

## National President's Welcome Message



Umunnem ndi Mbano, Unu abiaruola, Unu anwuna !!  
Welcome to New York, the “Big Apple” - The city that never goes to sleep. We have come from all over the world and gathered in this great city for the 2013 MNA Convention. It is our tradition to network, socialize and deliberate on issues that are pertinent to our collective well being and the progress of Mbano.

This year will mark the end of this administration and my function as your president. Let me start by thanking the Almighty God for his blessings and guidance; and for providing me the strength,

fortitude, perseverance and vision to lead this organization for six good years. In light of current events, I must thank God for showing me the light of the day and making it possible for me to be physically here today with you at this convention. To God be the Glory !! I also thank my family, especially my dearly departed mother, my beautiful wife and adorable children for their permission, patience, sacrifice and support as I denied them valuable family time in pursuit of solidarity and service for Mbano. I thank MNA Executives, past and present, for their dedication, perseverance and hard work to serve and promote the objectives of this honorable Assembly. Most importantly, I thank all of you, the members and executives of our various chapters, for your steadfast dedication, perseverance, solidarity and support all these years. You bestowed me with your trust and confidence to lead this honorable organization at a very critical juncture in its history. I hope I did not let you down. To my detractors, I thank you too. If in the process of discharging my duties to my people, I stepped on your toes, busted your chops or bruised your ego, I hereby render apology. It was for the “good of the order”. Moreover, one thing stands out clear – we left this organization in a better shape than when we got it. Together, as Umu Mbano in Diaspora, we have championed our heartfelt causes for over a decade now. In fact, we came a long way and made lots of progress:

- ❖ We worked hard to bring all factions of our organization 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 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 world-wide web – Mbano.org.
- ❖ We tirelessly continued our quest to expand the organization to major metropolis of this country. Today we have twelve chapters and one more in the making. Three of these chapters joined the Assembly in the last six years. Please join me to welcome Mbano Tri-State Association of Philadelphia. They 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 28,000 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.

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ We have promoted socio-cultural awareness and intercultural pollination through sports, theatrical performances, youth pageants and fashion shows.
- ❖ We have facilitated the establishment of private investment partnerships such as the Micro-Credit initiative and the Mbanu 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.
- ❖ We encouraged democracy and good governance through advocacy, speeches, symposia and community education. Without compromise, MNA has become the voice of Mbanu people in the Diaspora.
- ❖ We have sensitized Mbanu indigenes and buttressed a sense of belonging, accomplishments and pride in umu Mbanu in Diaspora. Today, we can truthfully say that MNA has accomplished the fundamental objectives of its pioneers.

The programs we articulated were so encompassing that they touched on different aspects of our collective objectives. It is therefore the responsibility of the next administration to continue the momentum and forge ahead with great sense of purpose and objectivity.

We should continue to promote community healthcare and education; youth and membership development; socio-political awareness/relevance and economic advancement of umu Mbanu. The priority and frequency of these activities will be continuously reviewed for appropriateness. So, your participation and ideas are highly needed. “Anyukoo mamiri onu, ya agbaa ufufu”.

We should strive to become more relevant in the democratic process and affairs of our homeland through community education and awareness. Let us solidify our base and support our people to entrench democratic principles and good governance in our homeland. We should 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 Mbanu and the objectives of MNA. Let us continue to do good work, promote charity and community service, and be the pride of Mbanu. As we deliberate, celebrate and enjoy our great convention this weekend, let us make the best use of it to find ways of moving Mbanu forward. Please make your presence and opinion count !!

I extend my sincere thanks to the New York 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, Mbanu National Assembly

