

## THE ROYAL VISIT TO EASTERN NIGERIA.

Notes on the dances which will be performed  
before Her Majesty and His Royal Highness  
at Erugu Stadium, Tuesday, 7th February,  
1956.

In order of appearance:

1. The Kalikpo Jumpers come from Ogoni Division in the Rivers Province. Each village has its "Kalikpo" and for it adopts the form of a particular animal whose masks are then worn by the performers.

This is not so much a traditional dance as a dramatic display of acrobatics accompanied by the monster drum.

These acrobatic jumpers are peculiar to Ogoni division and they usually perform annually at prescribed seasons.

2. St. Mary's Practising School, Agulu, Awka. This is a typical Ibo "Atiliogwu" type noted for its tempo, precise footwork and sharp pulsating rhythm. As will be seen, great energy, skill and precision are required in the movements which make this the most vigorous of Eastern Nigerian dances. As the drummers beat the initial steps, the leading dancers introduce the next sequence before the main body takes up the rhythm.
3. The UGEGBE UMUNWANYA DANCE from Umana, Onitsha Province is a woman's performance typical of the various traditional women's dances of the area. It is notable for the gay attire of the performers and their quick, but graceful movements.
4. From the Niger Delta comes the Bonny Dance; exotic, vibrating and depicting the movements peculiar to their riverine home. The dances and music of the people of the former Oil Rivers are associated with sea-creatures and the spirits of the deep and their traditional ceremonies are most picturesque and enthralling.
5. From Orlu, in Owerri Province, comes the IGBAKWU DANCE, a lively performance by the Ihitenansa girls. This dance, which is antiphonal in form, is introduced in each movement by a small group which is followed by a larger body of dancers who proceed to elaborate on the initial steps.