will call him a reckless toad, but others will most definitely call him a genius because of his excellence and brilliance in infrastructural developments in Anambra State.

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