



# MBAITOLI USA NATIONAL INC.

[A non-profit and charitable organization]

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**Mbaitoli, my Mbaitoli ... an address by Martin Dimunah, President, Mbaitoli USA**

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Distinguished ladies and Gentlemen, Good evening and welcome to Boston, the “intellectual hub of America. I begin this address with a brief overview about Mbaitoli. As the name implies, it is made up of nine towns: Afara, Ezianya-Obiato, Ogbaku, Ogwa, Orodo, Ifakala, Mbieri, Ubomiri and Umunoha. It is located in the center of Imo State and is a part of Owerri capital territory. Today, Boston is more remarkable as we host Mbaitoli USA convention; this breakthrough. makes me feel fulfilled. I must begin by thanking the men and women who worked tirelessly to make it a success especially the entire executive and board members. I am proud of you all. Sometimes, life is not about number but commitment and dedication of the few.

Mbaitoli New England started in 2005 and as the meeting progressed, we become aware of events back home. My wife Mrs. Obidiya V. Dimunah said “this could be our key to peace and progress in Mbaitoli” (Udo N’Oganihu Mbaitoli). There was a remarkable demonstration of power of the people in Mbaitoli during 2011 election in Imo State. We could continue to stay outside and look in or do something about it. Some of us here tonight will recall that Mr. Sam Ibezim from Rochester New York, suggested that we need to have Mbaitoli USA convention during the Mbaitoli Boston Gala Nite in 2007. The leadership decided to contact other Mbaitoli people in USA to harness this proposal. After brief deliberation in our meeting, Christian Ekechukwu said to me, “here is a number you can call in Atlanta”. During the conference we were introduced to members of the Mbaitoli Association Atlanta Georgia in 2007. Through the cooperation of Jude Iruka and Atlanta members, we agreed that we would be better served to have a teleconference for Mbaitoli persons in USA. This writer was asked by the callers on May 10, 2008 to coordinate the process. This is how we started. Currently, we have several Mbaitoli Associations in the United States and I am here today to say that Mbaitoli New England is overwhelmed by the turn out of today’s event. This is a by product of doing what makes us feel fulfilled. Ndi Eze and select dignitaries in Mbaitoli are aware of this effort. We thank them for their encouragement and support.

Mbaitoli USA had a meeting at Mbaitoli Headquarters, Oriuebi on December 31, 2008. The idea was to evaluate what we can do help our people. We got inspired by the situation at Oriuebi Health Center. We noted that we can do something positively to impact our people and we decided during the teleconference that the donations from people like you tonight will be channeled towards that Health Center. According to Ban K-Moon, “a measure of any society is how well it looks after its least fortunate.” I will not over emphasize the need for your generosity: Midwives delivering children with candle or flash light; Patients do not have comfortable seats while waiting to be seen by a health care professional, lack of medication, etc. You will concur that life is about how we help others. As we think for ourselves, we should think of others. This is what other communities are doing for their areas and we do not want be a square peg in a round table.

Finally, I must express a special thanks to Mbaitolians, friends and well wishers who have come from far and near to grace this occasion. We are faced with many challenges and today we have taken the first step to revitalize our community. We ask our good Lord to make this Mbaitoli USA a beacon of compassion; a beacon of love; a beacon of faith; a beacon of unity and peace. May God reward everyone for making the future of others shine through your generosity. We will continue to strive to be agents of good will in order to show our sense of civic attached to our numerous towns that nurtured us. We can see clearly why, the revered economist & Director of the World Bank, Mrs. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala “admonished the youth to be creative by looking inwards on what they could do for themselves not what the government could do for them”. This is applicable to us adults and parents as we gather to chart the future for our local government. It is finally time to get involved. Ndi Mbaitoli, our time has come.. We need investment on charitable and humanitarian projects in Mbaitoli. It is now!

At the end of this gathering, guide us Lord as we depart in Peace and Love. And may your mercy be on us always as we place our trust in you. Thank you all for listening and support.

Martin Dimunah, National President, Mbaitoli USA  
(Ifakala – Mbaitoli – Imo State) Boston Massachusetts, July 16. 2011