

COMMUNIQUE OF THE LANDMARK 10th YEAR ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION OF BONNY ISLAND FOUNDATION (B.I.F.), U.S.A. AND CANADA HELD AT THE CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA, AUGUST 30TH TO SEPTEMBER 2ND 2013.

The Convention was officially declared open, by the Deputy Grand Patron of BIF, Chief (Dr.) O.R. LongJohn, amidst goodwill messages from our Patrons and various government functionaries from Georgia State. Over 150 delegates attended the convention, including the keynote speaker, Professor Howells I. Hart, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port-Harcourt, Senibo Promise Green who represented the Chairman, Bonny Local Government Council, Honorable (Barrister) Edward Pepple, and representatives from sister organizations, among others. Dr. Peter D. Hart, President of BIF in his welcome address, thanked everyone for their sacrifice, presence, and support, and particularly noted the spirit of unity exhibited by all. He emphasized the importance of the theme of the convention, “*Educational Advancement in Bonny*”, and the launching of the Bonny Island Foundation Scholarship/Bursary Scheme.

Bonny Island Foundation, having determined that sustainable development can be achieved through Educational Advancement in Bonny and being cognizant of existing efforts in this regard following the panel discussion and papers presented at the convention, hereby resolve as follows:

Resolutions

- 1) That pursuant to the goal of increasing attendance at tertiary institutions, a Scholarship/Bursary Fund will be established by the Bonny Island Foundation to fund the education of high-performing and/or indigent Bonny students in institutions of higher learning. All Bonny citizens and organizations at home and the Diaspora are encouraged to generously contribute to this noble cause.
- 2) That all stakeholders, including the Bonny Traditional Chiefs’ Council, the Bonny Local Government Council, and Companies operating in Bonny should take an interest in the funding and equipping of primary schools in Bonny with modern teaching aids, recognizing that a good primary education is the foundation for success and educational advancement.
- 3) That adequate number of qualified primary school teachers and support staff should be recruited to meet and possibly exceed the needs of the national minimum student-to-teacher ratio requirement for effective learning.
- 4) That the Local Government Council through its Education committee should engage in shared community partnership and institutionalize parent and patron involvement in developing policies and providing resources targeted to achieve high academic standards for all primary school students.
- 5) That adequate number of qualified secondary school teachers and support staff, especially in Mathematics, English Language and the Sciences, should be recruited to meet and possibly exceed the national minimum student-to-teacher ratio requirement for effective learning.

- 6) That aggressive recruitment, training and retention of teachers in Mathematics, English Language, and Science at the primary and secondary school levels should be pursued through collaboration with the Local Government Council, the Bonny Traditional Chiefs' Council, and companies operating in Bonny such as NLNG, Shell, and ExxonMobil.
- 7) That all Bonny stakeholders, including individuals and organizations at home and the Diaspora should be encouraged to assist in organizing and funding preparatory/extramural classes for students preparing to take Mathematics, English Language, and the Sciences in external examinations.
- 8) That the Bonny Vocational training College (BVC) should be upgraded and expanded to accommodate Bonny citizens willing to acquire skills that are in high demand by Companies operating in Bonny. These companies should be encouraged to assist in the training and hiring of the graduands.
- 9) That career Guidance Counselors should be recruited by the Local Government Council to help channel the aptitudes and potential of students in the right direction for maximum career success.
- 10) That a committee should be formed comprising principally of Bonny citizens in the academia, the Local Government Council, the Traditional Chiefs' council, and companies operating in Bonny, to do further "Needs Analysis" to determine areas of current and future needs and to channel efforts to ensure that gaps identified are bridged.
- 11) That for the benefit of graduates of secondary and tertiary institutions, existing mechanisms for obtaining employment for Bonny citizens should be enhanced and better publicized so as to improve awareness of its processes.
- 12) That the public libraries in Bonny should be used for proper planning and implementation of activities such as "Reading Programs" and "Book Clubs" which will aid students of all ages to improve their reading ability, stimulate their imagination and other critical thinking skills.
- 13) That the public libraries in Bonny should be used to Implement outreach programs in the community by hiring workers with library skills, retired teachers, and other eminent citizens, to help bridge cultural and linguistic gaps in the community. To support these library programs, supplemental funds from individuals and organizations in Bonny and the Diaspora should be sought including donation of books and other useful equipments.
- 14) That given the importance of values for the success of individuals and communities, all stakeholders should extol the importance of higher education above immediate pecuniary preoccupations. This should be stressed in families, churches, and all civic and cultural associations.

God Bless a united Grand Bonny Kingdom.

Signed: for and on behalf of the Bonny Island Foundation (BIF) of U.S.A and Canada.

Dr. Peter D. Hart, President (signed)

Engr. Norman Halliday, General Secretary (signed)

Professor Adango Miadonye, Chairman, 10th Anniversary convention planning committee (signed)

Dr. Leslie M. Green, Co-Chairman, 10th Anniversary convention planning committee (signed)

Professor Minabere Ibelema, Secretary, 10th Anniversary convention planning committee (signed)

Mrs. Ibie Green, Chair, BIF Scholarship/Bursary Fund; Member, 10th Anniversary Convention Planning Committee (signed)

Mrs. Mercy Halliday, Member, 10th Anniversary convention planning committee (signed)

Mr. Sam Atuokiki James, Chairman, Local organizing committee (signed)