



NIBO UNION USA, INC.

HANDOVER OF NIBO USA HOSPITAL TO NIBO UNION

Welcome Address by Mr. Godfrey O. Ezeigwe, National President

His Excellency, Governor Peter Obi (CON) (Okwute) the Executive Governor of Anambra State, His Royal Highness Eze Dr. M. C. Ngene (JP), Ezeike IV of Nibo, the President General Nibo Union, Pharm. Okey Goodluck Nwankwo, Chairman, Chief (Sir) Engr. Nnaemeka Nwawka, honorable chiefs, Ndi Nze na Ozo Nibo, Ndi Nnemulu Obodo, UmuEzeike, our in-laws, friends and well-wishers. Welcome to the official handover of Nibo Union USA hospital ceremony. We thank you sincerely for expending the time and resources to be with us here today. We are equally grateful to God for granting us trip mercies to grace this unique occasion.

Nibo Union USA was formed about 15 years ago in Atlanta Georgia to primarily cultivate and strengthen bonds, foster communication and solidarity amongst Nibo citizens within the United States of America. We are happy to announce that despite some challenges, Nibo Union USA remains united.



With love, maturity and growth of the organization, Nibo Union USA decided to engage in community development projects that will benefit our families and community at home. To that end, Nibo Union USA was able to complete the construction of the multi-purpose hall for Nneoma Girls Secondary School, Nibo. The school would have been shut down without the facility. We were excited that the only female secondary institution in Nibo was rescued. With the same spirit, Nibo Union USA in 2002 launched a major fundraising drive for the construction of Nibo-Amawbia road, which was neglected over the years. However when the government came through with construction of that road, we re-directed our efforts to other issues facing our town.

At the Nibo Union USA National convention in Atlanta in 2005, the union identified the lack of adequate healthcare facilities as one of the most pressing needs of Nibo people. To address this deficiency, Nibo Union USA embarked on the construction of a modern 40-bed hospital at the site of Nibo maternity. Location of the hospital by the maternity was deliberate. The historic Nibo Maternity and Health Center was a product of sweat of our mothers and grandmothers (Nnemulu Obodo) who also, in the 1950s, concluded that lack of adequate pre-natal care and frequent deaths of our people during child birth were inexcusable and avoidable. Today, we salute Nnemulu Obodo Nibo for their foresight, sacrifice and leadership.

It is necessary to emphasize that the design and construction of the hospital has not been easy. However, completion of this project was a reflection of the love and gratitude that Nibo people in the USA have for our dear town. It is also a product of the tremendous dedication and sacrifices that some of our fathers, brothers and sisters at home committed to the design, supervision and finance of the project. In addition, it is a testimony to what we can accomplish when we work together.

To equip the hospital, Nibo Union USA delivered a 40-foot container shipment of medical supplies and equipment to the hospital in July, 2012. We are immensely grateful to MedShare International USA for making that possible. In line with improving the health care services for our people and the surrounding communities, our union in August 2012 organized a medical mission to Nibo in collaboration with ASA-USA. It is fulfilling that we were in the position to provide that unique medical service to our people. We wish to appreciate respective Nibo Union branches that contributed to make the mission possible.

His Excellency, His Royal Highness (Ezeike IV), Nibo President General and UmuEzeike, we wish to recollect that at the onset of this project, one of our overarching objectives was to ensure that the operation of the new hospital would yield maximum benefit to our people. For this reason, we propose that Nibo Union should involve

Nibo Union USA in its ongoing effort to explore the optimal hospital management strategy with the State Government. We are fortunate to have His Excellency the Executive Gov of Anambra state here with us, hence we appeal to him to help us make this partnership a reality. We have set up a committee to work with Nibo Union to accomplish that objective.

We will like to use this opportunity to recognize those that contributed immeasurably to make the hospital project possible. First, we are indebted to members of Nibo Union USA who have contributed generously to the project despite the harsh economic recession in the USA. We are equally grateful to non members of Nibo Union USA, at home and abroad who have contributed towards this project. We are grateful to the past and current Nibo USA presidents: Dr. Anene Onyilofor, Sir Charlie Chiedu and Mr. Godfrey Ezeigwe for faithfully guiding the union during the construction of the hospital. We are equally grateful to the past and present members of Nibo Union USA executives and branch presidents who devoted their time and efforts to make this hospital project a reality. Finally, we express our sincere gratitude to Mr. Eric Anachebe for initiating contact with MedShare International, and for his selfless efforts in successfully coordinating the MedShare medical equipment donation and shipment to Nibo hospital. Please, join us to recognize some members of Nibo Union USA representatives who made the long journey to be here today.

It is essential to recognize Arc. David Moh, who designed and supervised the construction of the hospital free of charge. Our special appreciation goes to the Nibo Union USA hospital building committee led by Chief (Sir) Dr. Raphael U. Igwebuike (*Ugo Nibo*) for their selfless efforts and sacrifices devoted in managing this project. Other members of the committee include Chief (Sir) Lawrence Ogbuefi (*Okeazu Nibo*), Arc. David Moh, Engr. (Sir) Emmanuel Chiedu, Sir Herbert C. Chiaghana, Dr. Tony OC Nwokoye, Dr. Moses Nwoye, Quantity Surveyor Humphrey U. Nwokoye, and Engr. Bertram U. Chine. We thank Chief (Sir) Engr. Nnaemeka Nwawka (*Gosife*) for chairing the hospital fund raising at Nibo in December 2008, and for his generous donation. We also recognize Pharm. Okey Goodluck Nwankwo, Nibo President General. He went the extra mile to secure 'Waiver Letter' from His Excellency Governor Peter Obi (CON) for the clearing of container shipment of the hospital supplies and equipments, to organize Nibo Union USA / ASA-USA medical mission in August 2012 and for organizing the hospital handover ceremony to Nibo Union. Lastly, we express our gratitude to Professor, Dr. Kunle Obidike for coordinating the medical mission, and all the other people that participated in August 2012 on our behalf we salute you.

As part of UmuEzeike in the Diaspora, it is our expectation that Nibo Union USA will continue to wax strong and stay united. However, such a growth cannot be without the participation of all Nibo citizens residing in the USA. It is for this reason that we wish to appeal to our parents at home to please encourage all their children in the USA to join Nibo Union USA. In a similar vein, those living in other parts of the world should be encouraged to join the Nibo Union branches where ever they live to promote unity, progress and development of Nibo.

As we celebrate this monumental achievement of building Nibo Union USA hospital today, we remember the unfortunate passing of our dear brother Dr. Robins Ejike Ezenezi, (*Nwachinemelu*), popularly known as "The Young Doctor". His untimely death was indeed a shock to the entire members of Nibo Union USA and to our people. He was an active member of Nibo Union USA and contributed towards the construction of this hospital. Our sympathy and prayers go to his parents and the entire Nibo people.

Nibo Union USA is profoundly grateful to His Excellency, dignitaries and all of you for honoring our invitation. We are delighted to be in a position to contribute to the development of Nibo. May The Almighty God lead you safely back to your respective destinations as you depart.

Thanks for coming and happy Ezeike day. May God bless all of us.

Godfrey Okey Ezeigwe (*Mgbeonyejinu*), National President, Nibo Union USA, Inc.