

“The Land My Father Bought Me at 25 Was Never Enough”: Obinna’s Story.

Obinna was twenty five when his father called him into the sitting room and placed a brown envelope on the table.
“Keep this somewhere safe,” his father said. “One day, you will thank me.”
Inside were documents relating to a plot of land in Abuja. His father had bought it several years earlier, when the area was still developing. To Obinna, it looked like an ordinary gift. To his father, it was something much bigger. It was proof that he had done what a responsible father was supposed to do: secure a future for his child.
Obinna’s father, Mr Nwosu, had spent most of his working life running a building materials business. He was not a man who talked much about money, but he understood land. He believed money could disappear, businesses could collapse and jobs could end, but land was something a family could hold on to.
“Never finish your money on enjoyment,” he often told his children. “Buy something that will remain after you.”
Obinna grew up believing him

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The Advice That Followed Him Into Adulthood

After university, Obinna secured a corporate job in Lagos. His salary was modest at first, but he was ambitious. He wanted a good apartment, a reliable car and the kind of life that would make his parents proud.
Whenever he visited home, his father asked the same questions.
“Have you bought another land?” “Are you saving?”
“Don’t allow your salary to enter your account and disappear.”
His father meant well. He had watched friends retire without savings, businesses and properties. He did not want his son to experience the same uncertainty.
But there was something Obinna did not understand. His father had taught him to buy land, but he had never taught him how to evaluate an investment, compare opportunities or understand the documents behind a property transaction.
To Obinna, if an older man recommended a location and a property agent presented a document,

that was almost enough.
Years passed. He got married, welcomed a daughter and began considering a bigger property investment. His childhood plot had appreciated in value, at least according to the estimates he heard from people around the area. He started thinking about selling it and using the money to acquire more land.
That was when his friend Ebuka asked him a question.
“Have you actually verified the title?”
Obinna laughed.
“My father bought it. What else do I need?” Ebuka did not laugh with him.

A Document Is Not the Same as Security

Ebuka had recently helped his elder sister investigate a land purchase after she discovered that the property she had paid for was subject to a competing claim. The experience had changed how he approached real estate.
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He explained to Obinna that a receipt, allocation letter or agreement should never be treated as a substitute for proper verification. Before buying or selling land, the buyer needs to understand who has the legal right to transfer it, what interest is being transferred, the property’s survey details, its permitted use and whether there are competing claims or government restrictions.
Obinna decided to investigate his father’s property properly.
The process was not as straightforward as he expected. He needed to obtain professional advice, examine the available documents and establish the property’s current legal and planning status.
His father was offended when he heard about it.
“Are you saying I bought land without knowing what I was doing?” he asked.
“No, Daddy. I just want to be sure before making another decision.”
For the first time, Obinna realised that respecting his father’s experience did not mean repeating every decision without asking questions.
His father’s advice had helped him understand the importance of owning assets. Ebuka’s experience had taught him that ownership also required evidence, research and caution.

When Land Banking Became More Than a Buzzword

During his research, Obinna came across the concept of land banking. He had heard the expression before, usually in conversations where people described buying land in developing locations and holding it for future appreciation.
The idea appealed to him. Instead of purchasing land only because he wanted to build immediately, he could consider acquiring property in an area with credible development prospects and holding it over time.
But the more he learnt, the more careful he became.
Land banking was not simply buying cheap land and waiting for it to become expensive. The outcome depended on several factors, including location, infrastructure, land documentation,

demand, planning regulations and the investor's ability to hold the asset.
A road announced on television was not necessarily a completed road. A proposed shopping centre was not guaranteed to be built. A location described as the next big investment destination still needed independent assessment.
He also understood that land was not always easy to sell quickly. An investor could own a valuable property on paper and still struggle to find a buyer when cash was needed.

The Conversation That Changed His Thinking

One Sunday afternoon, Obinna sat with his father in the same sitting room where he had received the brown envelope ten years earlier.
"Daddy, I think I understand what you were trying to teach us," he said. "You wanted us to own something that could outlive our salaries."
His father nodded.
"But I have also learnt that buying land is only one part of investing. We have to understand what we own, why we are buying it and what we intend to do with it."
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His father remained quiet for a moment.
"Maybe I should have taught you more about the money side of it," he finally said.
Obinna smiled. It was not an admission he expected to hear.
He still valued his father's advice. In fact, he appreciated it more than ever. But he no longer believed that good intentions were enough to make every investment decision a good one.
He began building a more balanced financial plan. He kept savings for emergencies, considered his family's immediate needs and researched property opportunities without rushing to commit his money.
The brown envelope was still in his possession. It no longer represented simply a gift from his father. It reminded him of something more important: financial wisdom should be passed from one generation to another, but it should also grow with new information.
The best inheritance is not always a house or a plot of land. Sometimes, it is the knowledge that helps the next generation protect what it owns and make better decisions with what it earns.
If you are considering land banking or purchasing property in Abuja, speak with De Velli Group to explore available opportunities and understand the location, documentation, ownership structure and investment terms before making a commitment. A good property decision begins with the right questions.