

## National President's Welcome Message



Umunnem ndi Mbano, Ndewo nu !! Unu abiaruola !!  
Welcome to the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention of MNA.  
We have arrived from around the globe to celebrate our union in no other place than where it all began – Atlanta, Georgia.

A little over ten years ago some Mbano indigenes with vision gathered in the “stone mountain state” to commence this charitable and humanitarian venture. We are here today to celebrate that beginning. Since the formation of this organization, a lot has been accomplished in our efforts to support our communities and care for the underprivileged. For the past seven years, we have worked tirelessly to put some initiatives together. We have kept up the momentum to actualize and bring our collective efforts to fruition.

- We established the most expansive organization of umu Mbano in diaspora.
- Created awareness and vision for the realization of the first Ezurumezu festival in Mbano.
- Supported and ultimately sponsored annual Mbano Medical Missions to provide free healthcare to the underprivileged in our communities.
- We implemented the Education Grant program that makes awards to deserving high institution students in Mbano.
- We conducted Essay Competitions for Mbano Children in the USA. The first in the history of Mbano indigenes in the United States.
- We have worked to bring all factions of our community into a more cohesive union by desensitizing and denouncing sectionalism. We have maintained an open door policy, demonstrated compassion and yet stood firm on matters of principles. We stood for the best interest of Mbano, regardless of personal interest or polity.
- We have worked hard to accommodate everyone, expanded the role of our Ladies, involved our children, and established a Membership and Youth program to enable us expand on membership benefits.
- Our vision and agitation created the awareness that rippled through the community and culminated in the election of the first Mbano indigene as Governor of Imo state.
- We have expanded our organization to eleven affiliate chapters that are spread across the United States of America. We also have three more prospective chapters in the making.
- We established a state-of-the-art web site for Mbano which has enabled on-line communication with our brothers and sisters worldwide. This has been an effective forum for information sharing.
- We sponsored the Mbano Unity Cup soccer competition which provided recreation and networking opportunities for our youth.
- We have liaised with our Ndi Eze, our Local Government Chairpersons, and established a cordial cooperative relationship with Imo State Government. We continued to give our Governor full and relentless support, regardless of intricacies of Nigerian polity.
- We are seriously working on the revitalization of our Micro Credit Finance initiative and to create investment opportunities that will benefit our people.

In fact, we have accomplished a lot. However, there is still more work to be done. Our elders said that “Oru gagwu nwantolu ogu agaghi ezuike”. In other words, “Unless the farming season is over, the little garden hoe will not get some rest”. So, Umu Mbano, we have to roll our sleeves and face the challenges of MNA’s second decade of existence. We are definitely equal to the task, if we work together in unity and with great sense of purpose and objectivity.

Last year in Chicago, we introduced the “Tripod Scheme” to bring more focus to our activities. It is now time to implement those initiatives. Let us review our history, reassess our priorities and current events; and strategize on the way forward for the next decade. We should continue to embark on projects to promote the advancement of our people and development of our communities.

Our primary focus in the next decade should be on promotion of community healthcare and education; youth and membership development; and socio-economic advancement of umu Mbano. So, your participation, ideas and contributions are highly needed. Remember that “Anyukoo mamiri onu, ya agbaa ufufu”.

It is also important that we continue to liaise with our community leaders and ensure that nwa Mbano continues to occupy “Douglas House” for the next five years. So, we must work with our Governor and continue to give him full and relentless support. We need to avoid the distractions of the past, learn from experience and stand united; else we will become the jest of the greater society. We must move Mbano forward. [Mbano, Ga N’iru !!](#)

To all individuals and affiliate chapters that worked diligently to establish, expand and promote the objectives of MNA, I say Bravo!!, Congratulations !!, Ndewo nu !!, Chukwu gozie unu !!. We must continue to strive for qualitative membership, ignore detractors and focus on those who are really committed to the cause of Mbano and the objectives of MNA. It is time for less talk. Action speaks louder than voice. So, my brothers and sisters, let us keep up the good work of charity, put smiles on many faces, be the envy of our detractors and continue to be the pride of Mbano. Equally, in that same spirit, we always say with pride that [Mbano Bu Ala Anyi !!](#)

I extend my sincere thanks to the Atlanta Chapter and the National Convention Planning Committee for their hospitality and hard work in planning and hosting this 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary event. I wish you a most successful convention and when we depart at the end of this convocation, may you all have a safe journey to your various places of residence.

Thank you and May God bless you all.

Udo diri unu,

Chief Chidi Anumudu  
President, Mbano National Assembly

