

THE 2009 MANKON CULTURAL BONANZA

We all know that this is an important year in the history of our village as we look forward to celebrating the twin cultural event back home at the end of 2009. Preparations had started as early as the end of 2007 and beginning of 2008 when the Fo of Mankon made a successful meet-the-people tour of the United States and Cameroon. Those preparations have been heating up as time goes by. Mankon people and their friends back at home have been making their material, financial and other kinds of contributions to make sure that the event is a success. The Diaspora has not been left out. More especially, Mankon people and well-wishers of Mankon here in the US are expected to do even more considering our economic strength and the strong ties that we have with the land of our ancestors. In this light, this is another opportunity to exhibit the spirit of unity and sacrifice so that we, as a people, can stand tall and proud come December 2009. To succeed in this endeavor, MACUDA America hereby proposes a road map that will guide us in our efforts.

What Is The Twin Event?

Dubbed “Mbom Ala 2009,” this year’s cultural festival, under the theme, “Safeguarding Mankon of Yesterday and Today for Tomorrow,” will be a merger of two distinct events of great importance to the Mankon people.

First, in addition to the usual Fo’s Dance or Abeung –afo, there will be exhibitions and sales of Mankon art and craft, industrial and commercial products, and audio-video products. There will also be a tour centered on the monumental Mankon Museum, the sacred forest around the Palace, and the fascinating Ala’kyie heritage site. As a reminder, Ala’kyie, where monuments have been erected, is the old palatial site with tombs and shrines of 7 kings or Fos.

Second, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the enthronement of the current Fo of Mankon, Fo Angwafo III S.A.N., as the paramount leader of the Mankon people. Think about it. Our Fo has lived through at least 10 American presidencies. Or better still, he was enthroned just one year after Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain. In a world of turmoil and instability, we cannot help but celebrate the calm, peace and sense of continuity that reign in our beloved village. This is even more so when we consider that it is Fo Angwafo III who is responsible for the transformation of Mankon from a village to the attractive and hospitable city that is also an educational hub.

The numerous projects in Mankon, including pipe borne water provision, coupled with the celebration of the golden jubilee of Fo Angwafo III are what constitute this year’s twin cultural festival.

Contribution of MACUDA America

Mankon people in America and their friends will not stand on the side lines while the rest of Mankon is basking in festivity. Our contribution to the twin event will be achieved in a multi-dimensional manner.

1. Contribution of MACUDA America as an Association: 425 Dollars

After laying the financial foundation to assure the success of our 2009 convention in Dallas, the National Executive Council (NEC) of MACUDA America felt safe enough to come up with a monetary contribution to the events at home. Considering that we had just about 1000 dollars left in our coffers, NEC members were asked to make individual proposals of what they wanted the association to contribute to the festival. The President eventually summed up the proposed amounts and divided the total by the number of proposals and came up with an aggregate of 425 dollars. This will therefore be the contribution of our association to this year's " Mbom Ala. "

2. MACUDA America Branches

NEC is aware that some branches of MACUDA America have already made contributions to support the festival while others are still preparing to do so. In our subsequent publications, we shall let you know who has contributed what in support of this course.

3. Individual Contributions

According to the budget estimate made and published by the Palace of Mankon, individuals in the following groups will contribute their corresponding amounts:

- Adult women- 2,500frs Cfa
- Adult men- 5000frs
- Elite- 100.000frs
- Princes- 30.000frs
- Butabatsey (Clan Heads)- 15.000frs
- Quarter Heads- 10.000frs

Considering our economic power here in the US, we should fall within the "Elite" group. However, this is not an imposition but a goodwill gesture that reflects our pride as a people. The bigger our hearts and the deeper our pockets, the more we may want to contribute. NEC therefore suggests that we make our individual contributions either through our branches if we

can, mail them directly to the treasurer of MACUDA America, or do so to the respective NEC members in our local areas:

- **Dr Azah Tabah Awah (Treasurer)**-Tel: (763) 442-1315; Address: 4633 Filmore St. NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421
- **Aloysius Nde (Financial Secretary)**-Tel: (612) 396-9002
- Elijah Nde Che (President)- Tel: (952) 457-0183
- Violet Khien Nkimbeng (Vice President)-Tel: (978) 328-8050
- Roseta Swiri Ade (Secretary of Culture)-Tel: (301) 257-2601

At the end of the day, the total collected will be sent to the palace of Mankon with specifications as to the individual donors and their corresponding amounts donated. This way, receipts will be issued to such individuals for the sake of transparency and record-keeping.

Deadline

Donations are expected to be mailed out on or before May 1, 2009. Once all donations are received, they will be recorded and wired home immediately.

Transparency and Accountability

Weekly statements will be published henceforth showing the different chapters and individuals that have made donations and their respective amounts donated. After the April 1st deadline and when all donations will have been collected, a final statement will be published that will show all the transactions that may have taken place concerning this matter. Time will be allocated for the correction of any errors that may have ensued before the final amount and names are sent home.

Let this moment serve as an opportunity for us to reaffirm ourselves as the proudest and yet most hospitable and cosmopolitan people west of the Moungo.

Tangyie Munyong-Abieri

MACUDA America President

(On behalf of NEC)