

COMMUNIQUE OF THE 19th-YEAR ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION OF THE BONNY ISLAND FOUNDATION(BIF) OF USA/CANADA.

Preamble:

From September 5th to 7th, 2022, Bonny Island Foundation (BIF) USA/CANADA hosted a three-day very colorful, and memorable 19^h-year anniversary Bonny in Diaspora Convention at the Holiday Inn and Suites, Germantown-Gaithersburg, in beautiful Montgomery County, Maryland, USA. The theme of the Convention, ***“Promoting and Projecting Bonny Culture and Heritage for Our Youth in Diaspora,”*** was true to itself as the Organization showcased for the first time, its BIF Youth Ambassadors in front of Convention attendees, including very important personalities from Grand Bonny Kingdom and the USA. This was BIF’s first in-person meeting since 2019, with the outbreak of COVID-19. By all accounts, the convention was very successful!

In an atmosphere marked with warmth, cheer, laughter, and remarkable kinship, over two hundred (200) Ibani sons and daughters, children, delegates, distinguished guests of honor, friends, and representatives of sister organizations from all over the United States, Canada, and Nigeria converged for this event. Some Guest Speakers from Bonny Island and the Abuja Federal Territory participated remotely via Zoom.

Notable dignitaries among the delegates included Se-Alabo Benjamin Dagogo Adda-Allison and Amaopuorubo Alabota Dame Carol Adda-Allison, Amaopuorubo Professor Jessica Ezekiel-Hart and Ambassador Lot Peter Egopija the Consulate General of Nigeria in New York.

Resolutions:

At the conclusion of 19th BIF Convention the following resolutions were taken based on the theme of this year’s convention:

1. That the successfully inaugurated BIF Youth wing is open to all Bonny youths in diaspora, and that the BIF will continue to provide mentorship to the Youth branch when necessary in the tradition and culture of Bonny kingdom.
2. That all Bonny citizens in diaspora and at home continue to promote and project Bonny-Ibani culture so that Grand Bonny’s History and rich Cultural Heritage are preserved for present and future generations. That we encourage and advocate for the needs of our future generations.
3. That to perpetuate Ibani heritage amongst Bonny youth we like to re-emphasize our recommendation that the Bonny School Board through the Bonny Local Government initiate the immediate incorporation of Ibani language into the Primary and Secondary school curriculum in Bonny Kingdom.
4. That the BIF Youth in diaspora, and in deed all Bonny in diaspora, should as much as possible explore the Investment Opportunities and Free Trade Zones in Nigeria and the Role of Youth CEOs in the Abuja Chamber of Commerce. The outcome, amongst others, of our roundtable discussion with Guest Speakers from The Abuja Federal Territory.

5. To follow up with the Bonny Local Government Chairperson's request in her Keynote message, to explore and exploit all lawful opportunities to make better what is available in Bonny in the four areas listed below:

- (a). Education and Skills Acquisition, (b). Wealth Creation and Ease of Doing
- c. Cultism and Drug Control, (d). Security and Law and Order.

6. That all Bonny people in the Diaspora and at home, regardless of distance, persuasion, or allegiance recommit themselves to a united, safe, secure, and peaceful Bonny Kingdom through collaboration, dialogue, selfless sacrifice, and solidarity.

Finally, BIF continues its emphasis on "Youth as purveyors of our culture and tradition" and as such, immerse BIF Youth in Bonny Kingdom Culture, traditions, and expectations. We encourage and advocate for the needs of our future generations.

God Bless a united, safe, secure, peaceful, and progressive Grand Bonny Kingdom.

Signed by, for, and on behalf of Bonny Island Foundation (BIF) USA/Canada:

Board of Trustees:

Amasenibo Dr. Leslie M. Green (Chairman)
Mrs. Fortune Jumbo Bello(member)
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Dr. Peter D Hart(member)

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Pastor Mrs. Princess Benstowe (Provost)

Signatories:

Warisenibo Teddy Denton Banigo
President, BIF

Amasenibo Dr. Leslie M Green
Chair, Board of Trustees

Prof. (Mrs.) Joy Elizabeth Tamunotonyesia Ben-Jumbo
Chairperson, Convention Organizing Committee