

National President's Welcome Message



Umu Mbano, Ndewo nu!! Unu abiaruola!!
Welcome to California, the Golden State. We have gathered for the 2012 Annual Convention of MNA. We have come from all over the world to network, socialize and deliberate on issues that are pertinent to our collective well being and the progress of Mbano. We have maintained this tradition and championed our heartfelt causes for over a decade now. During these years we have gotten better, bigger, and more focused. We have come a long way and made lots of progress:

- ❖ We have built and maintained a buoyant, progressive, community-service organization that Mbano is very proud of. In our various communities, MNA is now a household name. We have put Mbano on the map and on the internet through our world-wide web – Mbano.org.
- ❖ We tirelessly continued our quest to expand the organization to major metropolis of this country. Please join me to welcome the Mbano Progressive Association of Pennsylvania to our assembly. The chapter recently registered with MNA and will be officially admitted into our assembly in this convention.
- ❖ We have championed and consistently conducted annual medical missions to serve the underprivileged members of our communities. Our medical missions have, over the years, benefited more than 26,000 individuals by providing healthcare to the needy at no cost to them.
- ❖ We have consistently supported education of umu Mbano through our annual education grants to students at tertiary institutions. This has been a welcomed support to many deserving students.
- ❖ We have encouraged and promoted scholastic dialogue and youth integration through our children essay competition and symposiums. Our children are now being integrated into the mainstream of the Assembly. These efforts will help guarantee the longevity of MNA.
- ❖ We have promoted socio-cultural awareness and intercultural pollination through sports, theatrical performances, youth pageants and fashion shows. My brothers and sisters, have you heard the news: Miss Mbano USA went to the medical mission this year. We will get her feedback and a snapshot of her medical mission experience shortly.
- ❖ We have facilitated the establishment of private investment partnerships such as the Micro-Credit initiative and the Mbano music project, to serve the social and economic needs of our communities. As we encourage and promote such private and independent endeavors, we will achieve MNA objectives and further our purpose.
- ❖ For the first time in history there is an official music for Mbano Gburugburu. The premier presentation will be unveiled at this convention. So, I hope you came with your dancing shoes. It will be quite a show for “Nwa Mbano” exposition!!

- ❖ We encouraged democracy and good governance through advocacy, speeches, symposia and community education. Without compromise, MNA has become the voice of Mbanò people in the Diaspora.
- ❖ Today, we can truthfully say that MNA has accomplished the fundamental objectives of its pioneers. Together we have made good things happen. To God be the glory!!
- ❖ We have sensitized Mbanò indigenes and buttressed a sense of belonging, accomplishments and pride in umu Mbanò in Diaspora. In fact we have come a long way and accomplished a lot. However, we still have some work to do.

Our next area of emphasis should be to become more relevant in the democratic process and affairs of our homeland through community education and awareness initiatives. We cannot remain passive and expect positive changes. As Mahatma Gandhi once said “we have to be the change that we seek”. We need to foster and promote unity, peace, progress and solidarity amongst Mbanò indigenes world-wide. That was the trust of our just-concluded “Solidarity Summit” with all MNA Chapters. My brothers and sisters, “Idi na otu bu Oganihu” (Unity is progress). “Solidarity” should be our watch word. So, let us solidify our base and support our people to entrench democratic principles and good governance in our homeland. This will enhance the welfare of our people and further our community service objectives without extensive pecuniary sacrifice. Obviously, we have some work to do. In solidarity, however, we are equal to the task. So, we will continue to liaise with Ndi Eze, our Local Government Chairpersons and our Autonomous Community leaders. We will maintain a cordial cooperative relationship with State and Federal Governments at home and abroad. We will continue to be good citizens and neighbors and seek those who are willing to further our purpose. We must continue to strive for qualitative membership, ignore detractors and focus on those who are really committed to the cause of Mbanò and the objectives of MNA. Let us continue to do good work, promote charity and community service, and be the pride of Mbanò. My brothers and sisters, without any question, “MNA is it” and “Mbanò Bu Ala Anyi”. So, let us enjoy our stay in California and make the best use of it to find ways of moving Mbanò forward. All hands should be on deck. Please make your presence and opinion count!!

I extend my sincere thanks to the California Chapter and the National Convention Planning Committee for their hospitality and hard work in planning and hosting this 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 abode.

Thank you and May God bless you all.

Udo diri unu,

Chief Chidi Anumudu
President, Mbanò National Assembly

