



# EDO NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

## IN USA AND CANADA

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October 23, 2009

### **For Immediate Press Release**

## **Communiqué of the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Edo National (ENA) Convention Held in San Francisco, California, USA September 4 – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

The 18<sup>th</sup> ENA Convention was hosted by Edo United Club of Sacramento, California. The Convention was well attended by the Edos in Diaspora and also by the people of Edo State, Nigeria.

In attendance was the current Governor of Edo State of Nigeria, His Excellency Comrade Adams Oshiomhole and his wife, Mrs. Clara Oshiomhole. The Governor was accompanied by some of his cabinet members to include the Economic Team and the Edo State Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Dr. Osagie Obayuwana. Also present at the convention was the Speaker of Edo State House of Assembly, Honorable Zakawanu I Garuba and Chief Nosakhare Isekhure, the Isekhure of Benin Kingdom who represented His Royal Highness, Omo'Oba N' Edo Uku Akpolokpolo, Oba Erediawa, The Oba of Benin Kingdom.

This year's convention was the first in implementing the new structure of conducting ENA annual conventions as outlined in the ENA constitution. The Executive Council played a major role in working collaboratively with the convention host club in the planning and execution of all recommendations by the joint 2009 convention working committee.

Unlike most convention theme, the convention theme was met not only for the 2009 convention but also met to serve as a continuation theme with project vision that can span several future ENA conventions.

Recognizing the inadequate healthcare challenges faced by Edo indigenes and the need for a vibrant economy for Edo State citizens, ENA vision project plan for this year's convention was MESHCON (**M**ake **E**do **S**tate the **H**ealthcare **C**apital **O**f **N**igeria).

The MESHCON project was presented as a comprehensive healthcare plan that will provide a platform for healthcare business enterprises to interface with existing public and private healthcare systems in Edo State. The ultimate goal for MESHCON is to provide affordable and quality healthcare to her citizens and also increase the employment opportunities in Edo State.

The 2009 Convention Keynote Speaker, Dr. Dan Austin, presented the MESHCON Project. He outlined the concept of the project, capital need, and fundraising to include private financial investment and partnership.

**The 2009 Convention also witnessed –**

- The birth of the “Women Conference” as a part of the overall ENA Convention activities. In attendance were the First Lady of Edo State, Her Excellency Mrs. Clara Oshiomhole and the guest speaker, Dr. Cynthia Austin who spoke on preventive health care for women
- The unveiling of the “ENA Community Center” building architectural structure and planning by the National President of ENA, Mr. Samuel Isokpunwu

**At the conclusion of the convention, ENA resolved to do the following:**

- Embarked on an “ENA Community Center” building project in Benin City. This community center will serve, along with other multipurpose function, as a liaison office for all ENA activities in Nigeria. The building project plan will include – A healthcare center, a skill acquisition center, a library, a convention hall and other community activities. The community center building and amenities will occupy a 20 acres of land
- To encourage the MESHCON project initiative and work with Edo State Government towards the actualization of the main objectives of MESHCON – to create a health care economy for Edo State, a goal for Edo State to control at least 30% of the healthcare economy in Nigeria and be viable enough to compete not just with the states in Nigeria but with other countries beside Nigeria
- To support Edo State in the execution of its ongoing plans to develop Edo State by supporting true democracy and ensuring that there is one vote for each person no matter their status in the community, the effort to provide law and order in the state, the provision of clean water and sanitation in Edo State. Partner with the state government to improve education and agriculture
- To host the next ENA convention for 2010 in Benin City, Edo State of Nigeria and the 2011 Convention in Miami, Florida, USA
- To attract all ethnic groups within Edo State to become stakeholders in ENA
- To continue a dialogue with ENA in Europe and around the world.

Respectfully submitted by:

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