

ROTARACT CLUB OF VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS
Outgoing President's Video Script | Adaeze Nwosu | Tenure: 2023 - 2024

[Opening: camera on Adaeze, simple background, natural light]

When I got this role, the first thing I asked myself was, does any part of me fit here?

I was studying Business Administration. I was passionate about youth empowerment. But I was looking around this club and seeing people who had more experience than me, more passion for Rotaract than I had, more history with this club than I did. And I kept asking myself, what makes me think my skill set, my education, my passion, is enough to lead people like this?

That was my biggest fear. Not failing the club. Failing because I never truly belonged in the first place.

[Footage of campus drives and orientation sessions]

But here is what Rotaract taught me that I did not expect.

This club does not ask you to arrive already made. It meets you where you are.

One of the things that stayed with me during my tenure was when I organised sessions, going into campuses, finding young people who were interested in this club but had already decided it was not for them. They thought Rotaract was for people who had already figured everything out. People who were already made.

So we created a space where they could see themselves in this club before they even joined it. And what happened was not just that new people came in. What happened was the club itself expanded. We stopped being one kind of people with one kind of passion. We became a club that could hold all kinds, because we stopped telling people they had to fit a mould before they could walk through the door.

I was once like them. That is why I knew how to reach them.

[Closing: Adaeze speaking directly, still and quiet]

As I hand over, I don't want to leave behind a programme or a report.

I want to leave behind a feeling.

I have come to believe that every person in this club is either here to grow, or here to help something else grow. And I have never met a person who was only one of those things. Most of the time, you are both.

So to every member who will never hold a title, do not feel like you are less because your name is not attached to a position. Your value in this club does not come from a role.

And to whoever carries this next, do not feel overwhelmed by what you are holding. You do not have to be everything. Just give what you have.

Give as much as you want to receive. Receive as much as you are willing to give. That is what a community is. That is what this club is.

I came in asking if I belonged here. I leave knowing that was never the right question.

The question was always, what will you do while you are here?

This club grows people. And it wants to grow. So find yourself doing both.

Thank you, Rotaract Club of Victoria Island. It has been the greatest honour of my young life to serve you.

[Fade out]