

Fellow Mankonians,

Greetings from the National Executive Committee (NEC) of our great association. It's been about two weeks that we had our empowerment gathering in Baltimore and we of NEC hope that the gods of Mankon and the Almighty have been protecting us in our respective stations.

The committee that was elected to steer the affairs of MACUDA-AMERICA started work as early as Sunday July 22, 2007 with a meeting including the local branch members. This meeting started to sort out financial, material and other issues related to the convention. The discussions have continued ever since then in a fraternal and constructive spirit.

Also, on Sunday July 29, 2007, NEC had a conference call between 3pm and 6:30pm during which, among other things, a program of action was proposed, debated upon and adopted with due consideration to our existing financial, human and other resources. The following, fellow tribes' people, is the first phase of the NEC program of action and its timeline.

### **Financial Goal**

Considering that what we have in the coffers of MACUDA-AMERICA is limited to the registration money collected during the July 2007 convention, we intend to embark on a drive, together with the various branch executives and other resource persons, to get more members registered at their local levels. We are also working to get members and prospective members honor the \$100 "I love MACUDA" donation proposed and applauded for during the convention. This way, we hope to open the gateway for a bright financial future to the association.

### **Registration of MACUDA-AMERICA**

This project is very fundamental because although MACUDA-AMERICA can now boast of a legitimate existence, it still lacks a legal personality. We acknowledge that **Barrister Stella Angwafo** had been given the task of initiating the registration process from the first convention in 2006. But she could not finalize the project because certain prerequisites for registration could not be met before the 2007 convention such as the submission of the names of the members of the executive board of the association. Presently, NEC is working together with Barrister Angwafo in order to get MACUDA-AMERICA registered with a 501 C status.

### **MACUDA Website**

We now live in world ruled by information technology and we can't afford to lag behind when we have the means to move forward. In this vein, NEC is working to create and manage a website for MACUDA. This resource will have so many advantages for our nascent organization including the the publication and preservation of the things that are important to our image, identity, culture, tradition, heritage, legacy and destiny. This forum will also help to keep the Mankon family together irrespective of where they are in the world. We have requested and obtained promises from some goodwill Mankon people to join hands with NEC for the realization of this project.

## **Timeline**

NEC has split up its first year in office into two parts. The program that is outlined above will be realized in the first half of the year (that is, the first six months in office). The second half of the year will be dedicated to organizing the third MACUDA Convention in New England. Considering that this will be the first Convention to involve MACUDA-AMERICA, NEC believes that there will be a lot of work to do and this much time will be needed to do things effectively. However, it should be pointed out that this program is like the North Star that is guiding us towards the right direction. It is possible that NEC could take care of a few other things that may trickle in along the way.

## **Clarion Call**

We the members of NEC continue to feel honored by the trust and confidence bestowed on us by the Mankon family in America. At the same time, we feel challenged by the business of our tenure and the expectations of our community. We oncemore reassert our commitment to fulfill our mission to the best of our abilities. We understand that our community has spoken in tongues for a long time. We equally recognize the new spirit that is galvanizing us presently. A spirit that entails that we start speaking the same language and working together to forge our collective destiny. In our attempt to see things done the right way, we may disagree. But our elders say that a house without disagreement is an empty one. Our house is full and bubbly with energy. We just have to make sure this energy is positive so that we don't stifle the efforts we are trying to harness. We need all hands on deck. NEC members will be contacting you for advice and other input. But you should also make an effort to touch base with any NEC member to make a contribution.

Mankon is a very resourceful village and we have all it takes to move forward. All we can do now is evoke the protection and blessings of our gods and the Maker of all things so that our knees may never wobble and our voices never quiver as we move and sing in unison along the path of a rebirth of our legacy. Our days, surely, will be long and fruitful. But before we get to those glorious days, there is work to be done and let's get to it.

Tangyie Munyong-Abieri  
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