

**Communiqué of the
Edo National Association
20th Annual Convention
Miami, Florida, USA
September 02 to 05, 2011**

Edo National Association, Inc. (ENA), the umbrella association for all Edo speaking people in the Diaspora, held its 20th annual convention in Miami, Florida, USA from September 02 to September 05, 2011. The convention reinforced our commitment as One People, One State, and Strength in our Unity!!!!

In attendance were traditional rulers, academicians, business leaders, community leaders and many distinguished Edo sons and daughters from all over the world including the Edo State government delegation led by His Excellency, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole, the Executive Governor of Edo State. He was accompanied by some members of his Cabinet and Economic team, which included Commissioner for Finance, Hon. J.O. Inegbedion and Commissioner for Ministry of Environment and Public Utilities, Hon. Prince Clem Agba.

Also present was the delegation representing the Oba of Benin, Chief Nosa Isekure (the Isekure of Benin Kingdom) and Chief Osaro Idah (the Obazelu of Benin Kingdom). Dignitaries from the political world included Hon. Razak Bello-Osagie, representing Oredo Federal Constituency at the Nigeria House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Uyigüe Igbe, Speaker, Edo State House of Assembly, Hon. Philip Shaibu, Majority Leader, Edo House of Assembly, Hon. Patrick Osayimwen, representing Oredo East Constituency, Hon. Johnson Oghuma Egwakhide representing Estako Central Constituency, Hon. Jude Ise-Idehen representing Ikpoba Okha Constituency and Hon. Bright N. Osayande representing Ovia North East 2 Constituency

Other prominent Edo State sons who also graced the occasion were Chief Tom Ikimi, a former Nigeria External Affairs Minister, Col. Asowata of the United States Army, Dr. (Chief) Omokaro Izevbigie, (JP), a Honorable Commissioner in the defunct Bendel State, HRH, Felix Omorodion, the Enogie of Evbuohuan and Mr. Agbonlahor from the Nigerian Embassy in Washington, D.C to name a few.

This year, the keynote speaker was His Excellency, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole, the Executive Governor of Edo State. He used the opportunity to eloquently and diligently inform the conventioners about the on-going government projects as well as action plans that were put in place to address socio-economic malaise such as public safety and unemployment in the state. He also used the opportunity to address other issues such as recent increased insecurity in the State and flooding affecting some communities. Hon. Prince Clem Agba gave an outstanding presentation on the on-going infrastructural development and future projects to soon be undertaken by the Edo State government.

Other guest speakers were Colonel Asowata, United States Army, whose speech focused on unity, Dr. Osaretin Idusuyi, whose speech focused on ENA's long-term strategic goals of providing a platform for healthcare business enterprises to interface with existing public healthcare systems in Edo State. Dr. (Chief) Omokaro Izevbigie, (JP), addressed the monarchical connection between Yoruba and the Benin Kingdom and Hon Razak Bello-Osagie used the opportunity to encourage Edo indigenes to continue to contribute towards the development of the State. He encouraged everyone to have a unity of purpose by reaching out to all Edo indigenes in the Diaspora.

Convention highlights:

As with previous ENA conventions, the 2011 convention in Miami, Florida was memorable in many respects. The highlights include:

- 1 The celebration of ENA 20th Anniversary and cutting of anniversary cake.
- 2 The recognition of corporate sponsorship. This was demonstrated during the ARIK sponsorship of two, free round-trip tickets from New York City to Benin City, and the sponsorship of convention banners, convention bags and wristbands by EMAX Communication.
- 3 Interactive lectures, seminars and conferences with a focus on women, networking, entrepreneurship, healthcare delivery, and history.
- 4 The launching of the Edo Youth Movement. An ENA initiative to actively engage and liaise with our youth through activities developed and implemented by them. The initiative will also be used in bridging the cultural/generational divide.
- 5 Refocusing the collective energies of the member clubs with an emphasis on “Strength in Unity” and One State, One people.
- 6 The introduction of Sunday night party as a convention event, in addition to the existing Saturday banquet.

Resolutions:

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

- 1 Remove ...”in the USA and Canada” from its name and now be known as **Edo National Association**. This name change is part of the process of making ENA a global entity, allowing other like-minded organizations from outside the USA and Canada to become members. This is also in keeping with the global recognition and acknowledgement of ENA by the Edo’s in the Diaspora.
- 2 Continue to provide an enabling and productive environment to all ethnic groups from Edo State around the world to become members.
- 3 Continue with the theme and long-term strategic goal of making Edo State a focal point of health care and reforms by facilitating the synergies between the public and private healthcare systems in the State.
- 4 Provide continued support to member clubs in their effort to implement developmental projects that are beneficial to the people of Edo State.
- 5 Provide logistics and other types of support to member clubs with scholarship programs that benefit qualified Edo State indigenes in Nigerian Universities and other institutions of higher learning.
- 6 Support the youths in developing marketable skills as well as creating opportunity for self-employment and development.
- 7 Continue to build on the relationship with Edo State traditional rulers in meeting our strategic goals.
- 8 Award the 2012 Convention hosting to Bini Club of Southern California in Los Angeles, California.

On this our 20th anniversary, ENA continues to evolve to not only meet the realities of a changing world but also meet the vision of the founding fathers who in their infinite wisdom saw the need for an organization like this. Through our programs, goals and mission, we continue to actively refocus our collective energies to meet this vision. We thank them for their foresight! For the present membership, we thank you for your programs designed to change people’s lives, to those who in small and large ways have contributed to the success we are today, we thank you for your generous spirit.

Long Live ENA! Long Live Edo State!! Long Live Nigeria!!! Oba ghato Okpere, Ise!!!!

Respectfully Submitted by:

Mr. Benson Osawe, Dr. Dickson Idusuyi, Mr. Nosa Agho and Mr. Charles Oviawe