

## **Community leader tasks Okorochoa on grassroots development**

By GILBERT EKEZIE

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Governor-elect of Imo State, Owelle Anayo Rochas Okorochoa has been charged not to lose focus on delivering his electoral promises by embarking on grassroots development. Chairman of Ifakala Town Union (ITU), Lagos branch, Mr Steve Chuks Dike made the call while extolling the commitment shown by Mbaitoli and the Imo people towards ensuring that credible people were elected to man affairs of the state.

Dike commended Okorochoa for his success at the election, charged him to make the necessary changes needed in the state.

“The people of Imo State have suffered long time neglect accrued from bad leadership, that was why everybody, both home and abroad mobilized to elect people that would give us good leadership, and in as much as we commend the governor –elect of Imo State, Owelle Rochas Okorochoa for fighting hard to succeed through the mandate of Imo people, we still have to let him know that there are many things to tackle both at the urban and rural areas.

There is high rate of unemployment in the state, there are no industries and infrastructure, for instance, some corporate bodies like oil companies are supposed to have offices in Owerri, but you cannot find any. These are the issues the leadership should tackle’

Dike frowned that it would be more painful that the problems of infrastructural decay and rural neglect continue, even when the people have sacrificed their time and resources to ensure that a better leader emerges as governor. “Many rural communities in the state have been abandoned for so long. Mbaitoli local government area is not an exception, previous government had not bothered to look into our case. For instance, Ifakala community where I come from had always been voting in the past elections, they have been voting for PDP candidates who later emerged winners, yet nothing to show for it. We do not have link road, water, electricity supply, Health centre and other necessary amenities. None of our person has served beyond a councilor, if not now God intervened to allow our son, Mr Victor Ndunagu win a seat in the state house of Assembly ”.

He also regretted that the only four primary and two post primary schools in Ifakala community are in dilapidated condition, while youths of the area are not being empowered. Dike further charged the House of Assembly-elect, Mr Victor Ndunagu to make the people of Ifakala proud by representing Mbaitoli constituency well at the State Assembly.