Israel Okon

The question about "who I am?" is such a thought provoking one. One may be tempted to hastily answer it. But the truth is, the more one ask oneself this question, the deeper it becomes for one's IQ to articulate.

I would like to answer the question, "who I am?" by saying that I'm just a regular guy, from an average home, embodied with talents, dreams, being propelled by self motivation and determination to rewrite my ordinary life story to an extraordinary one.

I am a star and a light in my dark world. I am a city set upon a hill that cannot be hidden. Greatness runs in my veins. I am the definition of grace! I am a dogheaded fellow when it comes to handling mediocrities in it's slightest form.

I am gifted and my fingers can testify to it. The world can't wait to hear me because I am a voice in my generation.

I am a visioneer and my visions are BIG. Bigger than my present status. You may think I'm not being realistic with my self, but I will tell you that you cannot feature in the future you did not picture!

You may also wonder how I intend to pull these through. But I tell you that education is one of my tickets.

I study to acquire the necessary knowledge, information and discipline, necessary to compete in the labour market.

I study to keep myself abreast of first class information and to move at the pace of revolution, rather than finding myself lagging behind.

I study to further widen my scope and cognitive horizons, that will place me on the edge, even in the most competing and demanding establishments.

I study to be able to use my acquired wisdom in service to humanity. I study to stay polished and shinning.

The truth is, we cannot overemphasize the importance of studying; as one starts rusting the moment one stops studying.

Achieving a study goal can be very hard and very easy at the same time. It is very hard if you fail to understand yourself and employ the necessary basic technique suitable for you.

On the other hand, one could find it very easy, if the right techniques are employed.

Aside the study technique, I also ensure to do the following, in order to achieve my study goals; finding myself a guiete and soothing study environment, getting all necessary materials

available, while avoiding unnecessary ones that may distract or become overwhelming, starting up with my course of interest before extending to others, planning my study time-table and to-do list and ensuring to stick to it, doing all my assignments and projects before deadlines, asking for help whenever necessary, avoiding procrastination and most of all, staying optimistic and prayerful.

The above mentioned strategies, with some measure of variabilities, has been working for me and I'm in no doubt, that I will continue to come out in flying colours and also make myself and everyone else proud.

Then I will become a competent and qualified architect that I've always dreamt of becoming.

My professional knowledge and skills as an architect will then help in solving the problem of shelter.

It's rather alarming that majority of Nigerians are living in underrated and dilapidating structures. Not to mention the widely spread slum settlements across the states.

Coupled with the exuberant cost of rents in Nigerian cities. There is also the issue of the poor integrity of materials used in erecting most of these structures. Most houses are on the verge of collapsing.

My vision as an architect, is to design and manage structures with a higher integrity level, solid and durable to serve the use of the public.

Structures that will stand the test of time, higher functionality, esthetically appealing and most especially, affordable to the average Nigerian.

By so doing, I will be able to solve the problem of housing and infrastructure in my country and the world at large.

In return, I will then live a happy and fulfilled life. I do not desire to see my family remain poor neither do I desire to raise a poor home.

I don't know of any man who have serve humanity, or at one time, provided a solution to life problems and yet remain poor.

Not Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, Alexander Flemming, Benjamin Solomon Carson MD, Nelson Mandela, Thomas Edison, Martin Luther King Jr, Mrs Ngozi Okonjo Iweala, former president Goodluck Jonathan, to mention but a few.

To be frank, I don't really mind being among the renown and even richest men in the world. Those who have been there, or still there, do not posses two heads.

Once again you may think I'm dreaming too big. Well, don't blame me, it is who I am. The truth is, there are many who are waiting for my income.

Not just my mom, siblings, relatives or friends but also the destitudes, orphans, community, the jobless and needy.

I have a soft heart. I can't help seeing a brother or friend suffering, or lacking without proffering to help.

You now agree with me that the fatter my income, the more people I can reach out to help? Although I'm not waiting till I become rich to help people. I try as much as I can to always help whoever I can.

By so doing, I am putting a smile on people's faces and the same time, making the world a better place.

Thank you!