Prince Aigbogun

Odumeben N'Oba

Prince Aigbogun, Osangue of Igueben Kingdom

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| **Prince Aigbogun** |
| **Born** | Prince Aigbogun |
|  | Omeike |
|  | 1900 |
|  | Igueben, Esanland, |
|  | [Southern Nigeria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Nigeria_Protectorate) |
|  | [Protectorate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Nigeria_Protectorate) |
| **Died** | 1964 |
|  | [Igueben, Mid-](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mid-Western_Region) |
|  | [Western Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mid-Western_Region) |
|  | Nigeria |
| **Burial place** [Igueben, Mid-](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mid-Western_Region)[Western Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mid-Western_Region) Nigeria |
| **Title** | Osangue of [Igueben](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Igueben) 111 Odionwere of Idumwun'omon |
| **Predecessor** Chief Omeike,Osangue of Igueben 11 |
| **Successor** | Chief Efoghe |
|  | Aigbogun, Osangue |
|  | of Igueben 1V (1964 |
|  | - 1983) |
| **Spouse** | Imade (m.1918) Imanlukhor (m.1925) |
| **Children** | From Imade: Chief |
|  | Efoghe Aigbogun |
|  | Osangue of Igueben |
|  | 1964 – 1983; From |
|  | concubine: |
|  | Okedigun Aigbogun, |
|  | Igbelaja Aigbogun |
|  | Prince Enoighase |
|  | Aigbogun, Princess |
|  | Esemua Aigbogun, |
|  | Prince Ohonsi |
|  | Aigbogun From |
|  | Imanlukhor: Chief |
|  | Abulimhen Aigbogun |
|  | Chief Ebenze of |
|  | Igueben (died 2006), |

Prince Aigbogun , Osangue of Igueben 111 (Aigbogun Omeike 1900 - 1964) was the first born son of Princess Iyomon[1] one of the daughters of Oba [Oba Ovonramwen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ovonramwen) and Chief Omeike [Osangue 11 of Igueben. He was the first and last Odumeben N'Oba N’Edo (http://kingdom-of-benin.weebly.com/odumeben-no ba.html) , the Royal Palace of Benin Kingdom Blacksmith, (1935 -](http://kingdom-of-benin.weebly.com/odumeben-noba.html) 1964) to operate outside of Igun Street Benin City.

Aigbogun was born in Igueben, [Southern Nigeria Protectorate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Nigeria_Protectorate). His mother Princess Iyomon was from the Benin Royal family and his father Chief Omeike was of Benin nobility.[2] His parents met in Ekekhien Esanland where his mother had evacuated to as a result [of the Benin Expedition of 1897 during which the Kingdom of Benin was sacked and her father exiled to](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Benin) [Calabar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calabar) [by the British.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Benin)

# Early Years

Eldest of ten children, Aigbogun was trained on the job from a very early age by his father Omeike at the Igueben Palace.[3][4] where he was a chief. He also learnt blacksmithing skills while operating the fire forge and the [Blacksmith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blacksmith) Bellows when assisting him in his workshop.

From the age of seven Aigbogun accompanied his father on his duties at the [Igueben](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Igueben) Royal Palace daily[5][6]. His early years [involved learning much from his father who was the Chief Osangue of Igueben. (http://kingdom-of-benin.weebly.com/odume](http://kingdom-of-benin.weebly.com/odumeben-noba.html)

[ben-noba.html) Over the years Aigbogun through his apprentice](http://kingdom-of-benin.weebly.com/odumeben-noba.html) [roles in the palace learned a lot about his future roles in Benin customs and traditions (https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/traditi ons.html).](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/traditions.html)

# Career

Prince Aigbogun owned substantial land and livestock. As his children began to go to school he sold some of his land to pay their [school fees. Barrister Ehizogie - Higher Education (https://igueben kingdom.weebly.com/barrister-ehizogie-aigbogun.html).](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/barrister-ehizogie-aigbogun.html)

Prince Aigbogun practised herbal healing specialising as a [Traditional Doctor (https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie-ign atius-aigbogun.html). Patients came to him for help from across](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie-ignatius-aigbogun.html) Igueben for different ailments. He taught his sons about different herbs. Years later in 2009 Uwague his last son practised as a [Traditional Doctor with a government (https://iguebenkingdom.we ebly.com/reverend-uwague-aigbogun.html) patent to run his own](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/reverend-uwague-aigbogun.html) chemist in Lagos.

As a blacksmith, Prince Aigbogun produced [Dane guns](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dane_gun) as war [weapon for local communities in Esanland (https://www.esanland. org/p/esanpeople-esan-people-or-ishanpeople.html). He was an](https://www.esanland.org/p/esanpeople-esan-people-or-ishanpeople.html) [itinerant](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Itinerant) blacksmith who had a mobile workshop which included the Blacksmith [Bellows](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bellows). He carried these around to neighbouring [villages to produce Dane guns (https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.co m/ehijie-ignatius-aigbogun.html) and](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie-ignatius-aigbogun.html) [cutlasseses](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cutlass) [for local](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie-ignatius-aigbogun.html) [hunters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hunting)[.](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie-ignatius-aigbogun.html) [He also produced farming tools (https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.c om/ehijie-ignatius-aigbogun.html) for land ploughing for example](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie-ignatius-aigbogun.html) [hoes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hoe_%28tool%29), [axe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Axe), and [shovels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shovel).

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| Madam Elizabeth |
| Aisebogun |
| Okunsebor (died |
| 2010), Barrister |
| Patrick Ehizogie |
| Aigbogun (died |
| 2023), Chief Odigie |
| Aigbogun Chief |
| Ogungbengben of |
| Igueben (died 2021), |
| Reverend Uwague |
| Aigbogun (died |
| 2019) |
| **Parents** | Chief Omeike, |
|  | Osangue of Igueben |
|  | Kingdom (father) |
|  | Royal Princess |
|  | [Iyomon of Kingdom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Benin) |
|  | [of Benin (mother)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Benin) |
| **Relatives** | Grandfather: Chief |
|  | [Ukhomhensi of Igun](https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/term/THES256440) |
|  | [Street (https://www.b](https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/term/THES256440) |
|  | [ritishmuseum.org/col](https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/term/THES256440) |
|  | [lection/term/THES25](https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/term/THES256440) |
|  | [6440) Benin City and](https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/term/THES256440) |
|  | Osangue of Igueben |
|  | 1 |

For his work in neighbouring villages, the roads were only tracks [at the time, so Aigbogun had to travel to his customers on his bicycle (https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie-ignatius-aigbog un.html). There he set up temporary workshop camps for the](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie-ignatius-aigbogun.html) duration of his stay. On each journey he travelled with 2 of his [sons who worked with him as his assistants. (https://iguebenkingdo m.weebly.com/odigie-aigbogun.html) They helped build the](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/odigie-aigbogun.html) [workshop and the fire forge taking it in turns to operate the Okwe (the bellows) (https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie-ignatius- aigbogun.html) and run errands.](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie-ignatius-aigbogun.html)

## Bronze Casting

[Aigbogun had birth entitlement (http://kingdom-of-benin.weebly.c om/odumeben-noba.html) from both his parents to operate as a](http://kingdom-of-benin.weebly.com/odumeben-noba.html) Royal Benin Bronze Caster. Therefore, Kings across [Esanland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esanland) commissioned him to smith Ebens and Adas for their Royal [Palaces. He was included in a poem What Black Champions do With Their Gifts (http://kingdom-of-benin.weebly.com/poetry-corn er.html). The current Ada and Eben in use in Igueben Royal Palace](http://kingdom-of-benin.weebly.com/poetry-corner.html) today were smithed by him in the 1900s.

Around 1950 Aigbogun's cousin [Akenzua II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akenzua_II) (1933 -1978) who had ascended the throne from his father Oba [Eweka II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eweka_II) in 1933, [commissioned him to repair some damaged and intricate Ebens (htt ps://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/odigie-aigbogun.html) from the](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/odigie-aigbogun.html) Benin Royal Palace. On completion of this work, Oba Akenzua 11 awarded him a franchise to practice Eben smithing outside of Igun [Street Benin City. With this franchise came the title Odumeben N'Oba N’Edo (http://kingdom-of-benin.weebly.com/odumeben-nob a.html) [Palace of Benin Kingdom Royal Blacksmith].](http://kingdom-of-benin.weebly.com/odumeben-noba.html)

[In that year 1950 Aigbogun was conferred with the title Okan-eben Osangue of Benin Kingdom (https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/o digie-aigbogun.html) [Chief Royal Blacksmith of Benin Kingdom]](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/odigie-aigbogun.html) [by Oba Akenzua II. He remains the first and last blacksmith ever with a franchise outside (https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie-ignatius-aigbogun.html)



Chief Abulimhen Aigbogun First son of Prince Aigbogun's second wife Imanlukhor died 2006

[-ignatius-aigbogun.html) the Guild of Benin Royal Blacksmiths](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie-ignatius-aigbogun.html) [allowed to practise as a bronze caster outside Igun Street, Benin City, Benin Kingdom.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benin_City)

# Kingdom Administration

In 1930 when his father died, Aigbogun was installed as the Osangue 111 of Igueben Kingdom. As a palace chief[7], he with other palace chiefs were the [traditional rulers - the Odionweres](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_traditional_rulers) and administrators of Nigeria National Government and the Southern Nigeria Area policies at local level. They handled matters on behalf of the national and southern area governments. This was known as [Indirect Rule established by the British during the Colonial Nigeria Indirect Rule Era.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_Nigeria)

[As Chief Osangue of Igueben and Edionwere (https://iguebenkingd om.weebly.com/traditions.html) he settled matters and disputes at](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/traditions.html) his local community and district level. At the palace, he represented the interests of his local community of Iduwum'omon. He co- judged with other Palace Chiefs at state level on matters affecting [Igueben](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Igueben) Kingdom.

# Illness and Death

[When Prince Aigbogun was around the age of 58 years he developed a bad cough (https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie- ignatius-aigbogun.html). Despite treating others, he was unable to](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie-ignatius-aigbogun.html) [find a solution or cure for his own cough. The cough was worse at night. (https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie-ignatius-aigbogu](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie-ignatius-aigbogun.html) [n.html) This cough lasted over two years until a traditional medicine (https://www.who.int/health-topics/traditional-complementary-and-i ntegrative-medicine#tab=tab\_1) healer from another village came to](https://www.who.int/health-topics/traditional-complementary-and-integrative-medicine#tab%3Dtab_1) treat him at home. The treatment was effective to cure him completely of the cough.

About a year later, Aigbogun was out riding when he fell off his bicycle and broke his waist spine. Due to lack of appropriate [medical attention, he never recovered from this fall which led to other medical complications. (https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/e hijie-ignatius-aigbogun.html) He died at his home in](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie-ignatius-aigbogun.html) Idunwum’Omon Igueben in 1964.



Chief Abulimhen Aigbogun The Chief Ebenze of Igueben First son of second wife Imanlukhor of Prince Aigbogun. Chief Abulimhen Aigbogun Chief Ebenze of Igueben 1st son of 2nd wife, died 2006.



Chief Irriah Aigbogun 1st grandson of Prince Aigbogun, under succession rights he inherited the title of Chief Osangue of Igueben. He died in 2022

[In accordance with Igueben and Edo traditional burial rites (https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/traditions. html) of a Royal Prince, a Chief and a Community Elder (Edion) his burial rites lasted 7 days.[8]](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/traditions.html)

# Titles

## Titles

[1900s – 1964 : Prince Aigbogun (https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.c om/barrister-ehizogie-aigbogun.html)](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/barrister-ehizogie-aigbogun.html)

[1925 – 1964: Traditional Doctor (https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.c om/reverend-uwague-aigbogun.html)](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/reverend-uwague-aigbogun.html)

[1930 – 1964: Osangue of Igueben (http://kingdom-of-benin.weebly. com/odumeben-noba.html)](http://kingdom-of-benin.weebly.com/odumeben-noba.html)

[1935 – 1964 : Odumeben N'Oba N’Edo (http://kingdom-of-benin. weebly.com/odumeben-noba.html) [The King’s Royal Palace of](http://kingdom-of-benin.weebly.com/odumeben-noba.html) Benin Blacksmith]

[1950 – 1964 - Okan-eben Osangue of Benin Kingdom (http://kingd om-of-benin.weebly.com/odumeben-noba.html) [Chief Royal](http://kingdom-of-benin.weebly.com/odumeben-noba.html) Blacksmith of Benin Kingdom]

# References

1. Nimmons, Fidelia (2021). *Passage of An Edo Princess*. UK: Amazon. p. 155. [ISBN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISBN_%28identifier%29) 979-8744158682.
2. Nimmons 2021, p. 6
3. Nimmons, Fidelia (2013). *Inside a Rainforest Royal Court: Growing up in Benin: Volume 2 (Kingdom of Benin history)*. UK: Amazon. pp. 16–17. [ISBN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISBN_%28identifier%29) 978- 1492249207.
4. Nimmons, Fidelia (2015). *Revised Primary History Kingdom of Benin*. UK: Amazon. pp. 78–79. [ISBN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISBN_%28identifier%29) 978- 1516972524.

5. Nimmons 2013, pp. 16 -17

6. Nimmons 2015, pp. 78 -79

7. Nimmons 2015, pp. 16 17

8. Nimmons 2015, pp. 27 -35

# External links

[Prince Aigbogun's production of Dane guns can be found in the Early Years section (https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie-igna tius-aigbogun.html)](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie-ignatius-aigbogun.html)

[Definition of Igun Street (https://www.britishmuseum.org/collectio n/term/THES256440)](https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/term/THES256440)

[Prince Aigbogun's production of Ada and Eben can be found in the](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie-ignatius-aigbogun.html)



Princess Esebogun Okunsebor. 1st daughter of Prince Aigbogun from his second wife Imanlukhor. She died 2010



The type of Blacksmith Bellows Prince Aigbogun used.



Aigbogun made guns like this based on the original imports from Denmark and Norway before the 1850s. These were called Dane guns from the combination of both import countries' names.

[Early Years section (https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie-ignatius-aigbogun.html)](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie-ignatius-aigbogun.html)

[Definition of Ada (https://digitalbenin.org/eyo-oto/28)](https://digitalbenin.org/eyo-oto/28) [Definition of Eben (https://digitalbenin.org/eyo-oto/29)](https://digitalbenin.org/eyo-oto/29)

[Prince Aigbogun's work across Esanland is described in the Early Years section (https://iguebenkingdom.w eebly.com/ehijie-ignatius-aigbogun.html)](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie-ignatius-aigbogun.html)

[Esanland (https://www.esanland.org/p/esanpeople-esan-people-or-ishanpeople.html)](https://www.esanland.org/p/esanpeople-esan-people-or-ishanpeople.html)

[Prince Aigbogun had substantial land (https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/barrister-ehizogie-aigbogun.htm l)](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/barrister-ehizogie-aigbogun.html)

[Prince Aigbogun gets title of Osangue of Benin Kingdom (https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/odigie-aigb ogun.html)](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/odigie-aigbogun.html)

[Prince Aigbogun is traditional ruler Odionwere of Idumwun'omon (https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/tra ditions.html)](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/traditions.html)

[Igueben Traditions on burial rites going back nearly 600 years (https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/traditio ns.html)](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/traditions.html)

[Prince Aigbogun as a Traditional Doctor can be found in Crown Ages Herbs section (https://iguebenkingdo m.weebly.com/reverend-uwague-aigbogun.html)](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/reverend-uwague-aigbogun.html)

[KINGDOM OF BENIN STUDY - Prince Aigbogun is featured in the poem: What Black Champions do With Their Gifts (http://kingdom-of-benin.weebly.com/poetry-corner.html)](http://kingdom-of-benin.weebly.com/poetry-corner.html)

[Prince Aigbogun's illness (https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie-ignatius-aigbogun.html)](https://iguebenkingdom.weebly.com/ehijie-ignatius-aigbogun.html)

[WHO definition of Traditional Medicine (https://www.who.int/health-topics/traditional-complementary-and](https://www.who.int/health-topics/traditional-complementary-and-integrative-medicine#tab%3Dtab_1)

[-integrative-medicine#tab=tab\_1)](https://www.who.int/health-topics/traditional-complementary-and-integrative-medicine#tab%3Dtab_1)

# See also

* [Art of the Kingdom of Benin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Art_of_the_Kingdom_of_Benin)
* [Edo people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edo_people)
* [Edo language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edo_language)

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