



Bonny Island Foundation
Unity And Service



Bonny Island Foundation

UNITY AND SERVICE

CONVENTION

**Celebrating
20 YEARS**

THEME:
**A TIME TO
CELEBRATE,
REDEDICATE
& EMPOWER**



DATE: SEPTEMBER 01 - 04, 2023

**VENUE: SHERATON BALTIMORE
WASHINGTON AIRPORT-BWI**

HISTORY OF BIF

I will like to start by expressing my gratitude to God for making this day a reality as we gather together to celebrate our 20th anniversary as an organization. Glory be to God Almighty for helping the BIF meet and surpass, the odds notwithstanding, the goals we set for ourselves at the inception of this organization. On the 4th of July 2003, I convened a meeting of some very energetic and patriotic Bonny indigenes at the residence of Mr. Nengi Halliday in North Brunswick, New Jersey. The gathering was to fashion out solutions to the numerous problems that beset us as a people both at home and abroad. I chose that location for logistic and strategic reasons. Those present at that meeting were Nengi Halliday, Leslie Green, Dima Brown, Late Ted Allison, Maxwell Brown, Atedo Banigo, Gogo Brown, Chris Jumbo, Steve Benstowe, Norman Halliday and Adango Miadonye. At the end of the meeting, we resolved to form an umbrella organization for Bonny people in North America.

We had simple dreams. We resolved to live by choice and not by chance, to make changes and not excuses, to be useful and not be used. We were courageous enough not to follow where ever the path may lead, but instead to go where no path exists and leave a trail. We were on the right track as evidenced by our accomplishments.

The BIF was formed to be a catalyst for change, to promote education, Ibani culture and heritage, to foster unity and progress among Bonny people. I feel excited to say that BIF has lived up to its billing. With the wind on our back and God with us, we have achieved a few notable things which are, but not limited to:

1. Formation of the BIF on 4th July 2003 and its registration on 4th of February 2004, as the first and only registered Bonny organization in North America.
2. Organization of annual conventions, at which we form new friendships and cement old bonds.
3. Medical outreach to Bonny, during which

lectures on topics of public health importance were delivered. A health clinic with distribution of free medical supplies to the indigent.

4. Donation of an ECG (Electrocardiogram) machine to the Bonny General Hospital for the diagnosis of Cardiac conditions.

5. Donation and distribution of protective face masks to all the Major Houses in Bonny, during the COVID -19 Pandemic.

6. Update of our Lord's Prayer in Ibani to encourage usage of Ibani language.

7. Formation of the first Bonny cultural groups (Owu ogbo and Eremina Ogbo) in North America.

8. Advocacy and campaigns towards the completion of the Bonny- Bodo Road.

9. Advocacy and campaigns towards the rebuilding of the Bonny landing jetty in Port Harcourt.

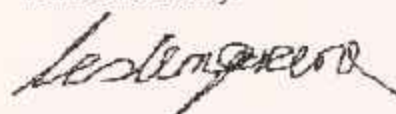
10. Award of Bursary/Scholarships to deserving Bonny students.

11. Recognition and presentation of lifetime achievement awards to notable Bonny citizens in the fields of History, Medicine, Law, Community advocacy, etc.

12. Launching of the Bonny Light House, an interactive internet forum for Bonny indigenes at home and abroad.

13. Interfacing with the Rivers State Government on issues of importance to Ibani people.

It is evident from the forgoing that the BIF has and continues to play its role as the foremost community-based organization among the Ibani at home and abroad. The BIF in the years ahead, God willing, will continue to strive for the development and advancement of our homeland Bonny.



Leslie Minaibim. Green, MD.
Chairman, BIF Board of Trustees.

National Anthem

Arise, O compatriots, Nigeria's call obey
To serve our fatherland
With love and strength and faith
The labour of our heroes past
Shall never be in vain
To serve with heart and might
One nation bound in freedom, peace and unity.

National Pledge

I pledge to Nigeria my country
To be faithful, loyal and honest
To serve Nigeria with all my strength
To defend her unity
And uphold her honour and glory
So help me God.



The Star-Spangled Banner (The National Anthem)

O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.

O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

The Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America,
and to the republic for which it stands,
one nation under God, indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all.



Mission Statement

- To project Ibani Cultural Heritage, language and history, and foster unity and progress in the cultural development of Bonny Kingdom.
- To provide an avenue for the discussion of cultural issues and dissemination of important information.
- To raise awareness about cultural issues that are pertinent to Bonny Kingdom.
- To promote unity and progress among the Ibani at home and abroad.

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

IN IBANI LANGUAGE

Wamina Da Sobie finibo
ton fini iye ere piri
Miesi iye Asama kiribo
I tonye tumini kirimie
Sobie ani fini bara

Wamina ene mamgba finye pa wa piri
Pighi wa miesi mamgba barasi wa piri
Wa barasi pa si pa wamie apu piri piri bara
Minima si wa mu tibirimanye bie so
kuma si bu wa dua pagha mabo
Asama kirima iye ere si
Kuro na tumini na
Besa besa, Amen!

GRAND PATRON



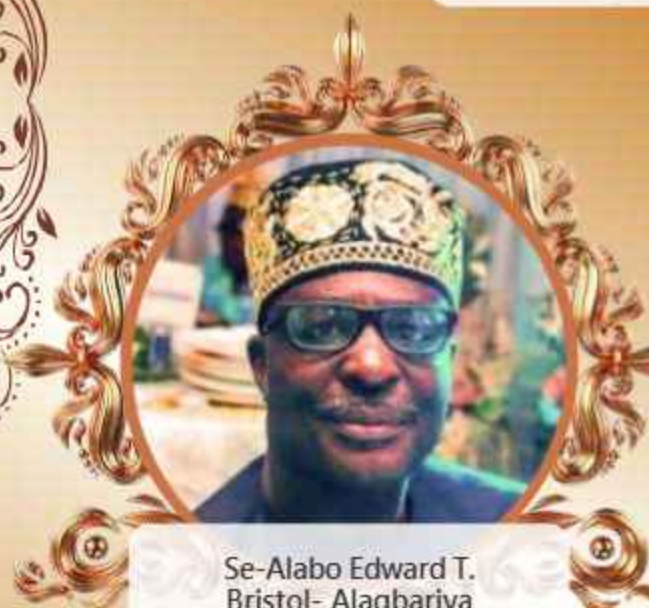
HIS MAJESTY,

KING DR. EDWARD ASIMINI WILLIAM DAPPA PEPPLER III,
EDWARD I, CON, JP, PEREKULE XI, AMANYANABO
AND NATURAL RULER OF ANCIENT GRAND BONNY KINGDOM

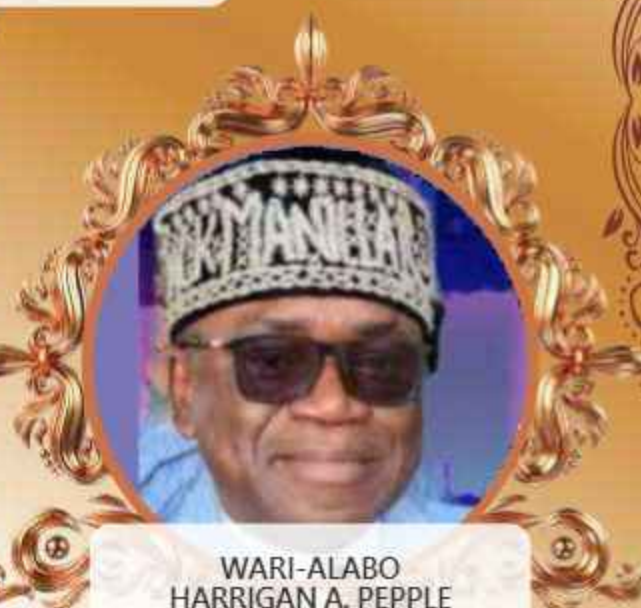
BIF PATRONS



SE-ALABO (DR.) O. R. LONGJOHN
Deputy Grand Patron



Se-Alabo Edward T.
Bristol-Alagbariya
Patron



WARI-ALABO
HARRIGAN A. PEPPLE
Patron

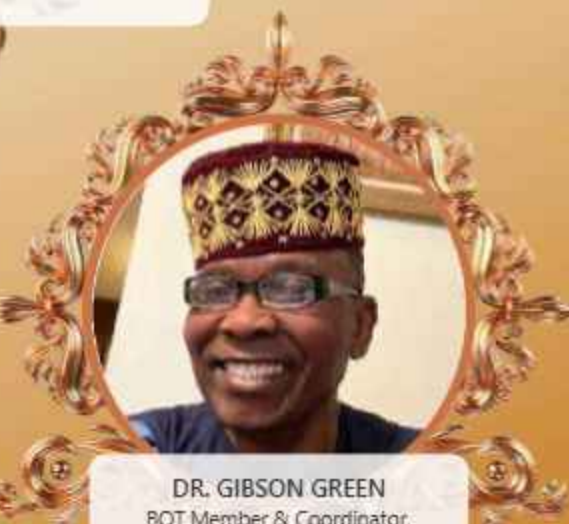
BIF BOARD OF TRUSTEES



DR. LESLIE GREEN
BOT Chairman & Member,
Scholarship Committee



DR. PETER D. HART
BOT Member & Treasurer,
Scholarship Committee



DR. GIBSON GREEN
BOT Member & Coordinator,
Men Cultural Group

BIF GROUP LEADERS



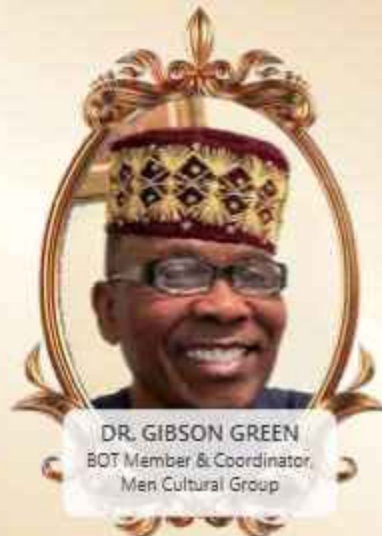
MRS IBIE GREEN

Coordinator, Women
Cultural Group & Chairperson,
Scholarship Committee



MRS. MERCY NENGI HALLIDAY

Coordinator, BIF Prayer
Support Group



DR. GIBSON GREEN

BOT Member & Coordinator,
Men Cultural Group

BIF SCHOLARSHIP BOARD



MRS IBIE GREEN

Chairperson,
Scholarship Board



**OPUSENIBO MACDONALD
I. BARA HART**

Secretary Scholarship Board



DR. PETER D. HART

Treasurer,
Scholarship Board



DR. LESLIE GREEN

Member,
Scholarship Board

BIF EXECUTIVES



**WARISENIBO TEDDY
DENTON BANIGO**
President



**PROFESSOR
ADANGO MIADONYE**
Vice President At-Large



**MRS. IRENE
BROWN**
Vice President West



**MRS. OPUNNE
FURO-ODULANA**
Vice President East & Treasurer



**MRS. EREALA
HALLIDAY-DOSUNMU**
Secretary



**MRS. IBIENE
JUMBO**
Financial Secretary



**MRS. PRINCESS
BENSTOWE**
Provost



**MR. EMMANUEL
DAGOGO JUMBO**
PRO

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY WARISENIBO ATEDOGHU DENTON BANIGO
PRESIDENT OF BONNY ISLAND FOUNDATION (BIF) USA/CANADA.**

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to our 20th Year Anniversary Convention at the beautiful city of Linthicum Heights, Maryland, USA. The 5 years of my tenure as the President of our highly esteemed association of Bonny indigenes in USA and Canada, the Bonny Island Foundation (BIF), have been a humbling and rewarding experience to me. During that period, I have presided over two landmark conventions of the BIF, but nothing is most fulfilling than this year's convention which marks the 20th year celebration of Bonny Island Foundation existence. Guided by our mission and vision statements, BIF has initiated and successfully carried out numerous projects in support of some developmental initiatives in Bonny Kingdom. Some of these projects included: establishing prayer support group and youth group, and supporting our community with medical mission and scholarship scheme, and the provision of face masks during COVID-19 pandemic. Our 20th Anniversary will be commemorated with the commissioning of the monument of the first African professional photographer born in the village of Ayama, Bonny Kingdom, Mr. Jonathan Adagogo Green (1873-1905). These are just a few of our accomplishment. The keynotes address contained the full lists and information on all the BIF projects that have been accomplished in just 20 years of our existence.

When I became BIF President I was faced with several challenges, but was equally lucky to have many members who were eager to render their support to make my tenure successful. While I am extremely grateful to the support I received from members of BIF during my tenure, I want to extend my special thank you to the members of Board of Trustees (BOT) and Executive members of BIF for their guidance throughout my tenure. Their advice was invaluable to me and had

contributed immensely in making my tenure as the President of BIF fruitful.

This year's convention is loaded with activities, from youth welcome wagon on Friday night, keynote addresses, special traditional dances from the men and the women groups, special bouquet interspaced with information on our scholarship projects and Mr. Jonathan Adagogo Green monument project and gala night on Saturday, to commemoration Church Service, boat ride/picnic and evening mix and mingle on Sunday. As this year's Convention Theme stated: "BIF at 20 Years- A Time to Celebrate, Rededicate and Empower", the timing is apt to empower the new generation of BIF. Working together and living our heritage values in our new homeland, we will continue to sustain the momentum of the founding fathers of BIF in the execution of vision and mission statements of this esteemed association.

Once again, you are all welcome to the convention. Enjoy the city and the program in particular. May God bless you all.



Warisenibo Denton Banigo

Warisenibo Denton Banigo.

President, Bonny Island Foundation of USA
and Canada.

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN,
BIF 20TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE**



It is with great pleasure and gratitude to God Almighty that I warmly welcome you, your family, friends and our Special guests of honor to the Bonny Island Foundation (BIF), USA & Canada 20th year anniversary celebration (Convention 2023) holding in Linthicum Heights, Maryland aka "the Free State"

This is the greatest gathering of the IBANIS in Diaspora and we remain true and firmly committed to our mission "to project Ibani cultural heritage, language and history, foster unity and progress in the cultural development of Bonny Kingdom, and promote education and mutual understanding at home and abroad"

This year's convention theme: BIF@ 20, "A time to Celebrate, Rededicate and Empower " is a remarkable acknowledgment of the milestone achievements of our beloved organization, a call to rededicate ourselves to the mission statements of BIF and to empower our Youth to the ideals and future of Bonny Island Foundation.

The landmark convention program will feature keynote addresses by Chief (Dr). O. R. Long John, BIF Deputy Grand Patron, Chief (Dr) E. T, Bristol-Alagbariya, BIF Patron, goodwill messages from Special Guests of honor and a brief History of BIF by Dr. Leslie Green, Chairman, BIF Board of Trustees. One of the highlights will be the Youth Forum on " Bonny Heritage and Culture- the youth perspective"

We will savor our renowned cultural dances by the Women's Eremina-ogbo group and the BIF Men's Masquerade group and a "Fashion and Talent" show by the BIF youth.

During the convention banquet, we will announce the successful candidates of the BIF Scholarship Award for academic year 2024 and raise funds to continue this very important BIF legacy program. Also in the program is a "Raffle draw" and an update/fund raising for Mr. Jonathan Adagogo Green's Memorial Head stone project in Bonny. Additionally, we will reconnect and socialize during an extended GALA Night dance.

A special 20th year Anniversary Thanksgiving Service is another highlight of this convention, followed by the BIF general meeting and election of officers. Also included is a sightseeing tour of the Baltimore Harbor and a social event with traditional food, music and fellowship.

For our BIF youth, I remind you of the words of one of the greatest leaders of all time from the African Continent, Nelson Mandela: "Sometimes, it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom." You are the future of BIF, and it is bright, beautiful and sunny as "Island of Curlews" (Okoloama).

I would like to recognize and immensely thank WariSenibo Teddy Denton Banigo, BIF President, Dr. Leslie Green, Chairman, BIF Board of Trustees, Prof. Adango Miadonye, Co-Chairman, BIF 20th year anniversary convention planning committee, the Executive committee and the 2023 Convention planning committee (CPC) and sub-committees. Your passion, guidance, persistence, hard work and commitment to excellence led to the successful organization of this landmark convention. It is truly appreciated and unmatched.

On behalf of the BIF 20th year anniversary convention planning committee, I wish you all a memorable, enjoyable and successful celebration. THANK YOU for being here, God Bless you all and may GOD BLESS Bonny Island Foundation, USA & Canada and GRAND BONNY KINGDOM.

Peter D Hart, MD, FACP, FASN.

Chairman, BIF 20th year Anniversary Convention Planning Committee, 2023

ORGANIZING COMMITTEES

Central Planning Committee

Dr. Peter Hart (Chair)
Prof. Adango Miadonye (Co-Chair)
President Atedoghu Denton Banigo
Dr. Leslie Green
Mrs. Ibie Green
Engr. Norman Halliday
Mrs. Ogunne Odulana
Mrs. Ibiene Jumbo
Ms. Ayaba Miadonye LongJohn

SUB-COMMITTEES

Finance and Fund Raising

Engr. Norman Halliday (Chair)
Mrs. Ogunne Odulana (Co-Chair)
Mrs. Irene Brown
Mrs. Mercy Halliday
Mrs. Arito Pepple
Ms. Joyce Amoni Halliday

Communications/Invitation

Prof. Joy Ben- Jumbo (Chair)
Mrs. Ala Halliday-Dosunmu (Co-Chair)
Mrs. Princess Benstowe
Ms. Stephanie Halliday
Mr. Fubara Ben-Jumbo
Mrs. Fortune Bello

Program and Publication

Mrs. Ibiene Jumbo (Chair)
Mr. Asona Green (Co-Chair)
Dr. Leslie Green
Mr. Emmanuel Jumbo
Mr. Stephen Bara-Hart

Publicity

Prof. Joy Ben- Jumbo (Chair)
Mrs. Ibiene Olagoke (Co-Chair)
Mr. Reginald Halliday
Mrs. Joyce Simon-Ogan
Ms. Megan Halliday
Ms. Stephanie Halliday

Decor/Catering/ Entertainment (Local Organizing Committee)

Mrs Cecilia Akinboade (Chair Catering)
Mrs. Ogunne Odulana (Co-Chair)
Mrs. Ala Halliday-Dosunmu
Mrs. Ibinye Halliday Olagoke
Mrs. Boma Brown
Mr. Emmanuel Jumbo
Mrs. Mina Bara-Hart (Chair -Décor)
Mrs. Mercy Halliday
Mrs. Iderima Akeju

Logistics/Protocol and Local Organizing Committee

Mrs. Irene Brown (Chair)
Mrs. Mercy Halliday (Co-Chair)
Dr. (Mrs.) Princess Benstowe
Pastor John Benstowe
Bishop Inye Hart
Ms. Boma Brown

Men's Cultural Group

Dr. Gibson Green (Chair) President
President Atedoghu Banigo (Co-Chair)
Prof. Adango Miadonye
Mr. Maxwell Brown
All male members of the Youth Group

SE ALABO DR OSOBONYE ROGERS LONGJOHN

MBBS (LONDON), F.R.C.S, F.M.C.S, F.W.A.C.S, F.I.C.S

Email: osobsli@yahoo.com Tel: 08033118573

Goodwill Message from BIF Deputy Grand Patron, Chief (Dr) O. R. LongJohn.

It is with great honor and pleasure that I warmly congratulate the Bonny Island Foundation (BIF) of the United States of America and Canada for hosting its Landmark and mile stone achievement- 20th year anniversary convention in Baltimore, Maryland.

All Bonny Indigenes at home join me in HAILING those of you who remember GRAND BONNY Kingdom despite being thousands of miles away.

Bonny is being steadily transformed to an ultramodern city by the joint efforts of the Local, State and Federal Governments and the Traditional Council of Se-ALAPU (Chiefs) and their agencies which consists of eminent titled citizens who render selfless and dedicated service to the Community. With gratitude to God, the "dream" of constructing the Bonny-Bodo Road has become a reality with an anticipated completion next year.

The theme of this year's convention "BIF at 20: A time to Celebrate, Rededicate and Empower" is befitting and remarkable for the numerous achievements of BIF which is driven by its mission statement "to project Ibani cultural heritage, language, and history, and to foster unity and progress in the cultural development of Bonny Kingdom"

Notable BIF achievements that come to mind are:

- Organized the First convention of Bonny in diaspora organizations in Ogugumanga, Bonny
- Organized Medical mission in Bonny and donation of medical equipment to the Bonny General Hospital
- Donated over 1000 masks to all Major Houses in Bonny to mitigate COVID transmission
- Launched Scholarship and Bursary awards to Bonny Indigenes to attend Universities at home
- Organized successful annual conventions in major cities in the USA
- Organized the First Bonny Women's cultural dance group (EreminaOgbo) and Men's traditional Masquerade (Owu) display in the USA.

As you CELEBRATE these remarkable achievements for a relatively young organization, I urge you to REDEDICATE yourselves to "Promote UNITY and PROGRESS" among the Ibani at home and abroad and to EMPOWER in the present and future generations (The Youth), a worthy sense of identity and pride for their beloved Father and Mother land -BONNY (Okoloama).

I am confident that this landmark 20th year anniversary convention will lead to crystallization of noble ideas of the best way forward for our great Island-the Grand Bonny Kingdom.

I therefore wish you all Happy and peaceful deliberations. God Bless you all,

SE-ALABO (DR). O. R. LongJohn

UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT
FACULTY OF LAW

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF LAW

Ag. Dean of Law:

Dr. Edward T. Bristol-Alagbariya, Esq.

Post-Docs (Abendee) & Dundee, UK; PhD (Dundee, UK); LL.M.

(PH); MLD, (Lagos); BL (Lagos); LL.B (PH); BA (PH); JP, Kac

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29th June, 2023

Bonny Island Foundation (BIF) USA and Canada

Thro: The President of the Foundation

12 Robertson Road, East Windsor

NJ 08520 USA

Attention: Our dear Very Respected Teddy Denton Banigo,

Re: 2023 Bonny Island Foundation (BIF) Annual Convention: BIF at 20 Years - A Time to Celebrate, Rededicate and Empower ... CONGRATULATIONS for Your Landmark Achievements So far

1. Background: Very warm greetings to you all, members of the Executive Council, Board of Trustees, and the rest of the members of Bonny Island Foundation (BIF), USA and Canada. I bring you affectionate felicitations from the framework of our Ancestors, driving from the bedrock of the Founding Ancestors of Ancient Grand Bonny Kingdom (*Ibanise KoromaTaduapu*), through our Creator and Sovereign of the Entire Universe, God Almighty, in Jesus Mighty Name, AMEN.

It is particularly apt that the theme of this year's BIF Convention is 'Bonny Island Foundation (BIF) at 20 Years - A Time to Celebrate, Rededicate and Empower'.

From the records of BIF, it was incorporated on 4th February, 2004, in Maryland, USA, with the following paraphrased key and noble aims, objectives and/or mission statement: to project Ibani cultural heritage, language and history, and to promote unity and progress among Ibani people at home and abroad, towards global advantage, in particular, for the development and advancement of Bonny Kingdom. Accordingly, the logo of BIF bears 'unity and service'.

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The aforementioned noble aims and objectives feature BIF as a Community-based Organization (CBO) of Ibani people (Bonny and Opobo Kingdoms: *Ibanise*) in diaspora, specifically in North America.

2. ACHIEVEMENTS of BIF in the Framework of BIF's 20th Anniversary CELEBRATION, REDEDICATION and EMPOWERMENT Based on UNITED SERVICE to Bonny Kingdom and *Ibanise* at Large: May I, in a nutshell, outline various achievements of BIF on this score sheet, in the following manner.

♣ To start with, the formation and registration of BIF on 4th February, 2004, in Maryland, USA, may be considered as the formation and registration of the first formally organized and duly incorporated Bonny Community-based Organization (CBO) in North America.

♣ BIF also formed the first Bonny cultural groups (*Owu ogbo* and *Eremina Ogbo*) in North America, in order to promote and project Ibani cultural heritage to the outside world, and thereby educate our children and upcoming generation to imbibe our culture and tradition and to sustain the same onto our future generations.

♣ BIF members translated our Lord's Prayer, premised on Psalm 23, into Ibani language, as one of the ways of promoting our endangered Ibani language (which is a key aspect of our culture and civilization) as well as a means of advancing godliness among our people, in the greater interest of our younger ones and future generations.

Accordingly, towards catering for the welfare and continuous wellbeing of our people back home in Bonny Kingdom, BIF accomplished the following:

- Award of Bursary/Scholarships to deserving Bonny students in Nigeria.
- Donation of an Electrocardiogram (ECG) machine to the Bonny General Hospital.
- Donation of face masks to all Major Houses of Bonny Kingdom, during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Advocacy and campaigns towards rebuilding of the Bonny waterfront (waterside) jetty in Port Harcourt.
- Advocacy and campaigns towards the completion of the Bonny-Bodo Road.
- Launched the Bonny Lighthouse (an internet-based forum for Bonny indigenes at home and abroad) so as to enable them to interact and exchange ideas, especially on

issues of community enlightenment, development, advancement and sustainable wellbeing of Bonny Kingdom.

■ Recognized and presented lifetime achievement awards to renowned Bonny indigenes in the fields of Medicine, History, Humanity, Education, Law, Community advocacy, *et cetera*.

■ Consistently writing to the Rivers State Government, in order to persuade the government to develop Bonny Kingdom and to have meaningful representatives of the Kingdom and *Ibanise* at large, to serve in the government of the state.

Considering the foregoing and other continuing achievements of BIF, it is obvious that BIF is progressively achieving its noble aims and objectives. It is thus appropriate that the Foundation is, in the course of its 20th Anniversary, celebrating the culture of Ibani people, and in the process rededicating itself to sustainably perform this and its other noble aims and objectives, which include empowering Bonny people, especially those who are in Nigeria. These are ways of rendering public service in a harmonious manner and thereby contributing to sustainable community development and advancement, premised on the wellbeing and prosperity of the people of Bonny Kingdom and *Ibanise* at large, as an integral part and parcel of Ijaw Ethnic Nationality of modern Nigeria, in the realm of community wellbeing, development and advancement.

3. Concluding Remarks: May I conclude by remarking that a period of two decades may suffice as a yardstick for assessment of the journey of BIF. On this note, using the footprints of public service and statesmanship of *Ibanise's* Founding Ancestors (*Ibanise KoromaTaduapu*), especially Premier Monarchs (*Tari Amanyapanu*), towards the wellbeing of Ancient Grand Bonny Kingdom and its people, during the *primaeval*, primordial or aboriginal era of the Kingdom (*circa* from before about 1000 AD to about 1740 AD), I consider BIF as an exemplary symbol of the age-long history, cultural heritage and overall civilization of Ibani people. Accordingly, I declare that BIF is a foremost 21st Century *Ibanise* CBO, which is promoting and preserving the culture and dignity of Ibani people in diaspora, towards global advantage for *Ibanise* and by extension, the Ijaw Ethnic Nationality of Nigeria. This is my humble score sheet about BIF.

THANK YOU BIF, for following the exemplary footprints of our *Ibanise KoromaTaduapu*, especially our *Tari Amanyapanu*, towards the overall good of our

entire people and the wellbeing *Ibanise* at large, during the aboriginal era of *Ibanise* (Ancient Grand Bonny Kingdom). Essentially, as the achievements of the *Ibanise KoromaTaduapu* and *Tari Amanyanapu* towards the wellbeing of *Ibanise* were groundbreaking in the aboriginal era of *Ibanise*, your achievements are equally landmark accomplishments in the ongoing age of sustainable development, which is ably superintended over by the UN System towards the wellbeing of humanity and our future generations, as well as the wellbeing of other life forms on our Planet (Mother Earth).

Based on the exemplary achievements of BIF, I wish to advise that individuals and groups, especially leaders, community-based leadership institutions and other CBOs in Christianized Bonny and Opobo Kingdoms, more so as Christians and Christian groups, should genuinely participate in resolving problems affecting each of these Kingdoms and *Ibanise* at large, based on truth, fairness and the fear of God Almighty (Proverbs 1:7 and 9:10; Psalms 25:8 (a); John 4:24; John 8: 32; and Philipians 4: 8–9), in order to boost the wellbeing our people and Kingdoms. Doing so, would help to make our respective Houses or House Communities and the entire *Ibanise* better places, in the ongoing collective march of the global community towards sustainable development, especially towards realizing just and equitable communities and societies around the world.

From the foregoing, may I finally conclude by urging BIF and its entire members to continue to render service, indeed public-spirited service, towards the wellbeing of Bonny people, as well as just and equitable wellbeing of Bonny House Communities and *Ibanise* at large.

CONGRATULATIONS to you all, distinguished members of BIF. PLEASE keep the *Ibanise* flag flying. May God Almighty continue to abide with you all and bless you most bountifully in return, in the Mighty Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, AMEN.



Aseme-Alabo Edward T. B. A. Bristol-Alagbariya, Esq., Post-Docs, PhD; JP, Ksc
(Associate Professor of Sustainable Development Law & Multidisciplinary Practices, & Dean of Law) (*Okoloamakoromabo* XX, Kuruama *Amadabo* & Patron BIF)

Address by Chairman BIF Board of Trustees



My fellow compatriots visitors and friends of Bonny, it is with gratitude to God Almighty and utmost humility that I welcome you to Linthicum Heights Maryland, as you join us in the celebration of our twentieth year anniversary. I welcome you to the land of "Fatti Maschii Parole Femine"--the land of "Strong deeds and gentle words."

The BIF was formed to be a catalyst for change, to promote education, Ibani culture and heritage, to foster unity and progress among Bonny people, and to advocate mutual understanding and peaceful co-existence between Bonny people and all nationalities. I make bold to say that the BIF has accomplished most of the goals it set for itself at inception, as evidenced by its achievements. It has transformed itself into a foremost community-based organization in and outside Bonny. The achievements of BIF are worthy of celebration, so let us celebrate and rejoice over this day that the Lord has made.

We know that the journey has not been easy, but we will not relent. We will re-dedicate ourselves anew to tackle the task in front of us. We occasionally relapse into the anomaly of 'bellum omnium contra omnes'---the war of all against all. We shall be better served as a people if we collectively operate from the position of 'summum bonum'--- position of common good. In the words of the Reverend Martin Luther King jr., we must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools. We must continue the struggle for a new Bonny--our sunny beautiful island paradise on the Atlantic seaboard. This is our duty as the descendants and inheritors of the Ibani heritage.

I enthusiastically welcome our young adults and youth to the BIF fold. I implore you to take a keen interest in the rich history and culture of your homeland. You have a history to be proud of. Please utilize your boundless energy and ideas to transform the modest house that we have built into a mansion. You can do this because you are the ones we have been waiting for. Always remember where you are and never forget where you come from.

There will be a fund raiser during this convention to support the BIF scholarship scheme and the renovation of Jonathan Adagogo Green's tomb, and everyone is enjoined to help the BIF raise funds to support these noble objectives of the BIF. Let us resolve at the end of this convention, to go with gentle voices to do strong deeds for Bonny.

I thank President Teddy Denton Banigo and members of his executive council, Members of the BIF Board of trustees, Chairman of the convention planning committee Dr. Peter Hart and his co-Chair Prof. Adango Mieadonye, members of the convention planning committee and sub committees, general membership and friends of the BIF for making this convention a success.

God bless you all.

Leslie Minaibim. Green, MD.
Chairman, BIF Board of Trustees.

GOODWILL MESSAGE

BY

**DAME HON. ANENGI BARASUA CLAUDE-WILCOX DSSRS JP. THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN
OF BONNY LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ON THE AUSPICIOUS OCCASION OF THE 20TH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF BONNY ISLAND FOUNDATION(BIF)**



It is with great sense of excitement and patriotism that I join all sons and daughters of our great Kingdom, in celebrating with the Bonny Island Foundation as she attains twenty years of existence.

The BIF being a body created to project the rich Ibani cultural heritage, language and history, aimed at fostering unity, peace and progress among the Ibani people both home and abroad. Also supports the Ibani indigenes of Bonny extraction as well striving in creating awareness on educational, environmental, and cultural issues that relates to ancient Bonny Kingdom.

As a non profit organization established in 2003, it is on record that the Foundation has been able to embark on laudable numerous philanthropic and impactful gestures including scholarships, exhibition and promotion of the rich culture of the Ibani people to the Western world, which the Kingdom and Local Government is graciously proud of.

In our part as a Local Government Council, we have been able to equally embark meaningful infrastructural development via projects, educational supports, scholarship and people oriented initiatives, such as:

- * Adequate Security on land and waterways, which had been a major challenge prior to our coming on board.
- * Reconstruction/Remodeling and Commissioning of Bonny Ultra Modern Market.
- * Completion/Additional Project at Government low cost Quarters
- * Ongoing construction of Government Senior Staff Quarters at the Wing B of the Bonny Local government lodge.

- * Ongoing storey building construction of Bonny Integrated Recruitment Centr(BIRC) permanent office.
- * Provision of free school coaster buses.
- * Construction of Bishop Gabriel Pepple road.
- * Construction of Abraham Hart motorable bridge

Reconstruction of Amariari bridge at Finima community.

- * Payment of school fees for final year students of Bonny extraction.
- Just to mention but a few

Let me use this medium to most sincerely commend the founding fathers and leadership of BIF for steering the affairs of the Foundation to this enviable height, and to the entire members of BIF, you deserve appreciation for your relentless support.

As you continue this journey, be assured that this administration will always be there to encourage and support you, in this government you have found a partner in achieving visions, aims and objectives of having a more prosperous Bonny Kingdom. We are disposed to ideas, suggestions, supports and opinions that will engender the Bonny Kingdom of our dream as envisioned by His Majesty King Edward Asimini William Dappa Pepple III, CON DSSRS JP. Amanyabo and Natural Ruler of Ancient Grand Bonny Kingdom.

On behalf of my family and entire people of Bonny Local Government, kindly accept our hearty congratulations. It is our prayer that God continues to give you the strength, wisdom and wherewithal as you strive in contributing towards promoting and preserving our culture and positively impacting lives.

Thank you!

God Bless Bonny Local Government
God Bless Bonny Kingdom
God Bless Bonny Island Foundation.

BONNY TRADITIONAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

Bonny was founded before 1000 AD. It was structured along the lines of the Greek city states, with a strong central capital and surrounding satellite towns and villages. The King or Amanyano is the head of traditional authority in Bonny Kingdom. Next in authority are the district heads or Amadapu and the Chiefs or Se-Alapu. The King has a Chiefs council comprising the Chiefs and district heads, with whom he rules the Kingdom.

The Chiefs or Se-Alapu are the heads of the component houses of Bonny. The administrative units or houses in Bonny are classified into three categories: Duawari which are the aboriginal houses, the Opuwari or major houses derived from the Duawari houses and the Kalawari or minor houses which are branches of the major houses. Their Chiefs are selected or elected based on the tradition of their individual houses. The Chiefs have a council composed of branch heads called Ikpangi Sibidapu or Wariseniapu, with whom they rule their houses.

The Ikpangi Sibidabo (Head of the family branch) is the head of the family unit within the larger house. A Warisenibo (House elder or representative) represents his House during meetings of the house and before the Chief of the house. The Matriarch of the family unit or Burusu normally appoints her eldest son to be the head of her family unit. The Chief can also appoint a warisenibo as a reward for service to the community. The position of warisenibo is therefore attained by heredity or honorary appointment.

The Ogbokoroama, Bonny's club of Mask dancing artists was formed by Queen Kambasa of Bonny. They put on masquerade displays in Bonny for entertainment. They are also part of traditional governance and act as Police in the Kingdom.

Ibanise Kubiri or the Peoples parliament is convened during times of emergency, war or when important decisions affecting the Kingdom need to be taken. The meeting is presided over by a chairman assisted by a secretary. The Ibanise Kubiri is the highest decision-making body in Bonny Kingdom.

Archived by **Leslie M. Green, MD.**

THE BONNY TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE

-By Mrs. Ibie Green



The Bonny Groom



The Bonny Bride

The Bonny traditional marriage is one of the customs that has withstood the test of time; it is still performed in Bonny today as it was in the Bonny of yore. Naturally, certain aspects of this tradition have changed with the influence of religion and education but one thing remains unchanged, it is the most acceptable form of marriage in Bonny today.

There are three types of Bonny Traditional Marriage known as the Yaa marriage, the Igwa marriage and Concubinage.

- The Yaa form of the traditional marriage is the most complete and expensive one, because the bride price is usually paid in full and all the marriage rites, performed. The benefits of this marriage form include full rights for the woman in her husband's house and her children will have full inheritance of their father's property.
- The Igwa Marriage, is known as the incomplete marriage because here, the marriage rites have not been completed due to partial payment of the bride price or dowry. Sometimes, this is due to financial difficulties.

- Lastly, The Concubinage form is a different kind of union, more like the common law marriage. The woman engaged in this kind of affair has limited rights in her partner's house. When she dies, she will not be buried in his home. Suffice it to say that the man and woman will have no in-laws in this kind of arrangement because no marriage rites have been performed.

The Yaa form of the Bonny Traditional Marriage is done in three stages.

In the first stage known as the 'Knocking on the Door', the suitor goes with his father to the parents of the would-be- bride to ask for her hand in marriage. The parents of the girl gives them an appointed time while they verify from their daughter if this is her Mr. Right.

After verifying and researching the potential groom's background, if found suitable, he is invited back to return with his parents. According to the custom, the suitor, his parents and some relatives will return with drinks to present to their potential In-laws.

At the second stage, the Bride Price is named and a list of things to present to the parents of the girl is handed over to the groom and his father.

"The List" varies according to the different families and this normally would include gifts for the parents of the girl. The types of gifts that are

normally requested on the List are the bowler hat, Jumper, walking stick and george wrapper for the man. For the woman, it would be a george wrapper or wrappers, blouse and head tie. After this stage, the Groom and his parents can confidently announce the upcoming marriage to their relatives and friends!

The last stage is the marriage proper, where the Chief and elders of the community are seated on the high table to witness the union in the presence of the parents, relatives, and guests. During the marriage ceremony, the groom and his bride are required to dress up in the appropriate Bonny traditional attires.

Marriage in the Bonny tradition is simple and beautiful, here the In-laws play important roles like negotiating the bride price. While noting that there is no amount of money that can compensate the parents of the bride for raising a daughter, the "Bride Price" is very necessary as it symbolizes her importance in her paternal home and secures her place in her marital home.





On behalf of Se-Alabo Jonathan Taripanyeofori Banigo,
the Wariseniapu and people of Banigo Chieftaincy House
of Grand Bonny Kingdom.

We congratulate the Bonny Island Foundation
on her 20th Annual Convention Anniversary in U.S.A./Canada.

Elder Alfred and Koko Iringere, Dr. Diari Banigo, Faith Apiafi-Hailsham, Dr. S. Adonye Banigo,
Datuo Banigo, Dienye A. Banigo, Joyce Halliday, Cecilia Banigo, Kinika Owhonda-Hailsham,
Dr. May Banigo, Warisenibo Sotonye Banigo and Warisenibo Teddy Denton Banigo.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF BENSTOWE CHIEFTANCY OF GRAND BONNY



The house was founded in 1887 by Chief BUPANTAMA BENJAMIN STOWE (BENSTOWE), as a Kalawari in Banigo Major House of Grand Bonny kingdom. He was a war-lord, who lead the British frontier force headed by Major Leonard of British colonial Army during the famous Ashanti war in 1867 and others like Kalabari, Okirika and Andoni wars etc. which earned him trophies and a gold sword presented to him by Queen Victoria of England.

He came back and handed the trophy to King George which earned him the chieftaincy stool by our king in recognition and appreciation of his efforts to protect Bonny territorial integrity.

The trophy is still visible at the old palace Hall till date. He was also given some portion of land at Ikugba Square by King George Pepple, the land is where the house Opuwari is situated presently.

He was a successful business man, that positively impacted the people of Bonny at large.

He owned large plantations of palm trees. That is why the House logo is the symbol of palm trees. He died on the 27th day of July 1930.

His Successors are:

- 1) CHIEF BARR. BARTHURST BEN-STOWE (HIS SON) 1934-1958.
- 2) TWO OTHER CHIEFS (1960-1976)
- 3) CHIEF GODWIN T. G. BEN-STOWE (1978-DATE)

Sponsored By

Mrs. Joyce Halliday
Pastors. John & Princess Benstowe
Dr. & Mrs. Samuel Banigo
Ms. Ibim Papanye
Mrs. Cordelia Jimoh

DUBLIN GREEN ROYAL HOUSE OF



GRAND BONNY

CONGRATULATIONS

We the chiefs, Elders, Lineage Heads, Women and Youths of the Dublin Green Royal House of Bonny happily congratulate the Bonny Island Foundation(BIF) on its 20th year Anniversary Convention holding in Linthicum Heights, Maryland, USA.

- ✦ *Long live the BIF*
- ✦ *Long live the Dublin Green Royal House of Grand Bonny*
- ✦ *Long live the king and people of grand Bonny*
- ✦ *Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria*
- ✦ *Long live the United States of America and Canada*

May God be with you always and may your prayers never go in vain.



Dr. Leslie Green, Mrs. Ibie Green, Mr Asona Green, Dr. Gibson Green and family, Mrs. Opunne Odulana and family (Nee Furo), Ms. Aruto Pepple and family, Dr. Amoni Ofodu (Nee Dublin Green), Mrs. Mercy Halliday and family, Mr. Hamilton Green and family and Mr. Chuks Igosibo Odikpo and family.

HALLIDAY ROYAL HOUSE OF GRAND BONNY KINGDOM.

*Represented by her sons and daughters residing
in North America, joined the*

***Bonny Island Foundation (BIF)
USA & Canada,***

to celebrate with her on the occasion of her

20TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION in Linthicum, MD USA.

We heartily congratulate BIF, on its numerous achievements in the past 20 years. Wishing her even greater success in the years ahead, in contributing towards the advancement of the Bonny Kingdom and her people. Also, we wish BIF & all participants a very memorable and successful Convention.

***Long Live Bonny Island Foundation.
Long Live Halliday Royal House Of Grand Bonny.
Long Live Grand Bonny Kingdom.***

- Wariopubo Reginald & Mrs. Tonye Halliday and family.
- Senibo Nengi & Mrs. Mercy Halliday & family.
- Senibo Norman & Mrs. Harriet Halliday and family.
- Mrs. Joyce Soso Halliday & family.
- Mrs. Ibinye Olagoke (née Halliday) & family.
- Mrs. Iderima Akeju & family
- Ms. Joyce A Halliday & family.

- Mrs. Ala Halliday- Dosumu & family.
- Ms. Tumini Halliday & family.
- Mrs. Kalanne Onochie.
- Mrs. Minadiri Banigo (née Halliday)
- Mrs. Stella Eugene Halliday and family.
- Ms. Stephanie Halliday.
- Ms. Megan Halliday



Captain Hart Major House of Grand Bonny

B.I.F

Congratulations

We, the Sons and Daughters of Hart Major House of Bonny
(USA and Canada) hereby congratulate

Bonny Island Foundation (B.I.F)
on its 20th year Anniversary
Celebration (2003 to 2023).

Long live Bonny Island Foundation! Long live Hart Major House of Grand Bonny!
Long live a United and Peaceful Grand Bonny Kingdom!!

Signed:

*Senibo Samuel A. James and Family, Senibo Joseph Bara-Hart and Family,
Engr. Ilabie Hart and Family, Dr. Sodiemye D. Hart and Family,
Bishop Inye S. Hart and Family, Mrs. Irene Gogo Brown (nee Abbey) and Family,
Mrs. Asigha M. (Hart) Briggs, Mina (Hart) Hutchful, Mrs. Inyingierefa M. (Hart) Peterside,
Mrs. Abelebara Wosu (nee Hart) and Family,
Pastor Dr. Mrs. Princess Benstowe (nee Abbey Hart) & Family, Ms. Margaret Hart,
Ms. Iderema Hart, Dr. Peter D. & Mrs. Mina S. Hart and Family,
Prof. Mrs. Joy Ben-Jumbo (Ibiaso-Hart granddaughter) & Family,
Dame Joyce Simon-Ogan (nee Hart) & Family*

HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY!

OKO Jumbo Family
USA/CANADA

CONGRATULATES BIF

ON THE OCCASION OF HER

**20TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION!!!**



Emmanuel Dagogo Jumbo & Mrs. Ibiene Jumbo & Family
Prof. (Mrs.) Joy Elizabeth Tamunotonyesia Ben-Jumbo & Family
Prof. Minabere Ibelema & Mrs. Ere Ibelema & Family
Dr. Charles Jumbo & Dr. (Mrs.) Edith Charles Jumbo & Family
Mrs. Fortune Bello (nee Jumbo) & Family
Mrs. Edith Cline & Family
Mr. Joshua Owusibo Jumbo & Family
Mr. Chris Benibo Jumbo & Family

CHIEF LONGJOHN MAJOR HOUSE OF GRAND BONNY



CHIEF LONGJOHN IN 1889
Amonibia-Ofori I (1868-1895)



SEFI ALARO (DR.) O. R. LONGJOHN
Amonibienye-Ofori IX

Amonibienye-ofori



FELICITATES WITH BONNY ISLAND FOUNDATION

on the

**Occasion of their 20th Anniversary Convention
at Linthicum, Maryland, USA.**

Long Live Bonny Island Foundation

Long Live Chief Long John Major House

Long Live Grand Bonny Kingdom

Long Live Federal Republic of Nigeria

Signed:

Wari-Opasenibo (Prof.) Adango and Martha Miadonye & family; Amasenibo Dawari and Data LongJohn & family; Amaorubo (Mrs.) Boma Simon-Hart & family (nee LongJohn); Senibo Sopirinye and Peuce LongJohn & family; Ms. Ilanye LongJohn; Miss Dienye Miadonye; Mrs. Mina Komonibo & family (nee Amoniofori); Dawari and Cynthia Miadonye; Mrs. Ibitoru Seaton & family (nee Miadonye); Mrs. Martina Nwachukwu (nee LongJohn); Kalada Miadonye; Mrs. Ibiene Jumbo & family (nee LongJohn); Ms. Nengi Elizabeth Miadonye.

for: LongJohn family in diaspora

**TOBIN (KONIBO-YE-AWANTA)
CHIEFTAINCY HOUSE**



THE PERE OF FINIMA, BONNY KINGDOM

Congratulate

Bonny IsLanD FounDation BIF
on its 20th year Anniversary Convention
hoLDinG in Linthicum HeiGhts, MaryLand, USA.

Long live BIF
Long live Konibo-Ye-Awanta Chieftaincy House
Long live Grand Bonny Kingdom
Long live the United States of America and Canada

Signed:

Warisenibo Asamawari Tobin & Mrs. Ngozi Ibeh-Tobin
Second Class Petty Officer Jumbo, Ibiene. MPH (nee Tobin)
Mandela Tobin, Victor Tobin

WILCOX MAJOR HOUSE PETERSIDE BONNY



**ON BEHALF OF OUR CHIEF, ELDERS, WARISENIAPU & MEMBERS
OF THE WILCOX MAIN HOUSE OF GRAND BONNY,**

**WE WISH TO CONGRATULATE
THE BONNY ISLAND FOUNDATION ON THE
GRAND OCCASION OF THEIR**

20TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

*May God grant you the fortitude to continue in your effort,
to make Bonny proud! Viva Bonny Kingdom! Viva Wilcox house! Viva BIF!
Strive to leave behind, a lasting legacy for our children.*

*Dr. Bala Ewwaraye, Dr. Yomi Ojo & Family, Mr. Lovet Wilcox, Mrs. Ibie Green
& Family, Dr Iwarilama Ellis Wilcox & Family, Mrs Datuo Banigo & Family,
Mr. Gift Wilcox & Family, Dr. Onimi Wilcox, Dr. Olive Wicox,
Dr. Kieaibi Wilcox, Ms. Atonye Wilcox, Mr. Sowari Wilcox,
Mrs. Lauretta Arugu, Mrs. Tonye Halliday.*

Congratulatory Messages

B U S I N E S S

aDVeRTS

MEMORIAL

C E L E B R A T I O N



Hearty Congratulations

**MRS IRENE GOGO BROWN
OF DEMA ABBEY BONNY**

**A RECIPIENT OF QUEEN ELIZABETH THE SECOND
PLATINUM JUBILEE MEDAL AWARD IN EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA.**

FELICITATING WITH

BONNY ISLAND FOUNDATION USA/CANADA

WISHING HER A

**SUCCESSFUL TWENTIETH (20TH) ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
AS SHE REDEDICATE AND EMPOWER THE YOUTH.**

ADANGO MIADONYE & FAMILY

FELICITATION

The family of Adango Miadonye heartily congratulate Bonny Island Foundation (BIF) of USA and Canada for the 20th Anniversary Celebration.

CONGRATULATIONS MY BIF FAMILY !!!

JOURNEY TOWARDS 70TH CELEBRATION

Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering with exemplary Teaching, Research and Service career for >30 years at 5 Universities in 3 continents.



TO GOD BE THE GLORY

The journey of life has tested me deeply, but the Almighty God through His son Jesus Christ has been faithful and so good to me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil and my cup runs over. Jehovah-Nissi; my family and I will serve You forever!



SELECTED SERVICE TO MY COMMUNITY

President, BIA(London),
BIF(USA/Canada) and Bonny
Staff Association RSUST.
Chairman, Port Harcourt BIA Gp4
Ikuba Belfry project.
Vice Chair, BCC Central Planning
Committee, King Perekule II burial
General Secretary, Chief
LongJohn Major House of Bonny.
Registrar, Bonny Gentlemen's
League

CONGRATULATIONS BIF ON YOUR LANDMARK TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.



Our family congratulates the BIF on the occasion of its 20th anniversary and fund raiser. God Almighty has given you a lot to celebrate as an organization. So please celebrate your achievements, rededicate yourselves to higher goals and empower the young in your midst. We thank you for celebrating the culture of the Ibani at home and abroad, for your philanthropy, for your advocacy and campaigns on issues concerning the welfare of the Ibani at home and abroad. You have surely and without doubt established yourselves as the foremost community based organization in Bonny.

We leave you with this Irish saying:

*"May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind always be at your back,
May the sunshine warm on your face,
And the rains fall soft upon your fields,
And, until we meet again May God Almighty hold you in the palm of his hand".
Please continue to keep the Ibani flag flying. God bless you one and all.*

Asona Green, Ibie Green, Leslie Green.



The Family of
Chief Emmanuel & Lolo Martina Nwachukwu
Congratulates
The **Bonny Island Foundation** on their
20TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION



DECANAL LIST OF BRETHREN WHO PREACHED THE WORDS OF GOD IN BIF PRAYER SUPPORT GROUP FORUM

SISTER MERCY HALLIDAY

Leader and Custodian of the Bonny Island Foundation Prayer Support Group founder 2010 at MD Convention.

1 Corinth. 4:2 "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful". Sister Mercy, Almighty God gave you this revelation and we prayed that His anointing be upon you and the grace of God be with your family as you continue to fulfil this role for BIF in the mighty name of Jesus....Amen!

In "The Beatitudes" Jesus taught us about what it means to live as a child of God's Kingdom. God has used these preachers to touch the lives of so many through BIF Prayer Group. Jesus said in Matt. 5:8 "Blessed are the pure of heart: for they shall see God". Paul says in Romans 12:11 "Not slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord". May your hearts continue to be pure in Jesus Christ towards all mankind in your selfless service in the Kingdom of God..... Amen!

Names of our blessed men & women of God- A big thank you to all.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) Venerable Richard Ibituru Hart. | 2) Pastor John Benstowe. |
| 3) Pst. Mrs. Princess Benstowe. | 4) Rev. Bonye Finecountry. |
| 5) Dame (Prof.) Ibitoru Ambrose Hart. | 6) Evangelist Isaiah Orji. |
| 7) Evangelist Abiye Lennox. | 8) Prof. Jessica Valentine Ezekiel Hart. |
| 9) Rev. Canon Chimezie Offomah. | 10) Venerable Umoremi Azery. |
| 11) Rev. Canon Rogers Jumbo. | 12) Evangelist Kalada Banigo. |
| 13) Rtd. Canon Edward.T.S. Pepple. | 14) Rev Faith Bounty Pepple. |
| 15) Apostle Blessing Banigo. | 16) Engr. Prof. Sir Asinyetogha Hilkiah Igoni. |
| 17) Mrs. Lilian Erewarifagha Richard Hart. | 18) Bishop Inye Hart. |
| 19) Sir Barr Ishmael Abie Bluejack. | 20) Venerable Ebenezer. T.T. Green. |
| 21) Rev. Emmanuel Apiafi (UK). | 22) Apostle Jeff Osage. |
| 23) Pastor Heidi Inyang. | 24) Prof. Adango Miadonye. |
| 25) Dr. Leslie Green. | |

BIF SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

2016 / 2017

(ALL GRADUATED)

BOMA GOGO HALLIDAY
KAREN BLUEJACK
BOMA TOLOFARI
DABOYINGI OBU GREEN
HARTINA EZEKIEL- HART
CHARLES BONYE BANIGO
LANCELOT ALLISON
TRACY FINECOUNTRY
HAMILTON GIBSON HALLIDAY
GEORGE P. ALLAPUTA
REGINALD PETER JUMBO
TAMUNO DOUGLAS LONGJOHN
DANIEL IBIENE TOLOFARI
ABINYE S. AMONIOFORI
PRINCEWILL P. JUMBO
PATRICK M. JACKMAY
GEORGE K. BENJAMIN BROWN
OWUPELE IBIENE BROWN
GIFT A. WILCOX
IBIEBELEM ANARI BENSTOWE
TAMUNOPATOMA ALLAPUTA
IBIWANGI REBECCA GREEN
KENNEDY M. HART
TUOTAMUNO ISAAC PEPPE
PRINCESS NADA ONU PEPPE
RAPHAEL TAMUNODIEPRIYE WILCOX
ALFRED TAMUNOENE ALLISON

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY
CIVIL ENGINEERING
BIOCHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY
ANIMAL AND ENVIRON BIOLOGY
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
MANAGEMENT
MATHS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE
CIVIL ENGINEERING
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
MASS COMMUNICATION
ACCOUNTANCY
PETROLEUM ENGINEERING
CHEMICAL/PETRO CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
COMPUTER SCIENCE
MARKETING
COMPUTER ENGINEERING
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING
POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
HISTORY AND DIPLOMATIC STUDIES
MANAGEMENT
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
SOCIOLOGY

Scholarship Awardees Courtesy of Memorial Funds

MEDICINE

COVENANT LONGJOHN
GIFT LONGJOHN
VANNESA GREEN

LAW

DEINABO GREEN

Mr.& Mrs. Mini Hart Memorial Fund. (DR. & MRS. PETER D. HART)

Amaopusenibo & Mrs. Spurgeon Green Memorial Fund. (DR. & MRS. LESLIE GREEN)

Mr. Ellis Wilcox Memorial Fund & Mr. Tonye Wilcox Memorial Fund. (DR. IWARILAMA ELLIS WILCOX)

Mr. Sam Peterside Memorial Fund. (DR. & MRS. CHAMBERLAIN PETERSIDE)

APPRECIATION:

THE BIF SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE WISHES TO THANK ALL THE BIF DONORS.

FROM THE RECIPIENTS

Nada Pepple <nadapepple@gmail.com>

To: ibie green

Hello good afternoon. My name is Onu-Pepple Princess Nada, I was a beneficiary of the BIF scholarship during my school days. Life after school has been good. I can't thank God enough for the great persons behind this scholarship. Because of the scholarship, I was able to pay my fees and part of my rent till I graduated. One unique thing this scholarship did was to help motivate me to study harder and better since I had to maintain a certain CGPA to remain a beneficiary of the scholarship. I pray the sponsors continue with this kind gesture as they are preventing alot of persons from dropping out of school. Thank you. Best regards.

From: Patima Allaputa allaputapatima@gmail.com

Good day Sir thank you i have recieved the scholarship funds ...i really appreciate the prompt payment..thank you very much

Boma Hart

From: "Boma Halliday" <bomahalliday83@gmail.com>

Date: Jan 23, 2018 18:13

Thank you very much sir, I have received the money. By tomorrow my school fees and other payments will be made. God bless you.

Long Live BIF scholarship.

From: "Charles Bonye Banigo" <charlesbonyebanigo@gmail.com>

Subject: APPRECIATION

Good morning Sir, i have received the alert confirming that the money has been transferred to my account.

I want to express my profound gratitude to you and the entire BIF team, my prayer still remains that as you all have thought it wise

to put smiles on the faces of Students, thus smiles will never cease to be on your faces respectively.

Indeed you all have made my 2018 with this gift, and i Promise to use it judiciously and study my books meticulously to as to join you in making students life better.

Once again i'm saying thank you very much.

Precious Benstowe

I want to use this opportunity to thank all members of bonny island foundation (BIF) for the unexpected educational support fund given to me, it came as a shock at the time when I had nothing but you gave me something and has taking away the Borden. I can never thank you enough but may God bless you all and your families and businesses, you shall never lack in your life and businesses and I promise to use my money wisely.

Appreciation from Ezekiel Hart Hartina

I'm grateful to you sir for your great effort in ensuring that I receive my payment and sorry for any inconvenience I might have put you through.

And I'm also grateful to the Board of directors of the BIF scholarship fund for this opportunity And I pledge to do my part by being a good student in making sure this opportunity is not wasted.

I'm highly grateful sir

Thank you

BIF AWArDees



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD MEDICINE:

CHIEF DR. O.R. LONGJOHN

Born on the 24th of October 1935 at Abalamabie in Bonny Local Government Area of River State, he had his formal education at Government School Bonny, King's College Lagos and University College Ibadan, graduating MBBS, London on April 1962. After post graduate education at the Royal College of Surgeon, England, and ASCON Bagauda Kano, he obtained FRCS Edinburgh 1970, FMCS Nig 1972, FWACS 1973 and FICS 1978. He devoted his life for service to humanity. Dr. O. R. Longjohn is an illustrious and multi talented Ibani man. He excelled in anything he put his mind into. He is being specifically recognized for being the first Bonny Surgeon, and for plying the trade in such a way that made all that came in contact with him, to say that he was arguably the best surgeon amongst his peers. He was Chief Medical Director of University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital Port Harcourt and chairman of Amin Kano University Teaching Hospital. He brought honour and recognition to his homeland Bonny through his profession. Chief Longjohn is a cultural icon and a solid community advocate.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD HISTORY THROUGH ART:

J. A. GREEN

Jonathan Adagogo Green was the first professional Photographer in Nigeria, born in 1873. His works of art adorn museums and art collections in Nigeria and around the world. The photographs he took in the 1800's are reputed to compare favorably with digital photographs of today. His works have helped to preserve much of the history of pre-colonial and colonial Nigeria. He was a brilliant Ibani star. He continues to bring honour and recognition to Bonny through the art he practiced so well more than a century ago! He was the son of Chief Sunju Dublin Green, who worked closely with foreign traders and missionaries. His works are in major collections in the British Museum, London; Rhodes House, Oxford; Merseyside Maritime Museum, Liverpool; Unilever Archives, Port Sunlight; Manchester University Museum, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester and the National Museum of African Art, in Washington D.C USA.

BIF AWarDees



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD SERVICE TO GOD AND HUMANITY:

BISHOP E.T DIMIEARI

Bishop Ebenezer Tamunoteghe Dimicari, a distinguished Bonny Bishop, nationalist, parliamentarian, theologian, philanthropist and ecumenical leader; was born at Georgekiri, Bonny on the 27th of September 1890. On April 27th 1952 he was enthroned as the inaugural Diocesan of the Niger Delta Diocese. He was the first indigenous Bishop of the Niger Delta, the first Nigerian to be appointed CBE by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of England in 1956. He later went on to electrify the Diocesan Cathedral at a personal cost to him. He adopted well over 85 children from around the country and called them his rainbow. He labored for the benefits of the oppressed and will always be considered our most reverent Bishop.



B.I.F ACHIEVEMENT AWARD EDUCATION:

AMAOPUSENIBO N. A. I. WARIBERE

Born 5/16/1924 a Arugbanama, Bonny. Educated at Bonny Government school, Bonny, St. Mark's College, Awka and University of Nigeria, Nsukka. His academic Brilliance made the First Bonny Scholarship Board and SPDC to sponsor his education at the University level. Waribere a true Bonny patriot, put his soul, mind and body into his work as Principal of Bonny National Grammar School. At BNGS his first batch of students in the WASC exam had a passing score of 98.4%, the best in the state! He is with good reason regarded as the best Principal of BNGS. His former students at BNGS constitute the largest group of Bonny youth doing well today in different walks of life in and outside the shores of Nigeria.



BIF AWarDees



B.I.F ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - LAW:

CHIEF R.T.E. DAPPA WILCOX

Chief R.T.E. Dappa Wilcox was born in 1901 at Peterside, Bonny. He was the father of Chief Dappaa Birive. Some of his notable achievements were: Spearheading the formation of the Ijaw people's league in 1943 at Enitonna High School in Port Harcourt. He was elected as the first President General of the Ijaw People's League. He rightly is the father of Ijaw nationalism and Consciousness. He Studied law in the United Kingdom and graduated with an LLB in June 1948, and became the first lawyer of Ijaw ethnic Stock. In 1952 he was made the first Chancellor of the Niger Delta Diocese. He is the first Nigerian to be awarded the MVO by the Queen of England. He was the first Chief Magistrate of Ijaw Origin. He later passed to the bosom of the Lord on May 8th 1964.



B.I.F ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - CULTURE:

AMAOPUSENIBO WILSON JUMBO

Wilson jumbo is a traditionalist and lover of Ibani songs and cultural performances. He revived and continues to maintain the Abara dance group in Bonny. Many young men and women in Bonny have been encouraged by him to develop an interest in Ibani cultural dances. He is a patriot.



B.I.F ACHIEVEMENT AWARD-BUSINESS:

CHIEF REGINALD F P ABBEY HART

Chief Reginald Abbey Hart trained as a Banker. He excelled in his chosen career and rose to the headship of several Banks and financial institutions in Nigeria. He is for good reason often called banking giant and a captain of industry in Bonny. He is a traditional ruler with many accomplishments. He is an urbane and fine gentleman. He is a modern Bonny patriot.

BIF AWArDees



B.I.F ACHIEVEMENT AWARD-HEALTH: SIR ELLIS .A. WILCOX

Ellis A.L Wilcox was Born on the 12th of April 1924, at Peterside Bonny. He graduated from the Yaba College of Pharmacy in 1947. Ellis Wilcox trained as a Pharmacist, who put excellence into everything he did both in and outside his profession. He was called the "Peoples Doctor" because he treated all the common illnesses that were brought before him. He freely gave his services and medicines to the indigent among us. He was a rallying point and inspiration to the Pharmaceutical profession in Rivers State. He is credited with the formation of the Pharmaceutical society in Rivers State. He was a philanthropist and a Bonny patriot.



B.I.F ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - EDUCATION:

AMA OPUENIBO SIR PROFESSOR EDWARD OPUADA IWO NTE BANIGO.

The First citizen of Ancient Grand Bonny Kingdom to attain the rank of Full Professor in the academia: Ama-Opuenibo Sir Professor Edward Opuada Iwo-Nte Banigo, B.Sc. (Special) Chemistry (London), Ph.D. Food Science & Technology (Leeds), Diploma in Chemical Engineering (Aston, Birmingham), Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Food science and Technology (ENIFST), Knight of the Sacred Order of Saint Christopher (KSC, Anglican Diocese of Owerri). Professor Banigo, born 23 November, 1939, is the third son (fifth child in a family of six of Ada James Iwo Nte Banigo and Mrs. Lucy Iparamuma Nte Banigo (nee Akan Pepple), both of blessed memory. He attended Duke Town School, Calabar, Hope Waddell Training Institution, Calabar, the University College, Ibadan/University of Ibadan, the University of Leeds, England and the Aston in Birmingham, England. He is the Pioneer/Foundation Professor of Food Processing Technology (and one of the founding fathers of the renowned Federal University of technology, Owerri (FUTO) First Professor in Bonny Kingdom and Second Vice-Chancellor/Chief Executive, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt, Former President of Bonny Community Front (the Bonny Think-Tank), A licensed lay reader in the Anglican Communion. An intellectual asset of the Ancient Grand Bonny Kingdom, an erudite scholar and researcher, an accomplished administrator/technocra

BIF AWarDees



B.I.F ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - BONNY COMMUNITY ADVOCATE:

AMAOPUSENIBO S A GREEN

Amaopusenibo. Spurgeon A. Green was born at Peterside on September 17th, 1915. He attended Bonny Government School (1930-1937) GCE, Overseas Postal Tuition. Bennett Airmail College, London, 1940-1942) Associate Chartered Institute of Secretaries ACIS. Joined the Royal West African Frontier Force as an Orderly (1942-1944). Employed by the United African Company (UAC) of Nigeria, Port Harcourt-1970. Rose to the rank of Area Manager, Western Region of Nigeria before retiring in 1970.

Appointed Area Manager, Nigeria Cold Stores, Port Harcourt, 1970-1985. Now a Contractor with Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria (SPDC Bonny 1985 till date. For many years the leader of Bonny communities in Port Harcourt, Lagos, Kano, Jos etc where he served as President of the BIA. During the Civil war, he prevailed on the Federal Government to allow food to be shipped to Bonny to avert starvation in the land. He was for many months made to personally unpack and repack every parcel in front of federal troops to prove that such parcels did not contain arms before shipment to Bonny. He started the erection of the first concrete steps and shelter for travelers at the Bonny waterside jetty in Port Harcourt. He and twenty nine others formed the first Bonny Scholarship Board. He was the first Chairman of the Bonny Employment Bureau, and Chairman of many conflict resolution committees in Bonny. He is a community advocate per excellence. He is chairman of the Bonny Historical Society and lead author of the most comprehensive book on the history of Bonny to date. In carriage, dress, speech and manners, he represents the quintessential Ibani man. He is a foremost Bonny patriot.



B.I.F ACHIEVEMENT AWARD-HISTORY:

AMAPUSENIBO ADADONYE FOMBO

Adadonye Fombo was an author, historian, Philanthropist and a true Bonny patriot. He was a man of many accomplishments. His book 'A Chronicle of Grand Bonny' is a brilliant account of Bonny history. He was a community advocate with a sense of history. A chronicle of Grand Bonny is probably the first attempt at writing a complete history of Bonny.

BIF AWArDees



B.I.F ACHIEVEMENT AWARD-EDUCATION:

PROF. ROSEMOND GREEN

Born into the family of Warisenibo, Victor Klagbo Green and Elfrida Aselebo Green of Greens Iwoama town is the Grand Bonny Kingdom of Rivers State, holds the following educational qualification; PhD (Lagos, 1995) M.Ed (Jos, 1983), B.Ed (Wales, 1981) all in science education; Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) in Chemistry and Biology combination and many other professional qualifications. Has put in creditable public service in the education sector, most note-worthy is the Rivers State College of Education where she served as Head of Department, Integrated Science through four tenures, Dean of Faculty, Science Education through three tenures, Deputy Provost, Acting

Provost till the College was upgraded to a University Status in 2009. Very prominent member (fellow in some cases) of several learned bodies, Science Teachers Association of Nigeria (MSTAN), Nigerian institute of management (FNIM), Institute of Corporate Administration (FCAI), Institute of Public Management (FIPM) etc. Have chaired many government and institutional committees and panels and has been conferred with several national and international awards for excellence in public educational leadership and managerial role modeling. Still actively researching and credited with over a hundred (100) substantively scholarly works, spanning the full range of professional peer-reviewed and reputedly published book chapters, whole books, thoroughly assessed local and international university-based learned society journal articles and conference presentations. Prof. Rosemund Diene Green-Osahogulu is specifically the pioneer Vice Chancellor of Ignatius Ajuru (Rivers State) University of Education, Rumuolumeni, and Port Harcourt. She is also the first female Vice Chancellor of Rivers State extraction, happily married to Prof. Dele Joshua Osahogulu and blessed with children.

B.I.F ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - EDUCATION:



Prof. Howell's Idaerofagha Hart holds a B. Eng. M. Sc and PhD from University of Benin; Oklahoma State University and University of Nigeria respectively, all in Mechanical Engineering. He has had a wide experience in the private and public sectors in Nigeria, Europe and the United States of America both, in industry and the academia. At the Rivers State University of Science & Technology (RUST), Port Harcourt, Nigeria, he has been the Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering. He has served in the last four Governing Councils of RSUST and is currently the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University. He serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Rivers State Bureau for Public Procurement. Prof. Hart is an accomplished professional engineer. He is an Ibani Patriot. Prof. Hart is happily married to Mrs. Faustina Hart, also an engineer and, they have four children.



Convocation Ceremony Speech

By Miss Ayaba Jessie Miadonye



President & Vice Chancellor, invited guests, parents and fellow students, it is so nice to see you all here today for such a special event. My name is Ayaba Miadonye, I will be getting my BACs degree in Communication this year. Its so great to see everyone! I'm so excited to be here with you all today as we celebrate this incredible moment together. Graduating from school is a huge accomplishment, and it's important to recognize that we didn't reach this milestone alone. Growing up, my father would always tell me that it takes a community to raise a child.

And last year when I learned that I would be graduating, I was stunned. I didn't believe that I was the type of person to have a degree. In my mind, people with degrees understood the importance of time management and didn't fail their classes. So, I wondered for a while, how did I get here? What qualities and skills are you supposed to gain from a degree? Where will I be going and what will I do? My answer to all of these questions has been, to give back to the Community.

We have been shaped by the people and experiences around us. From the time we were born, we have been surrounded by family, friends, and mentors who have nurtured our growth and development. We have learned important life skills from our community. Our elders taught us wisdom, we got guidance from our mentors and support from our friends. Our community has provided us with a foundation of knowledge, skills, and values that will serve us well as we embark on the next chapter of our lives.

We have learned the value of hard work and dedication. We have learned to work together, to respect people, and to be empathetic. We've learned how to think critically and solve problems. We've learned how to communicate effectively and work well with others. We've learned how to persevere when things get tough and how to be responsible for our actions. These are the skills that will help us succeed at anything we choose to do and will help us navigate all the complexities of the world.

We are entering a world that can be challenging, daunting, and even frightening. But we are equipped with the tools and skills we need to succeed. We must remember that we have a responsibility to our community. Because we wouldn't be where we are today without the support and guidance of those who came before us. OUR Elders. We must use our skills, knowledge, and talents to help the next generation of children. We will be role models, mentors, and advocates for them, and those who come after them. Our children coming up need the same kind of support and guidance that we received.

As we celebrate this incredible moment, let's remember that we're not just celebrating our own achievements. We're also celebrating the incredible support system that got us here and the incredible responsibility we now have to pay it forward. It really does take a community to raise a child, and we are all part of that community.

Thank you all for coming and congratulations to the graduating class of 2023!



FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

AMONI E. PEPPL

1931 - 2023

SISY, DEIN NA MU, AND REST IN PEACE

OPUNNE ODULANA FOR THE FURO FAMILY



**Ms. MielBIBam Ellis Furo Green
Is 70 and still kICkInG.**

Sisy, have a wonderful

**70TH
rday**

And may the Lord grant you more
birthday celebrations. Your youth is
eternal and your heart is full of wisdom

Bonny Island Foundation Convention
Theme: BIF @20: "A time to Celebrate, Rededicate and Empower"
September 1-4, 2023
Sheraton Baltimore Washington Airport-BWI
1100 Old Elkridge Landing Rd, Linthicum, MD, 21090, USA

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

FRIDAY (09/01)

3:00pm:

Arrival and check-in.

5:00pm:

Registration (Hotel lobby),

Coordinators: Mrs. Ogunne Odulana,
Logistics and Local organizing committee.

6:00-7:00pm:

Decoration of Convention Banquet Hall

[Coordinators: Logistics and Local organizing committee]

7:00-9:00 pm:

Welcome reception, Meet & Greet and Youth Program:

Open Forum "Bonny History, Culture and Tradition-Ask the Elders!"

Moderator:

Mrs. Ibiene Jumbo

(Venue: Banquet Hall, Coordinators

[Logistics and Local organizing committee]

9:30-11:00pm:

PREPS: Men's and Women's cultural display groups:

Coordinators:

Dr. Gibson Green (men) and Mrs. Ibie Green (women)

6:30- 8:00am

Break Fast (complimentary)

Registration (Hotel Lobby),

Coordinator: Local organizing committee.

ALL EVENTS WILL BE HELD IN THE CONVENTION (BANQUET) HALL

Morning Events:	Masters of ceremony: Dr. Peter Hart, Prof. Adango Miadonye, Mrs. Ibiene Jumbo and Ms. Stephanie Halliday
8:30-9:15am:	Introduction and seating of dignitaries and special guests—MCs
9:15-9:30am:	Invocation/opening prayer: Bishop Inye Hart /Pastor John Benstowe
9:30-9:35am:	Welcome remarks -Dr. Peter Hart, <i>Chairman, Convention planning Committee.</i>
9:35-9:40am:	BIF Presidential Address-Wariopusenibo Denton Banigo, <i>BIF President</i>
9:40-10:00am:	Goodwill messages from Special Guests of Honor and Dignitaries.
10:00-10:30am:	Keynote Address: BIF @ 20: A Time to Celebrate. Rededicate and Empower Introduction of Keynote Speakers: Dr. Leslie Green, Chairman, BIF Board of Trustees Keynote speakers: - Chief (Dr) O.R. LongJohn - Deputy Grand Patron - Chief (Dr). E.T. Bristol (Patron)
10:30-10:45am:	Brief History of BIF- Dr. Leslie Green, Chairman, BIF Board of Trustees
10:45-11:30am:	YOUTH FORUM (Round table Discussion) Topic : Bonny Heritage and Culture - The Youth Perspective Moderator: Ms. Stephanie Halliday Panelists: Mr. Asuna Green, Ms. Ayaba Miadonye, Mr. Stephen BaraHart, Ms. Megan Halliday, Ms. Shalom Hutchful
11:30 – 12 noon	Women's Cultural performance
12noon-2:00pm:	Lunch Break
Afternoon Events:	Master of ceremonies: Mrs. Irene Brown, Mr. Emmanuel Jumbo and Regis Halliday.
2:00-4:00pm:	CULTURAL DISPLAYS: WOMEN'S CULTURAL PERFORMANCE MEN'S CULTURAL PERFORMANCE
4:00-4:30pm:	Group photos
4:30- 6:00pm:	FREE TIME

Evening Events:

Master of ceremonies: Prof. Mrs. Joy Ben -Jumbo,
Engr. Norman Halliday and Ms. Ayaba Miadonye

6:00-8:30 p.m.

CONVENTION BANQUET

BIF Scholarship Fundraising and Award Ceremony

Coordinator: Mrs. Ibie Green, BIF Scholarship Chairperson

Mr. Jonathan Adagogo Green's memorial headstone project.

Coordinator: Mr. Denton Banigo, President, BIF

RAFFLE Draw: Co-ordinator: Engr, Norman Halliday

Cutting of the BIF 20-year anniversary cake:

Coordinator: Mrs. Ogunne Odulana

8:30-12Midnight

GALA NIGHT (DANCE! DANCE!! DANCE !!!).

MCs- Mrs. Irene Brown, Mr. Reginald Halliday, Asuna Green,
Benjamin Ben-Jumbo and Claude Hutchful

SUNDAY (09/03)

7:30-09:00am.

Break Fast

9:00-10:30 am.

20th year Anniversary Thanksgiving service

Officiating Ministers:

Bishop Inye Hart, Pastor and Pastor (Mrs.) John Benstowe;

Co-ordinator-Mrs. Mercy Halliday (venue: Banquet Hall)

10:30- 12noon

BIF General meeting:

Venue: Banquet Hall (Coordinators- President & Secretary)

Agenda: Exco reports and BIF Election of Officers

Returning Officer: Dr. Leslie Green, Joseph and Joshua Benstowe

12noon-1:00pm

LUNCH

1:00:00-5:00pm

SIGHT SEEING - Baltimore City and Harbor tour

Coordinators: Mrs. Ogunne Odulana and Local organizing cmte

7:00-11:00p.m.

SOCIAL EVENT (venue: Banquet Hall)

Co-ordinators: Mrs. Ogunne Odulana, Engr, Norman Halliday,
Mrs. Cecelia Akinboade and Local organizing committee.

MONDAY (09/04)

7:30-09:00am:

Breakfast Complimentary

9:00-10:00am:

Meeting of Executive Committee & Board of Trustees;
(Venue: Banquet Hall)

10:00-10:30am:

Issuance of communiqué. Convention officially ends.

10:30 -12noon:

Farewell/ check out and departure.

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ON THEIR
**20TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**



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Escondido



A Duplex in
Vista



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Mira Mesa



A 4-bedroom House in
Chula Vista



A 3-bedroom Manufactured
Home in Lakeside



Vacant Land in
La Mesa



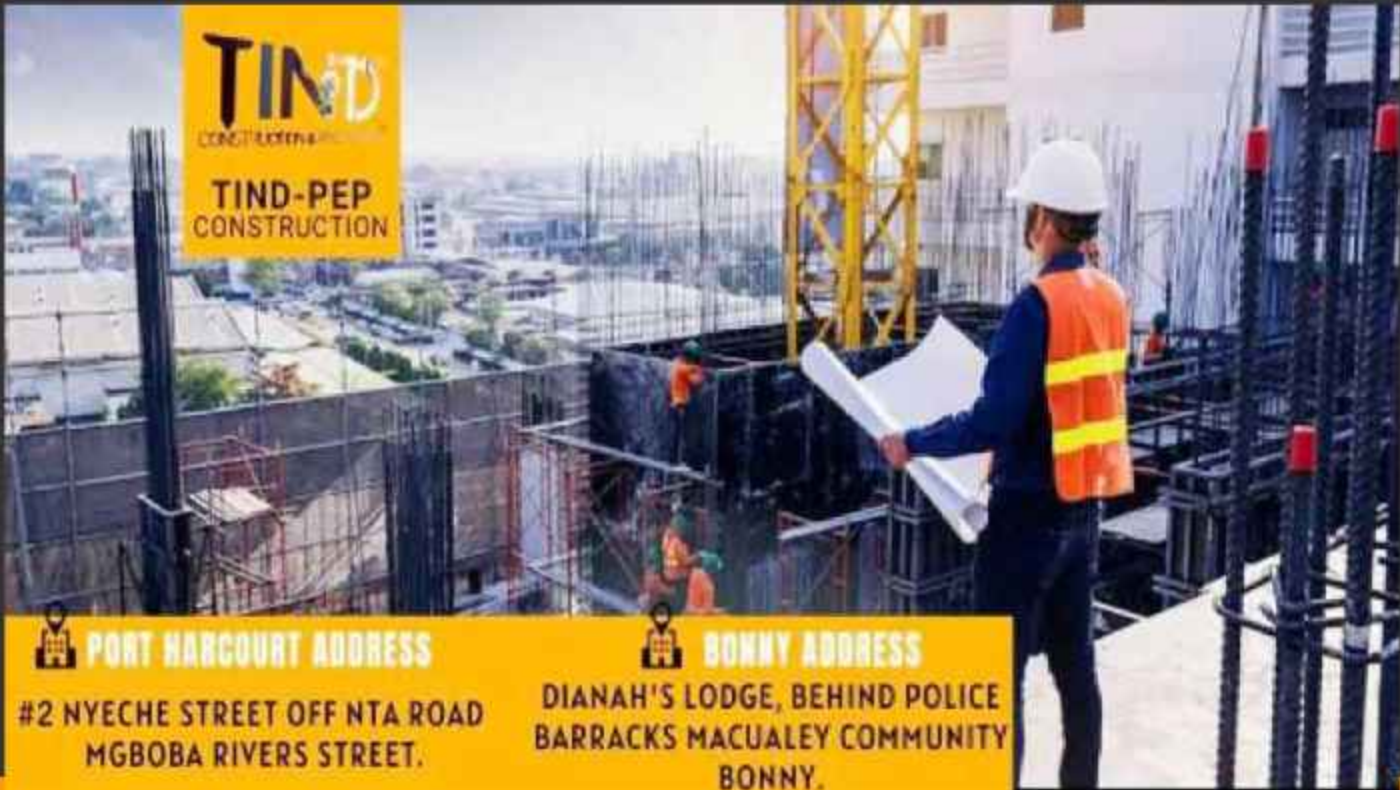
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Congratulations, **AMONI!**

We are so proud of you for obtaining a Bachelor's degree! We saw the sweat and tears you put into your book work but it was all worth it. You have built the foundation for a bright, bright future and we can't wait to see the fruits of your labor!



LOVE,

Mom,
Victor
&
Oke

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THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD



Restoring Hope through Prevailing Prayers
It's Celebration Time:
**COME
&
WORSHIP
WITH US!**

WEEKLY PROGRAMS:
Sundays: Celebration Service: 9:30am - 12 noon
Wednesdays: Bible Study/Prayer Meeting: 7pm - 8:30pm
Third(3rd) Friday of every Month: Communion/Tarry Night: 10pm - 2am

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ENTRANCE/PARKING: BEHIND THE BUILDING. Email: Rccgeagles1214@gmail.com



Dr John & Dr. Mrs. Princess Benstowe

*sends their big Hearty Congratulations to all
BIF members and THE BIF Organization*

**on her 20th Anniversary
Celebration and Convention.**

*May the good Lord continue to keep us all in love,
unity and progress. Amen.*

Together we will achieve greater heights!!!

In Loving
memory
of my beloved sister

whose sad demise occurred
on the 9th may 2023

DAME AMAOPUORUBO
BOMA EDITH
AMAOMU JUMBO
(Nee Banigo)
1957 - 2023

Courtesy:
Warisenibo Atedoghu
Denton Banigo





The Akwe's Family

Congratulates

**The Bonny Island Foundation on its
20th Anniversary Convention**

Long Live Bonny Island Foundation
Long Live Akwe's Dynasty

Mercy Nengi Halliday.



A hearty congratulations to
Ayotomiwa Odusote for
completing your Masters Program
in Public Health from Drexel
University in Philadelphia. May
God grant the desires of your
heart "a job of income, interest
and impact" in Jesus' Powerful
name. Amen.

God mother
Mercy Nengi Halliday



Boma Minimah, a mega
congratulations to you as you
completed your Masters Program
in Engineering Science from Simon
Fraser University in Canada.
Bomsi-Bombom, may God
quicken His words to perform them
in your life in Jesus' majestic
name. Amen.

God Mother,
Mercy Nengi Halliday.

BONNY ISLAND FOUNDATION
CONVENTION

Celebrating
20 YEARS

A TIME TO CELEBRATE,
REDEDICATE & EMPOWER



BIF HISTORY IN PICTURES



BIF Convention Ibanise Hall Bonny, 2008



BIF Convention Washington DC, 2007



First BIF Reception Chicago, 2005



BIF Convention New Jersey, 2010



Dr. & Mrs. Ellis Wilcox, (DC 2007)



Jumbos in Washington DC (2007)



BIF Seminar at Ibanise Hall Bonny, 2008



BIF Inaugural Convention Washington DC, 2007



BIF Convention Westampton NJ, 2010



BIF Convention Washington DC, 2007



BIF Seminar Ibanise Hall 2008



BIF Convention Washington DC, 2007



BIF Convention Westampton NJ, 2010



BIF Convention Washington DC, 2007



BIF Convention Washington DC, 2007



BIF Convention Westampton NJ, 2010



BIF Convention Washington DC, 2007



BIF Convention Washington DC, 2007



BIF Convention Baltimore MD, 2012



BIF Convention Westampton NJ, 2010



BIF Convention Washington DC, 2007



BIF Convention Westampton NJ, 2010

BIF Convention Houston Texas, 2018



BIF Convention Washington DC, 2007

BIF Convention In New Jersey 2010



BIF Convention Edison NJ, 2019



BIF Convention Germantown MD 2022



BIF Convention Ewing New Jersey, 2014



BIF Convention Houston Texas, 2018



BIF Convention Edison NJ, 2019



BIF Convention Washington DC, 2007



Prof. & Prof. (Mrs.) Ewvaraye (DC 2007)



Late Capt. Sowaribi Tolofari Westampton NJ 2010



BIF Convention Westampton NJ 2010



Late Harrington Pepple Speaking (DC 2007)



Chief Dr. O. R. LongJohn (Westampton NJ 2010)



BIF Convention Washington DC, 2007



Some members of the Bonny Eremina-ogbo (USA) in pictures
Top L-R: Joyce A Halliday, Ilanye LongJohn, Clara Pepple, Oruene Odikpo, Beauty Jumbo, Ala Halliday
Bottom L-R: Mercy Halliday, Fortune Bello, Atonye Wilcox, Kieaibi Wilcox, Ibie Green,



BIF Convention Atlanta Georgia 2013



Iriabo Germantown MD 2022



BIF Convention Westampton NJ, 2010



BIF Convention Washington DC, 2007



Cross Section of Women and 2018 Iriabo



Members of Mbaise United of New Jersey



BIF Women 2018 Outing



BIF Women Leader and President



BIF Women in 2019 Convention



BIF Convention In New Jersey 2010



Cross Section of BIF Men



Women with 2019 Iriabo



BIF Convention In New Jersey 2010



Women 2019 Convention in New Jersey



2019 Convention in New Jersey



2019 Iriabo and Mrs Minadiri Banigo



BIF Convention in New Jersey 2010



2019 Masquerade Display by Men



2019 Convention Check-in Table



2019 BIF Men Masquerade Display



BIF Members on tour in New York City 2019



Some BIF members with Hon. Wansambo Onuso Abbey
@ 2019 BIF Convention.



2019 BIF Men Masquerade Display 2



BIF Convention Houston Texas 2018



BIF Convention Germantown MD 2022



BIF Convention Edison NJ 2019



BIF Convention Edison NJ 2019



BIF Convention Germantown MD 2022



BIF Convention Houston Texas 2018



BIF Convention Edison NJ 2019



BIF Convention Houston Texas 2018



BIF Convention Germantown MD 2022



BIF Convention Guest 2022



Galveston TX Tour 2018



White House Tour Germantown MD 2022



BIF Convention Germantown MD 2022



2019 BIF Convention in New Jersey





BIF

YOUTH AMBASSADORS



**BIF Youths & Young Adults
at Germantown MD 2022**



Jennifer & Erica Odoemene



Ms. Adata A. Miadonye



Boma Gogo Brown



Joshua & Joseph Benstowe



Emmanuel Gogo Brown



Emmanuel Dan Jumbo



Regis & Ellis Halliday



Asona Green



Madison Halliday



Abigail & Mirabel Halliday



Ayaba Jessie Miadonye



Shalom Hutchful



Caleb & Debbie Dienye-Atemie



Chinasa Hart



Claude Hutchful



Iyesa & Lolita Halliday



Ibitamuno Halliday



Sydney Pepple



Stephanie Faibee
Halliday



Ibifuro & Benjamin
Ben-Jumbo



Romeo & Nelson Douglas Hart



BIF Children, Germantown 2022

Divineangel Benstowe

In Memoriam



**Amaopusenibo Spurgeon Adawari
Green 1915 -2014.**

You served God and your community for
which you will always be remembered.

**Mrs. Esther Ibinye Green (nee
BaraHart). 1930 – 2011**

May your legacy live on through the
love and memories we share.



Warisenibo Ellis A Wilcox (1924-1998)

Your impact will forever be cherished in
the community and our hearts.

You gave us roots and wings. Your legacy and spirit
continues to inspire and guide us.

Rest in peace.

Asona Green for the family.

Evergreen In Our Hearts



LATE PA. LILIE
FRANCIS HALLIDAY
(1912 – 1996)



LATE MRS. ELLEN
ENENIBOFORI HALLIDAY
(1981 – 1988)

In evergreen memory of our dearly beloved parents, Late Pa. Lilie Francis Halliday (Died 27 years ago), and Late Mrs. Ellen Enenibofori Halliday (Died 40 years ago). We remember you today, and always, and cherish all the moments we, your children, were blessed to share with you.

Pa. Lilie, you were a great man who influenced countless lives. Without you, the road ahead would have been tough for us. You were the rock that kept us strong. Your strong, courageous, confident, disciplined, steady, upright, and incorruptible leadership, even in turbulent times, did showcase you as an embodiment of strength and integrity. You instilled in us the Christian virtues and values of love, humility, sacrifice, discipline, hard work, and honesty, amongst other virtues and values.

Mama Enenibofori, you were a mother per excellence, a wonderful woman, and constant support throughout the years we were blessed to share with you. You worked tirelessly to ensure that we were well nurtured. In providing for us, you always went above and beyond our needs, and you stayed awake all night during our periods of sickness. Through all these years, we neither saw you weary, nor heard you complain. You were always so loving and so caring. You taught us love by example, kindness, genuine laughter, hard work, patience, tolerance, and sacrifice. You had a heart of gold, a smile of pure joy, and kindness that extended to all you knew. You were the light of the family. No wonder, at your passing, dad's heart was severely pained as he regretted, and wished you could trade your place for his. "A mother holds her children's hands for a while, but their hearts forever."

Papa, and Mama, we remember all the fun memories, and the 'not-so-fun' memories (now we know better – thank you) with nostalgia. Rest assured that the torch that you passed on to us will remain lit for the next generation, and the next...

We can measure the time, but we cannot measure the loss. We miss you dearly and pray that you continue to rest in perfect peace, in the bosom of our Lord Jesus Christ until we meet in the resurrection morning to part no more.

Norman Halliday, for and on behalf of your loving children, and families.

Jonathan AdaGoGo Green

1873 –1905 Pioneer and LeGend.

Jonathan Adagogo Green known and acclaimed as Nigeria's first indigenous Professional Photographer was born at Peterside Bonny, Rivers State, in 1873. He was the son of Chief Sunju Dublin Green an important Ibani chief and Madam Idamienye Dublin Green. Young Jonathan attended the local school run by the church missionary society. He thereafter studied Photography in Sierra Leone and moved back to Bonny Town where he opened his studio and became one of the most accomplished Photographers in



west Africa at the time. Jonathan produced hundreds of photographs showing everything from imperial events, portraits of local scenery, local events, and people, as well as African and European dignitaries. He understood that he could utilize the camera, a new technology at the time, to preserve and transport the ancient into modernity. He served as a documentarian and fortune teller in this regard. His work is so seminal that no history of African photography can be discussed without mentioning his name and his works. He documented the contradictions and contradistinctions of life under colonial rule in Nigeria. The Bonny Island Foundation is undertaking the renovation of Jonathan Adagogo Green's monument in Bonny, as part of activities marking its 20th year anniversary celebration.



**Jonathan AdaGoGo
Green's monument,
Bonny Cemetery.
JANUARY 2006.**

IRIA CEREMONY AND EREMINOGBO IN GRAND BONNY KINGDOM



THE IRIABO RESTING IN HER HOUSE OF WRAPPERS,
DRESSED IN DAMASK WRAPPERS AND GOLD JEWELRY.

The people of Grand Bonny Kingdom in the Rivers State of Nigeria are called Ibani. They are known to be gentle and graceful, and this extends well into their rich cultural heritage. The geographical location of the town connects it to the Atlantic Ocean, a great advantage that put her at the crossroads of the Atlantic trade in the 15th century. Needless to say, Bonny saw a lot of sea merchants who brought in gold, silver and other colorful merchandize to her shores. The influence of western civilization has its imprint all over the fabric of the Ibani culture, and this is evident in their traditional garbs and way of life in general.

Howbeit, the advent of Christianity and education did not take away the traditional way

of life from the Ibani people, rather it enhanced it. Such traditions as marriage and the Iria ceremony have all withstood the test of time.

In Ibani culture, the iria ceremony is the rite of passage from girlhood to womanhood. It is a colorful ceremony that involves the tying of different beautiful wrappers, donning expensive jewelry, and dancing in the town square. To witness the ceremony are the chief, elders and other members of the community.

The Iria ceremony is a requirement for all women in Bonny, including those that marry into the culture. It is considered a taboo for a Bonny woman to die without performing her iria. When the former is the case, tradition demands that the ceremony be carried out on the death bed before the body could be buried. Over the years, the iria ceremony has become more popular, one reason could be because it is a "show off" culture! There is so much that goes into planning, and carrying out the ceremony that it takes years for most women to save up for it.

There are certain privileges that come with performing the Iria ceremony, such as: gaining acceptance into certain women's clubs and the right to tie the Erebu and Mbudu in the Bonny township. The Erebu and Mbudu are Ibani words which stand for the bottom and top wrappers. The Erebu is the first piece of wrapper tied from the waist to the ankle, and the mbudu is usually tied on top of the Erebu, from the waist to just below the knee. This traditional outfit is for women who have completed the Iria Ceremony.

In the Grand Bonny Kingdom of old, when a young teenage girl reached the age of puberty, her mother prepared her for the Iria ceremony. it

was the responsibility of her parents to buy, acquire or borrow the necessary materials which she would need for the celebration. If the girl was already engaged to be married, then the responsibility was shared between the fiancé and her parents.

THE FATTENING ROOM: In the past, the pubescent girl was confined to a room called the fattening room, where she did nothing other than eat and sleep, and she was not even allowed to take a walk outside of the house. In the fattening room, she would be attended to by women who have gone through the iria ceremony. While the woman is going through this stage, she is referred to as the Iriabo. The period of confinement in those days could be up to six months. Today, the fattening period for the modern day Iriabo is about one week. The belief is that the Iriabo looks well and radiant when her body is full.



During her confinement in the fattening room, the Iriabo is dressed with a hand-woven cloth called the Suu, which drapes her from her chest to the knees. She receives beauty treatments, and massages with special oils and emollients such as the cam wood, palm oil, and Shea butter leaving her skin shiny and radiant. At the end, her skin is tattooed with ink which washes away with time.

During the last week of the fattening room stage, a group of women traditional dancers known as the Ereminogbo, will come to the house to do a dance rehearsal with the Iriabo. This exercise is known as the buodi. If she already knows how to do the traditional dance moves, then their job becomes easy, otherwise they would go through a period of dance lessons with her.

STAGES IN THE IRIA CEREMONY AND NAMES OF THE WRAPPERS

The tying of cloth is done in stages: The first stage is known as the tying of the Kala-egerebite. In the olden days, this stage was done when the young woman reached between the age of 10 and 15. The second stage called the Opu-egerebite was done between the age of 18 and 21, and the third and last stage called the Bighibite was done from the age of 40. The age limit has changed today, when the woman is of age these 3 stages can be done in one or 2 days.

The Iria ceremony is divided into the morning and afternoon sessions. In the morning, the Ereminogbo who have performed this rites, and are experienced in dressing the Iriabo, will meet to dress her up in her parent's house. The wrapper tying in itself is an art form: Usually, two women from the group will do the dressing whilst the others watch and make merry. Two hand woven wrappers are tied on the waist of the Iriabo to make them look full, before tying the colorful ikaki wrapper on top to look like a long maxi skirt. After the first rounds of dance, the Iriabo undergoes a wardrobe change into another colorful hand woven wrapper called the popo. In the evening, her Ereminogbo attendees will dress her up with the beautiful damask, followed by the Awomiebite. The last wrapper change will be the george.

The Awomiebite is a plain george, hand dyed in cam wood. It is the most important wrapper

amongst the ensemble, because when a Bonny woman dies, it is the first wrapper that is tied on her body underneath any other clothing she wears to the grave. Due to this reason, this wrapper cannot be borrowed.

To finish the look, a beautiful lace blouse will be fitted over her top wrapper at each change. Chunky coral beads adorn the woman's neck, with matching earrings, bracelets, and gold rings on the fingers. The gold jewelry would be pure weighty gold. On the top of her hair, she wears a crown made with coral. While dancing bare footed, she holds flowers decorated with little jingle bells on both hands to add to the music.

The Kala-egerebite : Kala means small in the Ibani language. During this stage the Suu wrapper is tied in a mini form, from the waist to the knees of the Iriabo by her attendant Women. Suu is a hand woven cloth.

The Opu-egerebite: Opu means big and as you can guess, this means that the wrappers worn at this stage are big. They are also hand woven and colorful. Examples of this type of wrappers are the Ikaki and Popo. The Ikaki wrapper has triangular designs on it, whilst the Popo wrapper has square designs.

The Bighibite: This is the George tying stage and the last stage of the ceremony. The george wrapper named appropriately, is said to have been introduced into the Bonny culture from India by King George Pepple of Bonny in the 19th century. In the past, this stage was done when the Bonny woman had attained the age of 40 and above. Today it can be done on the same day or the next day after the Kala-egerebite and Opu-egerebite stages. Without the Bighibite ceremony, the Bonny woman is prohibited from tying the up and down (erebu and mbudu) george wrappers in the Bonny Kingdom.

On the day of the celebration, the Iriabo is expected to dance around the town square led by two good Ereminogbo dancers, one in front and another behind. In the middle of the square, a table is prepared for the elder statesmen, where they would sit, chat, and drink during the celebration. A young girl dances besides the Iriabo holding a saucer for collecting gifts from guests who generously and lavishly "spray" her with money. Other gift items include traditional Bonny wrappers. For her part, the Iriabo throws candies and little packets of cookies to the children in the crowd.



THE IRIABO AND SAUCER GIRLS



THE IRIABO DRESSED IN IKAKI WRAPPERS AND CORAL BEADS.

When the dance has gotten to a frenzy, the parents of the celebrant present her with gifts as they dance along with her. If she is married, her husband will do the same. This usually kicks off the gift-giving session as friends and relatives follow suit.

At the ceremony, guests are entertained to an all day feast of traditional dishes, fine wines, and spirits. This ceremonial dance usually takes place on a Saturday in the dance square. It will be worthy to mention that the friends and relatives render support to the Iriabo and her family. Such help as cooking, serving, decorating, and running of errands are very much appreciated by the Iriabo family. In most families, a heirloom of gold and coral beaded jewelry are kept in preparation for such a time when a daughter from the family might need to borrow them for their iria ceremony. This is a very good idea because these preparations (as aforementioned) can be very expensive.



THE IRIABO DRESSED IN AWOMIEBITE WRAPPERS AND CORAL BEADS.

The dance square is usually decorated with banners and buntings by men folks in the village, they also build a small gazebo-like house with the colorful ikaki wrappers in the corner of the square. A chair and foot stool are provided for the Iriabo to rest on, in- between dances. The chair and stool are also covered with the ikaki cloth.

The Ereminogbo group and some male drummers provide music for the dance. The Ereminogbo clap their hands and sing familiar dance songs, while the male folks punctuate the songs with their deep baritone in agreement with its message. At each wardrobe change, the Iriabo would display at the arena.

At the end of the celebration, the iriabo is carried off to her parent's or husband's house on top of the shoulders of able bodied men. The next day, which is on a Sunday, the iriabo can rightfully tie the Eregbu and Mbudu in form of, either the Popo cloth or the ikaki, and this time she ties a head tie with her outfit. Accompanied by friends and relatives, she goes to church to give thanks to God.



BY MRS. IBIE GREEN.

After the Thanksgiving Service, the Iriabo walks around the town with relatives greeting friends and neighbors. The iria ceremony is usually characterized by pomp and elegance. It is said that in those days, on such occasions, many suitors found their brides.

BONNY UKEMKPA NWAOTAM SOCIETY OF NIGERIA 1968 GROUP PHOTOGRAPH



Standing From Left To Right: Madam Agbolo Green, Mr. Jacob Dupu Harry, Dr. Eldred Green, Mr. Lawrence Dagogo Jumbo, Mr. Edward William Jumbo, Mr. Godwin William Jumbo, Mr. Denton O. Banigo, Mr. Andrew Jumbo, Madam Sarah A. I. Allison, Mr. Apaibi Jumbo, Mr. Ebenezer Manilla Pepple, Mr. Justus Green, Mr. Reuben Orumbe, Madam Abie Green.

Sitting Down: Justice Barclay Pepple, Mr. Joshua Ezekiel Hart, Mr. Reuben Okai Banigo, Chief Alfred Dagogo William Jumbo, Mr. Henry Nwoke Brown, Mr. Ikpo Nathan Sunju, Mr. Gogo Fila Hart, Mr. Joseph Nwoke Jumbo.

Sitting On The Floor: Mr. Emmanuel Chuckukiri Jumbo, Mr. Charles Eketete Halliday, Mr. George Wilcox, Mr. Dagogo Kio, Mr. Dagogo Dappa, Mr. Ibidoughwari Hart, Chief Emman Jack Wilson Pepple, Mr. Frank K. Allison (Sacramento), Mr. Omoni Blue-Jack (Siri)

Squatting: Mr. Diepiri Pepple.

Courtesy: Warisenibo Atedoghu Denton Banigo



MasqueraDes in Bonny CuLture



In the traditional religion of the Ibanis, veneration of ancestors was observed while water spirits known as owuamapu were honored and celebrated. They also believed that water spirits had special strengths and shortcomings like human beings. Humans were believed to live among the water spirits before birth. The Ibanis held celebrations to honor the water spirits and masquerades featured prominently in these celebrations. These masquerades wore elaborate outfits with carved masks as headgear. The head gear were often replicas of particular water spirits or animals. The masquerades dance to beat of drums and mimic the steps and mannerisms of animals or water spirits. With the coming of Western civilization, Ibanis changed from traditional worship to Christianity. Masquerades are now played in Bonny mainly for historical and entertainment purposes.

Leslie Minaibim Green, MD.

O IBA NI MEN TRADITIONAL DRESS

Our style of dressing was influenced a great deal by our interaction with European traders and Missionaries who traded and mingled with the Kings, Chiefs and people of Bonny before the creation of the entity known as Nigeria. Being the first within our region to make contact with the outside world, it became inevitable, that Christianity, education and our mode of dressing would spread to our neighbors in due course. The different styles of dresses in and around the south south and south east of Nigeria are all modifications of the Ibani style of dressing. The Ibani cap is acknowledged by all to have been worn and introduced by Bonny People to the Nigerian fashion scene. The cap is an adaptation of the smoking cap or lounge cap worn in Victorian England to keep the hair from smelling of tobacco after smoking. It was also worn in winter and by sailors for warmth. The design of the 'two for a bob shirt' worn in 15th century England by commoners and workers was adopted and renamed Etibo by the Ibanis. The Feni material became popular in Bonny after English sailors who used them as warm clothing during their voyages, gave them out as gifts or 'dash' while trading at Bonny. The George wrapper now widely used all over Southern Nigeria is named after King George Oruigbiji Pepple of Bonny. King George Oruigbiji Pepple introduced the George wrapper to Bonny in 1870 after his return from England.

ETIBO

Etibo is generally worn by young men and adults in the community as informal wear. The two-for-a-bob shirt later became known as a two-bob shirt and was eventually named the Etibo shirt by the Ibani People. The Etibo is an elongated free flowing shirt, extending to the knee and usually made of white cotton material. It has a short rounded hard collar with a single stud at the neck and is worn over a trouser or wrapper. It is never tucked in. It can have a long or short sleeve. Socks are not worn with shoes when wearing the Etibo.



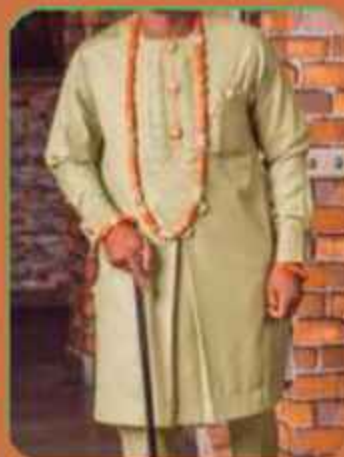


REGATTA SHIRT

The Regatta shirt is worn by young men and adults as a semiofficial dress and is also worn on festive occasions. It is similar to the etibo but has a pleated or other design on the breastplate area of the chest, with a three-stud button hole and is often a long-sleeved shirt. It is worn with a matching fedora hat, boater straw hat, bowler hat or Ibani cap.

HALF DON

Half Don is worn by adults, men of substance, titled citizens, Chiefs and the King. The Half Don is pretty much like the Don with the only difference being in their respective lengths. The Don extends below the ankle while the Half Don does not extend to the ankle.



JUMPER

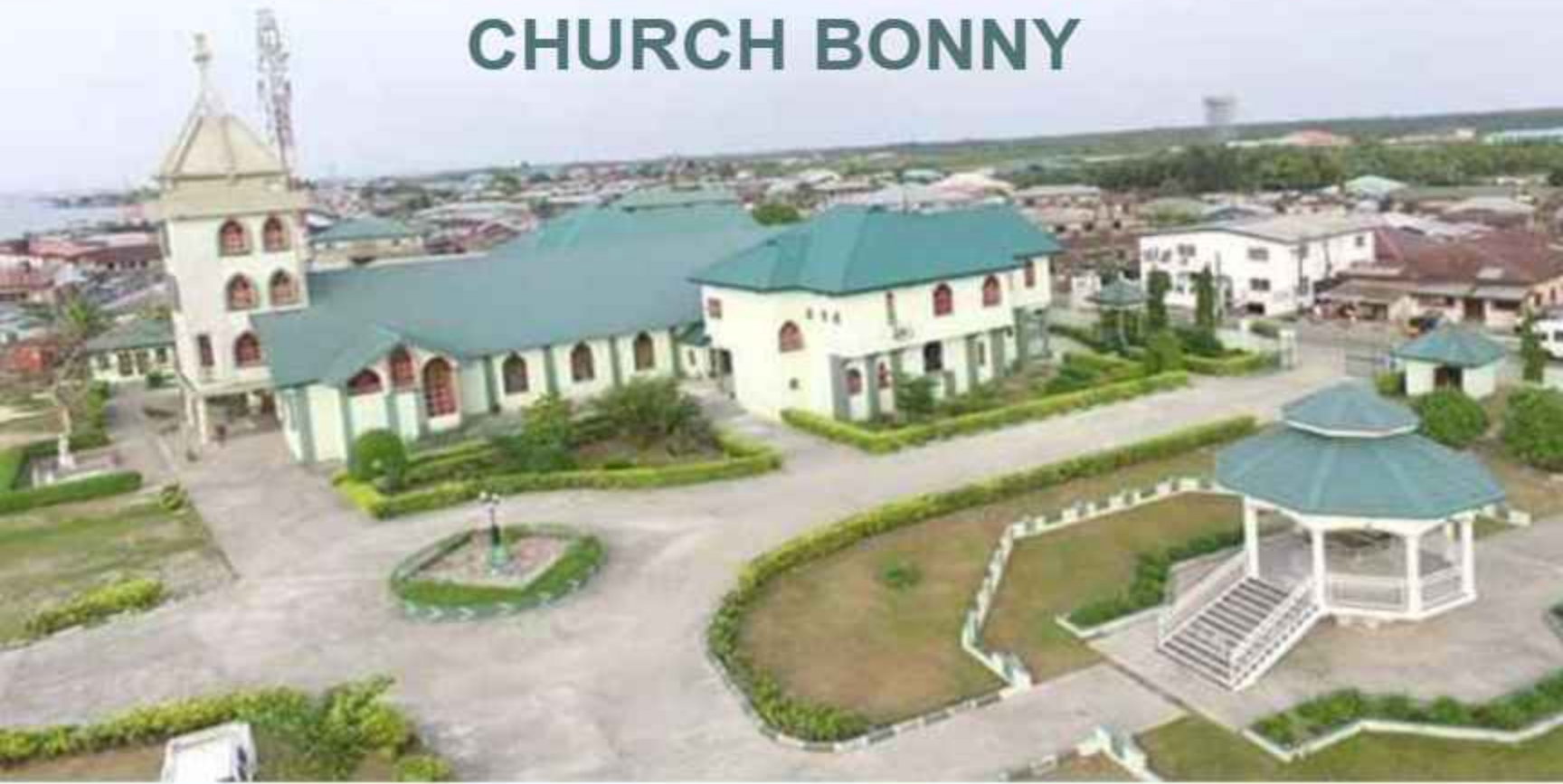
This is the formal or official dress of the Ibani man. It is worn by adults, men of substance, titled citizens, Chiefs and the King. It is usually made of more expensive material and extends to the knee. It is worn over wrapper or matching trousers, walking stick, bowler hat, fedora or Ibani cap. The front of the garment is designed with a ladder or fish grill design. It accommodates three stud button holes with an attached chain-link.

DON

The Don is worn by men from the age of 50 years and above, heads of households, men of substance, Chiefs and the King. The Don extends from the shoulders to the space between the feet and the ankles. It is made of silk or other expensive material. It has a short front collar, a pleated or other design on the breast plate area extending to the lower abdomen and four stud button holes connected by a gold or silver chain. A white shirt with a short round hard collar with a single stud button hole is worn under the Don. The Don has long sleeves which are folded back at the wrist to expose the bright cotton or lace shirt worn underneath the Don. The Don can be worn over wrapper or matching trousers with an Ibani cap, Bowler hat, Boater straw hat or Top hat.



ST. STEPHENS CATHEDRAL CHURCH BONNY



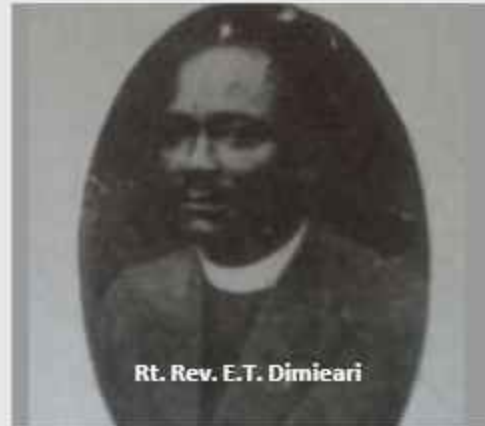
The Ibani people are Christians. Majority of the inhabitants of the area converted to Christianity in the early 1800's. King William Dappa Pepple of Bonny elected to become a Christian while in England, so that God will grant him power and wisdom to rule his people. King William Dappa Pepple of Bonny was baptized by Reverend G H McGill and later confirmed by Bishop Tait, the Bishop of London. At the behest of King William Dappa Pepple the Church Missionary Society in London sent Bishop Samuel Ajayi Crowther, the first black African Bishop to Bonny in 1864 to establish the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in Bonny.

From Bonny Christianity spread to the neighboring communities of Twon and Nembe in 1868, Kalabari and Okrika in 1878, and thereafter to Andoni, Ogoni, Ikwerre and the hinterlands of Eastern Nigeria. On 24th January 1889, Bonny Christians presented their beautiful church to Bishop Samuel Ajayi Crowther as his Cathedral. Students of St. Stephen's Day School also presented a throne(seat) to his Lord for use in the Church. He accepted the throne and St. Stephens Church as his Cathedral. The Church was eventually dedicated by the Bishop on 27th February, 1889. St. Stephens Cathedral thus became the first Anglican Cathedral Church in Nigeria and the second Cathedral Church in West Africa.

Excerpts from the Book "Bonny Trail Blazers"

By Dr. Leslie M. Green

On April 27th 1952 The Rt. Rev. E.T. Dimieari was enthroned as the inaugural Diocesan of the Niger Delta Diocese. He was the first indigenous Bishop of the Niger Delta.



Rt. Rev. E.T. Dimieari



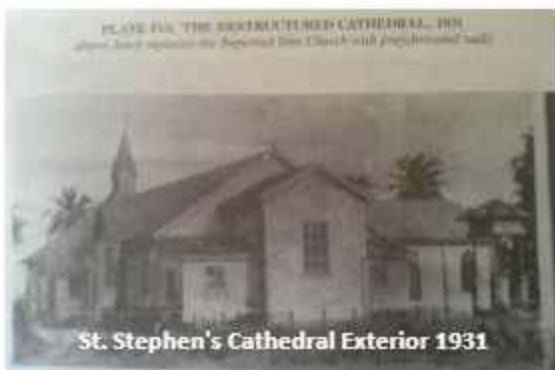
St. Stephen's Cathedral Interior 1887

Interior of St. Stephen's Cathedral in 1887. On January 24, 1889, during a grand occasion of receiving Bishop S. A. Crowther, the Bonny Christians presented their beautiful new church to his lordship as his Cathedral. This the bishop accepted gratuitously, and since then St. Stephen's Church turned out to be the first Cathedral in Nigeria and second in West Africa. The Cathedral was eventually dedicated by the bishop on 27th February, 1889



Rev. Canon T.T Green

Do you know that the first Anglican graduate Priest east of the Niger, was Rev. Canon T.T Green? In 1958 he was selected to study at St. John's College Dunelm, UK. He graduated with a B.A. Honors (ancient history, philosophy and religious studies). This illustrious son of Bonny thus emerged as the first graduate pastor in the Niger Delta Diocese.



St. Stephen's Cathedral Exterior 1931



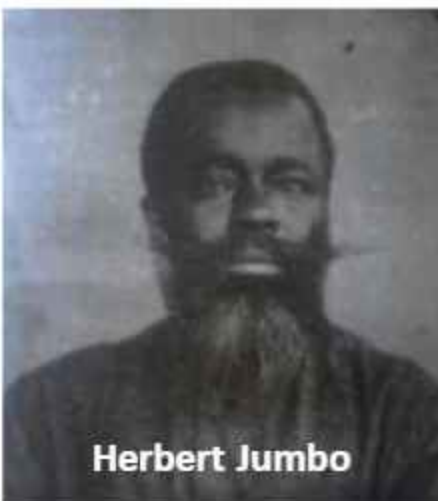
Chief R.T.E. Dappa Wilcox

Chief R.T.E. Dappa Wilcox was born in 1901 at Peterside, Bonny. He was the father of Chief Dappa Biriye. Some of his notable achievements were: Spearheading the formation of the Ijaw people's league in 1943 at Enitonna High School in Port Harcourt. He was elected as the first President General of the Ijaw People's League. He rightly is the father of Ijaw nationalism and Consciousness. He Studied law in the United Kingdom and graduated with an LLB in June 1948, and became the first lawyer of Ijaw ethnic Stock. In 1952 he was made the first Chancellor of the Niger Delta Diocese. He is the first Nigerian to be awarded the Member of Victorian Order (MVO) by the Queen of England. He was the first Chief Magistrate of Ijaw Origin. He later passed to the bosom of the lord On May 8th 1964.

The first Court of equity in Nigeria was Setup in 1854, In Bonny and the first indigenous Chairman of the Court was Chief Adda Allison who took Over from Capt. R.D. Boler.



Chief Adda Allison



Herbert Jumbo

Do you know that the first graduate east of the Niger was a Bonny man? Ijaw people had their pioneer University Graduate in 1856; he was Herbert Jumbo who obtained his degree from the University of London in 1856. Chief Herbert Jumbo was instrumental in the establishment of the Church in Burukiri.



Chief John Jumbo

Chief John Jumbo of Bonny was the second Ijaw University Graduate. He graduated from the University of Durham in 1878.



George T. Kurubo

Do you know that the first indigenous head of the Nigerian Air Force was a Bonny man? Named George T. Kurubo who was born at Peterside, Bonny in 1934. He was the Chief of staff of the Nigerian Air force from 1966 to 1967 and was later appointed Nigeria's Ambassador to the then Soviet Union. Before retirement, he attained the rank of Brigadier General. General George Kurubo died in the year 2000.



King William Dappa Pepple

King William Dappa Pepple was a unique King. He was a shining West African Monarch who introduced Christianity into Bonny and the remotest parts of Eastern Nigeria.

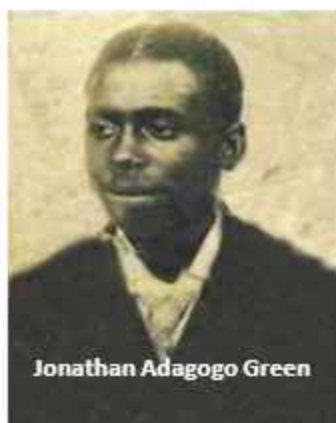


Joshua Hart

Do you know that the first Christian Martyr in the Niger Delta was a Bonny Man in the person of Mr. Joshua Hart?



In 1897 a British Consulate was established in Bonny. It was manned by a District Commissioner, an Assistant, Police Officers, and Officers of the Medical, Marine, Works, and Education Departments. Today a new Bonny Consulate has been built in 2022.



Jonathan Adagogo Green

Do you know that the first professional photographer in Nigeria was born in Bonny, in 1873? He was Jonathan Adagogo Green the son of Chief Sunju Dublin Green, who worked closely with foreign traders and missionaries. His works are in major collections in the British Museum, London; Rhodes House, Oxford; Merseyside Maritime Museum, Liverpool; Unilever Archives, Port Sunlight; Manchester University Museum, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester and the National Museum of African Art, in Washington D.C USA.

Queen Kambasa of Bonny was a Nigerian ruler who was the first queen of Bonny and considered the first queen from the Niger Delta. Kambasa was a successor of King Edimini, her father, while her grandfather, King Asimini, was a famous Amanyano or ruler in Bonny. Asimini introduced the trade with Europeans in Bonny and created Bonny's first royal line. Prior to Asimini, kingship in Bonny was given to the oldest man, a priest or very important person. She was crowned king when she seized the symbol of kingship, the "Ivory Tusk" and was able to make the king makers crown her. Demonstrating her knowledge of survival politics, she surrounded herself with loyal palace guards. As queen, she created a military unit and served as an arts patron. She is also associated with the cult of the war god, Ikuba.



Queen Kambasa



High School at Ougumanga, Bonny, with Principal Crisp: 190

Ougumanga High School was established at Bonny in 1890 and was headed by Rev Hugh Stowell Macaulay. That was the first Secondary School in the Eastern part of Nigeria. The school was discontinued after about ten years and the Bonny Government School was established in its place in 1904.

Ougumanga High School was later to be transferred to become Government College, Umuahia. Before 1909, only two government secondary schools existed in the southern provinces, and these were the Hope Waddell Institute in Calabar and the Ougumanga Industrial Institute, Bonny.

