



GBAKOR IKWERRE USA, INC.

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(Offices: Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Detroit, Hawaiian Garden, Houston, Los Angeles,
New York, Oklahoma, Washington D.C and Port Harcourt, Nigeria)

OIUSA

Executive Committee

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Mr. Eric I. Welle
New York, NY

VICE PRESIDENT

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Los Angeles, CA

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Mrs. Patience Igwe
Columbus, OH

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Mobil, AL

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Venerable Collins Asonye
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Mr. King Okpobiri
Dallas, TX

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Mrs. Josephine Court
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YOUTH & CHILDREN AFFAIRS

ADMIN

Mrs. Patience Osiah
Detroit, MI

WOMEN AFFAIRS

ADMIN

Mrs. Grace Oyekan
Houston, TX

A National Organization of Ikwerre People in the United States of America, and Canada

June 7, 2019

Rumu Iwhourohna Nkalam Anu Meka,
Anu Ladule Oro? Thank God that everyone made it home safely. I want to thank you all for attending this very important convention; it was a joyous weekend, full of festivities, and most importantly, a weekend that witnessed the future of OIUSA (the Youths), come into their own. I extend my sincere gratitude to them and their leaders, Nyema Igwe and Wesley Welle, and urge them to continue to engage themselves at all times to attract more youths to the next convention.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Charles Ehoru, the President of Ogbakor Ikwerre Dallas, and the entire Dallas team for hosting us, and making it a memorable convention. We all had a wonderful time on Saturday, ***"Ikwerre Night,"*** when the locals entertained convention attendees with abundance of food, drinks and music. You all did a wonderful job, and we thank you!

In the words of one of the members of the National Convention Planning Committee (NCPC), ***"this was one of the best committee I have ever been a part of...."*** That was a true reflection of the NCPC Committee Chairman, Mr. Maxwell Oparaodu's leadership. His leadership style is worth emulating. Max, we thank you and all the committee members.

Mr. Chile Chuku, our outgoing leader, your love and passion for Ikwerre Ethnic Nationality is unquestionable. Your gallant efforts to raise funds to support Ikwerre causes cannot be overlooked. You left the Obi Wali Endowment Fund richer than it has ever been. Thank you! We are grateful to you and your Executive committee for your efforts in trimming down OIUSA's expenses, and for refocusing the organization's efforts towards its charitable responsibilities. All donations made by OIUSA to charitable organizations, including the Reverse Hunger program will be displayed on our website (www.OIUSA.org), like you fondly say, ***"to build a history of giving."***

My brothers and sisters, it is an honor and privilege to be elected as the President of Ogbakor Ikwerre USA, Inc. I am moved by the affection and confidence that you have shown me, and I thank all the members of OIUSA, Inc, in particular those present at the Dallas 2019 convention for their generous endorsement. On behalf of my wife, Ngozi and my children, I would like to congratulate the newly elected Executive Committee, ***Mr. Patrick Anyawoke, VP, Mrs. Patience Igwe, SG, Venerable Collins Asonye, Treasurer, Dr. Jonathan Asuru, Financial Secretary, and Dr. Chuck Nsiegbe, Public Relations Officer, Mr. King Okpobiri, Admin Education, Mrs. Josephine Court, Admin Health, Mrs. Patience Osiah, Admin Youth Affairs and Mrs. Grace Oyekan, Admin Women Affairs.*** It is my belief that these high caliber officials will build trust, understanding, harmony and respect among Ikwerre people in the diaspora, as well as create an opportunity for us to

come together to resist forces of division that spread misunderstanding and mistrust. We must maintain unity in order to help put our organization on track to meet the demands of our children, communities back home and communities here in the diaspora. We cannot allow hatred, bigotry, bitterness or the desire to get-even interfere in our march towards a united Ikwerre Ethnic Nationality.

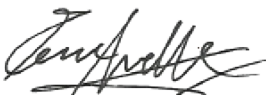
Be assured that as we continue with your mandates and the mission of OIUSA, transparency and accountability will be front and center. The General Assembly set up a panel to look into and clear all questionable financial transactions resulting from the 2016 International Conference on Ikwerre (ICI). My team and I will assist them with everything to ensure that they finish their work by December 2019 and to enable us report back to you at the 2020 convention in Miami.

It is a mandate to re-engage with Ikwerre leadership at home, to foster unity among our Political, Traditional, Religious, etc. elites, to be able to advance the interest of the underprivileged, and to be a voice for them, as well as a voice for positive change in Ikwerre land. To start this re-engagement process, we will begin at the grassroots by setting up a Medical Outreach Committee, with the aim of planning a Medical Mission, to help provide healthcare to underprivileged and underserved Ikwerre communities.

Continuity from one administration to the next is important to sustain an ongoing mandate. My team and I will be working with the former President, Mr. Chile Chuku to continue with the programs that he put in place, including, but not limited to the Grant requests from the Ford Foundation and NDDC. We will also follow up on the land request from the Governor of Rivers State, Chief (Barr) Nyesom Ezenwo Wike, for the building of Skills Acquisition Center from the previous administration. We will set up a committee to start and bring this project to fruition. This will be a positive step towards curbing youths' restiveness in Ikwerre land, and encourage self-reliance through entrepreneurship. Finally, looking beyond the past administration we also intend to follow up on some of the programs that prior administrations have proposed.

Through my involvement in various organizations, I've learned the importance of establishing clear priorities of governance, setting them out clearly for my team and the organization that we serve, and then focusing on them relentlessly. There is greater obligation on us and on me in particular, after the election to tell Ikwerre people very clearly what we must do to continue to strengthen OIUSA in the next two years.

The OIUSA executives and I assure you that we will spare no efforts to ensure that we are prepared to meet the challenges of this organization, and to have a hopeful future for a united Ikwerre Ethnic Nationality. We will see you all in Miami in 2020.



Eric Welle
President,
OIUSA, Inc.