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PRESIDENT'S 2023 NEW YEAR MESSAGE: TAKING STOCK AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Dear members of EFIKUSA, sons, and daughters of the Efik Kingdom in the Diaspora, distinguished elders and dignitaries, young members and future leaders, supporters, donors, and well-wishers, join me in expressing gratitude to God for successfully wading through the high and low tides of the past year. Each one is a lesson for overcoming past obstacles and mapping out a rejuvenated and promising trajectory for the future. Here's wishing you all a very happy, eventful, buoyant, and memorable new year, one filled with the promises of a brilliant tomorrow for our children, kindred, and us.

With gratitude to God, humility, and contentment, I am happy to present to you a four-month report card marked by unprecedented, sustained, and remarkable success in diverse areas of performance.

I. TAKING STOCK: A FOUR-MONTH REPORT CARD

1. Reconciliation, Joint Convention, and Reunification of EFIKUSA and ENA

The steady and progressive journey towards the reunification of the two Efik organizations is unprecedented in the twelve years of the schism between the two organizations, as evidenced by the following milestones:

- **Formal Reconciliation (“Unam Emem”) Meeting** was held virtually on September 25, 2022. Attended by appointed representatives from each organization, the gathering was officiated by elder nominees from each organization and conducted by a Moderator appointed and endorsed by both organizations. The Reconciliation Pledge was recited by all attendees. Was also followed by a notarized Reconciliation Agreement executed by the representatives. The traditional water ceremony component was deferred until a face-to-face meeting of the representatives of the two organizations, with the agreement that the deferral will have no adverse effect on the effectiveness and efficacy of the Agreement.
- **Joint Convention of EfikUSA and ENA**
The City of Houston was voted as the 2023 Convention Venue, and the traditional fourth week of July was earmarked for the event. A Joint Committee and Oversight Committee are in place to plan and oversee the Convention venue, lodging, and ancillary activities. Mrs. Grace Matthews was appointed as EfikUSA Chairperson, and Dr. Trinnell as Joint Committee member and Consultant.
- **Reunification Project**
Work in progress

2. Integration and Empowerment of the Next Generation

Recruitment, integration, and empowerment of young members to facilitate leadership transition from the old guard to young members:

- Efforts ongoing to integrate EfikUSA young professionals into existing local chapters

- Mr. Emmanuel Ukot, an energetic young professional, was appointed as the new Provost to the National Executive Committee(Exco)
- Mr. Richard Itam is the new Assistant National Secretary
- Mr. Francis Effiom is Assistant to the Advisory Board of Trustees
- Ms. Tyra Ftcher, a college undergraduate, is an intern/ Assistant to the Public Relations Officer
- Mr. Chris B. Effiong, Jr, is officially granted the privilege to attend meetings of the National Executive Committee, participate in and present regular reports on the state of the Youth Wing
- Young Wing Committee Chairperson: Pastor Eyobong Ita is planning online activities to facilitate online learning of Efik history, language, and culture

3. **Building Diaspora Communities**

- Work in progress

4. **Advisory Board of Trustees**

- Making its mark under the leadership of Dr. John Esin and a slate of highly renowned Board Members
- Lecture series in progress and gaining high marks with the celebration of Efik women in Engineering and Technology

5. **Chapter News**

All but two chapters are cohesive and performing optimally, having also contributed to the spectacular 2022 Spirit of Christmas Program. Particularly standing out is the Great Lakes Efik Association Chapter. It has gained membership and is emerging as EfikUSA Entertainment Chapter with the novel video clip on status quo in Calabar and under the presidency of Pastor Eyobong Ita.

6. **Committee News**

The Committees are vibrant and keep the Efik community informed, uplifted, and entertained. **High grade to the Events Planning Committee** in organizing, coordinating and feeding our EfikUSA Community with diverse activities and significant fund-raising output.

7. **Utomo Obong December 17, 2022**

Efikusa was proudly represented with MBRE during the December 17 festivities, paid homage to our Treaty King with a generous monetary donation and a write-up in the Program booklet

8. **Coronation of Muri Inyang Okon Eyo as Muri of Efut Ebuka Clan, December 10, 2022**

The coronation of our immediate past President Ndabo Inyang Okon Eyo as Muri has elevated EfikUSA to an enviable position of prominence and eminence. EfikUSA, his former NY chapter, and individual members, even from ENA, our sister organization, recognized the occasion with generous donations and by commissioning appropriate Mbre during the weeklong celebration.

II. PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The Rowan Administration has been busy covering a good stretch of terrain in four brief months. There is still a lot to accomplish by God's Grace.

The plan is to widen, cultivate, and fine-tune our performance in the following areas:

1. Diversification and intensification of external fund-raising targets through grant-searching activities,

2. Collaboration, exchange, and giving back to the Motherland.

Domestic violence, sexual assault, and abandonment of children accused of witchcraft and other unfounded nefarious activities must shock the conscience. It is a call for original and/or collaborative intervention with local Cross River government authorities and groups. I intend to vigorously educate myself and the EfikUSA community on the status quo and what we can do.

3. ESOP IBAN EFIK KE AMERICA

Having felt the pulse of a few of our women, I am satisfied that the time is ripe to actively involve more women in the machinery of change and transformation both here in our host/adoptive country and in our motherland. The time is here to build a robust and active Esop Iban Efik Ke America. Our services and contribution are acutely needed in many areas. Let's kick off, join hands, and do what we can do for our people, especially the children, here and at home. We have the tools to make things grow even better in certain domains.

Finally, I urge our families to encourage their children to volunteer and participate in the affairs of our community in whatever measures they can contribute.

May I express profound appreciation to my brothers and sisters who have shared insights and ideas with me. Please, these are very helpful, so I encourage you to continue!

Once again

HAPPY NEW YEAR

LONG LIVE EFIK EBURTUTU

LONG LIVE EFIKUSA

EDIDIANA EDI UFORO YE NKORI

Dr. Rosy Afiong Rowan

Your Faithful Servant/President

The Efik National Association US, Inc. (EfikUSA)

A 501 (C)(3) Nonprofit Organization

Executing charitable projects in the USA and Cross River State, Nigeria

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