

Information Packet

# Turning Hope Into Reality (THIR) FOUNDATION

Fostering the Basketball Game in Africa

*Initiated by;*



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Turning Hope into Reality

# ABOUT THE CONVENER – UJU UGOKA

Uju Ugoka is a Nigerian basketball player who plays for the Saint-Amand Basketball Club in France and the Nigerian national team.

Ugoka moved to the United States after being scouted at the Hope for Girls basketball camp organised by Mobolaji Akiode. She played her freshman year at Grayson County College and she was named into first-team NJCAA All-America honours. She moved to the Gulf Coast State College Commodores in her sophomore year; she averaged 16.69 points, 8.79 rebounds and 0.93 assists. She earned the conference player of the year honours and first-team NJCAA All-America honours. She transferred to Virginia Tech Hokies women's basketball in 2012 for her Junior and Senior year.



Ugoka started her professional career with the Italian Serie A side Pallacanestro Vigarano in the 2014–15 season. She played for the Nigerian side First Bank basketball Club and also moved to the Italian side Basket Parma in 2015. She moved to the Polish side AZS-UMC Lublin and moved to the Ligue Féminine de Basketball side La Roche Vendée Basket Club in June 2018. Ugoka represented Nigeria at the 2008 FIBA Africa Under-18 Championship for Women and represented Nigeria in the qualifying round to the 2009 FIBA Africa Championship for Women.

Ugoka represented the Nigerian national team at the 2016 FIBA World Olympic Qualifying Tournament for Women in France, she averaged 5 points, 5 rebounds and 1 assist per game at the tournament.

She firmly believes that through the provision of the right platforms for the young talents in Africa, the continent would live up to its potentials of producing a large pool of best players in the basketball game around the world. She is happily married to Olisaemeka Ogbodo from Akpugo, Nkanu-West Local Government Area, Enugu, Nigeria.



## PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED

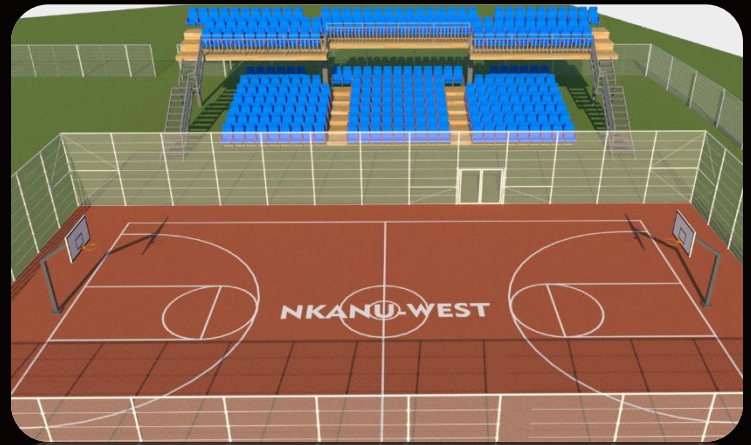
It is no gainsaying that the basketball game in the Africa continent has been perpetually underexploited. As such, millions of potentials have either been truncated or unnurtured due to myriads of perennial challenges. With no sense of prejudice, the situation persists in Nigeria, with enormous numbers of communities that remain completely unexplored for the basketball game.

Germanely, the following problems -sequel to consultations and holistic observations- were identified;

- Inadequate platforms for inclusive and total youth community engagements
- No existing initiative for the basketball game in the entire local government area
- Zero orientations on the prospects of basketball for the youths
- Lack of basic facilities needed to spur interests in the basketball game.
- Lack of awareness of the immense role of the basketball game in community development amongst others.



# PROPOSED SOLUTIONS



## SENSITIZATION

- Reorientation of the community residents on the importance of sports with focus on the basketball game.
- Advocacy for a proper embracing of the Basketball Game to foster community developments.
- Talent hunts for the basketball game from the exuberance youths of Nigeria.
- Future representation of Nigeria as the focal point for the Basketball game in Africa.

## PRAGMATIC INCENTIVIZATION

- Construction of a standardized basketball court in the community.
- Annual convening of camps to drive foreign professionals to the community to ensure the recognition of talented and diligent players on a global scale.
- Eventual creation of an academy for a world-class training of recruited youths in the community.
- Provision of employments for community residents from the daily operation of the basketball court and its maintenance.



## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The project would be implemented in two parts which include advocacy and pragmatic incentivisation.

To ensure massive advocacy across the countries, partnerships will be secured with governments and private institutions such as schools and local communities to drive impacts at the grassroots level.

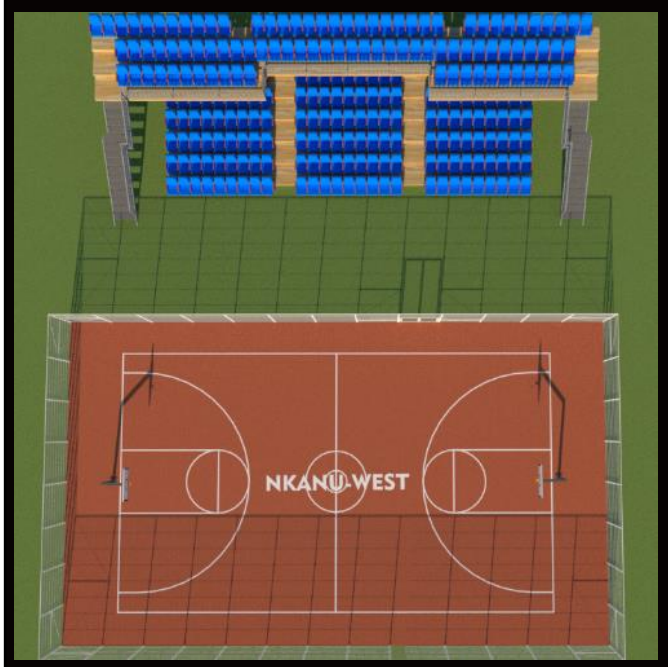
The pragmatic incentivisation will consist of the construction of a basketball court in improvised communities to help cultivate passions for the basketball game and also increase infrastructural developments within the communities.

By convening training sessions, annual summer camps and local competitions, the basketball court centre is expected to transcend into an academy to drive professional developments and recognitions of participants in the targeted communities.



## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. By 2025, the foundation would have institutionalised a basketball academy in five communities across Nigeria.
2. By 2025, over 500 students would have been trained and well exposed to the basketball game.
3. By 2025, advocacy on fostering the basketball would have been made to over 10,000 persons.
4. By 2025, a mutual partnership would have been established with the Nigerian Basketball Association to drive more impacts within the country.
5. By 2025, partnerships with international bodies would have been consolidated to advance the basketball games.



## MEASURING PERFORMANCES

	METRIC
Driving Operational Success for the Participants.	Anthropometric indicators; psychomotor indicators; psychological indicators; psychological indicators; skill indicators; social-environmental indicators.
Attaining Global Relevance	Adopting global framework; international partnerships; participants global recognition.
Service to Humanity	Jobs creation; attraction of investors; scholarships provision; alumni mandatory community service.
Sustaining Success While Maintaining CostEfficiency	Conservative planning; fund-raising ratio; secured partnerships.

## THEORY OF CHANGE

Beyond advocacy to a large pool community residents, pragmatic incentivization (through the construction of a basketball court) will create a paradigm in the inclusion of sports – particularly, the basketball game- as a propitious platform for a sustainable community development, with a future precedent for other communities in Africa.







# CONTACT DETAILS

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