



MBANO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY USA, INC.

SECRETARIAT

PO BOX 1433

NEW ROCHELLE, NY 10802

## **PREAMBLE**

**We**, the citizens of Mbano resident in the United States of America under the auspices of Mbano National Assembly, (MNA) and under the leadership of Chief Louis Chidi Anumudu, met in the great city of Bloomington, Minnesota from May 23-26, 2008 to affirm our common bond and resolve to unleash our human and material resources in the development of our home, Mbano.

The theme of the convention “**Mbano, Nneji**” underscores the paramount importance of our unity and inextricable kinship amongst us.

The convention was attended by the eleven federating chapters, with the Chicago Chapter newly admitted and other distinguished guests from across the globe.

With due cognizance of our obligations and commitment to the interest of Mbano, the Assembly exhaustively deliberated and declares as follows:

- 1. We** heartily express our unmitigated support to our brother, His Excellency, Chief Ikedi Ohakim on whom the good people of Imo State have entrusted the challenge of transforming our state to a model of development. This Assembly notes with satisfaction the unparalleled zeal and devotion with which His Excellency has pursued the developmental challenges facing Imo state. His purposeful leadership in taking principled positions on issues of development, not skewed by political expediency, in spite of political distractions, is commendable.

2. **We congratulate the governor for his remarkable achievements in one year.**

It is self evident that our society has been positively impacted by his visionary leadership; be it in the construction of new roads, clean and green initiative, tourism promotion, utilities revitalization, agricultural promotion, job provision, educational empowerment, transport improvement etc. His administration has been a prolific incubator of progressive ideas and within a very short time he has transformed the social and economic landscape of Imo State. These achievements are exceptional because they have been made under very difficult and often unpredictable political climate. It is not surprising that his administration has earned for itself the most visionary in Nigeria. We join all people of good will in wishing the Governor and his cabinet many more years of dedicated service to Imo State. We remain proud of him for his accomplishments speak for themselves.

**The Assembly** thus committed, unreservedly, to provide the requisite pillar of support to his administration as he transforms Imo State to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century

3. While we recognize the importance of the rule of law as a cornerstone in the settlement of political disputes, we express our concern when victory is defined within the confines of narrow interest without regard to its wider implication to the governed. The Assembly strongly advises that this “Ime Obi” squabble should end forthwith to avoid it being exploited to the detriment of Umu Mbano. **“IT IS TIME TO BUILD”**.

4. **The Assembly** warns that anybody or group that attempts to scuttle this honor bestowed on our community, shall answer in no small measure to Mbano Gburugburu.

5. **We express** our immense gratitude to the good people of Imo State for their trust and ask for their support in rallying round the Governor to actualize the New Face of Imo initiative.

- 6. We whole heartedly congratulate Professor Maurice Iwu**, who has borne the ills of the “political class” and has endured unprintable vitriolic in his committed desire to sustain the gains of democracy. It is on record that Professor Iwu succeeded where many have failed by ensuring under very difficult circumstances, the first ever transfer of power from one civilian administration to another in the history of Nigeria. No election, even in the bastion of democracy has been without hitches, the overall objective of democratic rule has endured under his tutelage. We appeal to the political class to please challenge themselves to riding our polity of the ills which are often nurtured by some who see power purely in Machiavellian terms.
- 7. The Assembly** is pleased with the progress made by the Education Committee in awarding grants to deserving Mbano students in higher institutions and encouraging our youth in the United States to appreciate Mbano as their roots which was manifested in their recent essay competition titled “Mbano Bu Ala anyi”. The constitution of the youth program by our women highlights the importance of shaping the psyche of our future leaders to think Mbano first. The Assembly noted that in this global village, it is essential that an inculcation of our values to our younger generation is fundamental to preserving our heritage and with the right nurture mold future “Obamas” from our children anywhere in the world.
- 8.** The continued success of our annual Medical Mission has become a trail blazer. This year’s Medical Mission provided over 5000 people with free medical treatment and up to 87 surgical cases. We resolved to continue challenging ourselves to meeting the health needs of our people and explore areas of infrastructural provision to our community health centers. The Assembly calls for the establishment of a specialist hospital in Okigwe zone since other zones in Imo State have similar centers of excellence.
- 9.** The actualization of the Ezurumezu Cultural Festival flagged off by the Unity Soccer Cup underlies the preeminence of unity and the sustenance of our

cultural values. “Mbano, Nneji” is an irreplaceable statement that informs our collective endeavors.

**10. The Assembly** calls on the state government to embark on rural electrification program. This has become very necessary in view of the government’s industrialization policy. The absence of this has discouraged investors. Rural electrification has great implications for industrialization, security and urban migration.

**11. The Assembly** calls for the establishment of vocational institutions to provide the needed skills for local industries. Skill acquisition is fundamental to the sustenance of any industrial base.

**12. We** view with great concern the deteriorating security situation in Imo State. Whether this is the machination of political detractors or bye products of unemployment, we strongly urge the government to take drastic measures to address this problem. This singular problem weighs heavily on governments effort to attract foreign investors to our communities.

**13. We** call on all Mbano people worldwide to unleash their entrepreneurial skills and invest in their homeland. This is the time to show leadership and be good ambassadors of our people. The stake is high and the time is now. We must all work for an even distribution of the dividends of democracy.

14. Finally, we extend our sincere gratitude to our host, The Mbano Peoples Association of Minnesota for their exceptional hospitality and successful hosting of the 2008 MNA convention. The Assembly resolves to meet again in 2009 in the great city of Chicago.

**Chief Louis Chidi Anumudu**

**MNA President**

**Sir Basil Ugo Njoku**

**MNA Secretary-General**