

World Owerri Peoples' Congress, Inc.,

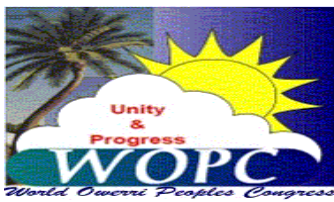
Communiqué of the World Owerri Peoples Congress on her 9th Annual Global Convention

Topic: Nde~Owerre, Our Destiny Is In Our Hands

Cleveland, Ohio. 24th – 25th July, 2009

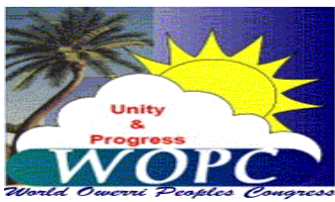
July 30, 2009

1. We, members of the World Owerri Peoples Congress (WOPC), convened in Cleveland, Ohio for the 9th annual global convention from the 24th to 25th of July 2009 under the theme “*Nde~Owerre, Our Destiny Is In Our Hands*”.
2. We thank the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the World Owerri Peoples’ Congress and its able leader, Prince Charlie Muruako, for hosting the Congress in the most generous way. The Congress is greatly appreciative of the extraordinary work done by Prince Muruako, his lovely wife Dorathea, and the entire Mid-Atlantic Chapter. Simply put, Prince Muruako and Lady Dorathea were the most indispensable components of the convention exercise and we are grateful to them.
3. We thank Mr. Ally Akujobi, the Convention Planning Committee Chairman, and his lovely wife, for their work, time, and sacrifices in ensuring a smooth and successful convention. We have no doubt that without Mr. Ally’s sacrifices, commitment and selfless devotion to the cause, their might have been a different outcome. For their generosity and wonderful display of love for their people, we owe them an immense debt of gratitude.
4. The Congress is deeply grateful to Captain Emmanuel Ihenacho, his spouse and their wonderful children for honoring our invitation. Not only did Captain Ihenacho honor our invitation and attend the convention, he gave a keynote speech that was very well received and roundly applauded by all in attendance. The Captain displayed total knowledge and grasp of the issues facing Nde Owerre today and suggested many ways of going about achieving them. We acknowledge his donation and generosity towards WOPC and we thank him for it. We look forward to working with him in actualizing many of the suggestions put forward at the convention.
5. The WOPC is grateful to Honorable Ernest Ibejako. Honorable Ibejiako represents Owerri Federal Constituency in the Nigerian House of Representatives in Abuja. Honorable Ibejiako honored our invitation to attend the convention and preside as its



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- chairman. We also wish to acknowledge his donation and generosity. Mr. Ibejiako not only cataloged his own personal achievements for nde-Owerre in the Federal House of Representatives, he also cataloged the achievements of Governor Ikedi Ohakim of Imo State for Nde~Owerre. We are grateful to Hon. Ernest Ibejiako - (Nwa Ndaa).
6. We express our deep appreciation and warm affection for the following special guests who came all the way from Nigeria to grace the Cleveland convention. Most of these guests may have deemed it obligatory to attend the Cleveland convention and for that, we are as equally indebted to them.
 - Mr. Christian Oweaya Anukam, President General, Owerre Nshi Ise, in Council.
 - Honorable Nnaemeka Maduagwu, former speaker, Imo House of Assembly.
 - Honorable Victor Muruako, former Chairman, Owerri West local government.
 - Eze (Sir) James O. Muruako, (KSJ), JP, Akawelitaramba 1, Nnaochie II of Ihiagwa Autonomous Community, Chairman, Council of Traditional Rulers - Owerri West Local Government, and his beloved wife, Ugoeze.
 - Eze Sondo Okoro, Omenyi II, Traditional Ruler, Emii Autonomous Community.
 - Chief Richard Onyenobi, Agunaechemba 1 of Nekede, Traditional Prime Minister, and;
 - Mr. Jude Ejiogu
 7. We wish to acknowledge the very special effort and sacrifice of a very special person, our very own WOPC Board Chairman, Dr. Denis Onyegbulaonweya Ekwerike, and his lovely wife, Mrs. Adina Ekwerike, and their children, who under extraordinary circumstances drove more than 7 hours to attend the Cleveland Convention. Many people, given the same set of circumstances, would have found reasons and, justifiably so, not to attend the Convention; but, not Dr. Ekwerike. The Congress has no illusions about his love for nde~Owerre, his unbridled commitment to the cause, and his capacity for good. On behalf of a grateful Congress, we wish Dr. Ekwerike God's speed and may his light continue to shine on the Congress ever more brightly.
 8. The WOPC wishes to express her profound happiness at the way this year's election of the new leaders of the Congress was conducted. The election was without bitterness, acrimony or rancor and demonstrated a maturing organization. We wish to acknowledge the hard work of all our members that made it all possible.
 9. We acknowledge the concerns expressed by most of our visiting brothers and sisters and by some of us in the WOPC Congress about the need for a united WOPC. The need for a united WOPC is of paramount importance to the leadership of this Congress. We wish to state parenthetically and without a doubt that the leadership is



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- committed to reaching out to all our brothers and sisters of the WOPC and beyond. In time, you will see sustained efforts by all, in this regard, and, you will be the judge. We pledge to you that we will do our best and reach out to all aggrieved members.
10. There may be some hardliners who still are irrevocably committed to achieving the same goals of the WOPC for nde~Owerre using other methods or approaches, or, whose feelings may take a longer time to mend, we appeal to the better angels of their nature to join us in this cause, it is a cause that is greater than all of our individual disparate causes.
 11. It is the hope and desire of the WOPC leadership that overtime, the wounds of battle would heal, and the hurts will dissipate, and nde~Owerre everywhere shall once again jubilee and unite in pursuit of our common and manifest destiny.
 12. The WOPC is open to ideas from everyone. The Congress is however concerned that some of our well-meaning brothers and sisters are unmindful of the constraints imposed on the organization by its Constitution and Bylaws as well as by the preparations necessary for beginning a sizable project at Owerri. At WOPC, we believe that fundraising is a first condition that must precede project citing and implementation. The WOPC Congress would set its priorities and agenda as it should, and would not be dictated to.
 13. The WOPC leadership acknowledges the desire and request by some members of our Congress and by some of our visiting dignitaries to hold a WOPC annual convention at Owerri and the benefits that may flow from it. The leadership is not resistant to the idea, but, must as a prudential and constitutional matter, conduct its own study on the logistics and benefits accruing from their proposal before making its recommendation to the WOPC 'Board of Directors' and to the Congress.
 14. In closing, we wish to thank former WOPC President, Chief Chris Ifeanyichukwu Nwaneri, Akudo 1 of Owerri, and his lovely wife, Lolo Ada Nwaneri, for their three years of service to nde~Owerre, which culminated in the election that gave rise to a smooth transfer of authority and a new administration. Even in the most difficult of circumstances, Chief Nwaneri and his wife persevered and delivered for their people. The WOPC Congress and its newly elected leaders, on behalf of a grateful people, owe Chief Nwaneri and his wife, an enormous debt of gratitude.

Martin Ajaero
WOPC General Secretary

Edmund Abakporo
WOPC President