

## National President's Welcome Message



Umunnem ndi Mbano, Unu abiaruola !! Ndewo nu !!  
Welcome to the MNA Convention 2009. We have arrived from around the globe for our annual tradition, this time in the “Windy City” – Chicago, Illinois.

This will undoubtedly be a very successful convention. Let us enjoy each other's company, network with one another; share our experiences, aspirations, expectations and concerns. Moreover, let us vigorously deliberate on our well being in this country as well as the welfare of those we left behind in Mbano. The objective of this convention is to take inventory of our programs and activities; reassess current situations and priorities; and strategize on the way forward for the next decade. In other word, we need to formulate strategies, initiate processes, and continue to embark on projects to promote the advancement of our people and development of our communities.

We have actualized most of our pending programs, ranging from the Medical Mission, Education Grants, Mbano Unity Cup competition, Youth and Membership, etc. So, it is time to reevaluate our portfolio of activities, decide on the ones to retire and possibly initiate new ones. In other words, we need to streamline, prioritize and focus on more important initiatives. Our primary focus in the next decade should be on socio-economic advancement of umu Mbano; health and education grants; political awareness and relevance. Again, the priority and frequency of these activities will be determined at this convention. So, your participation and ideas are highly needed. Please make your presence count. “Anyukoo mamiri onu, ya agbaa ufufu”.

Also, it is important that we continue to liaise with our Ndi Eze, our Local Government Chairpersons, and maintain a cordial cooperative relationship with our State Government. Umunnem, we must continue to support our Governor, Chief Ikedi Ohakim, as he moves Imo State forward in the 21st century.

So, as we gather this weekend in the “Windy City” for this great convention, let us work diligently to develop strategies and action plan for economic advancement of our people. That will surely justify our time and efforts in Chicago. We must move forward. When great minds come together, great things start to happen. **Mbano, Ga N'iru !!**

I extend my sincere thanks to the Chicago Chapter and the National Convention Planning Committee for their hospitality and hard work in the planning and hosting of this year's 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, Mbano National Assembly

