



OFFICIAL REPORT OF 2017 FIDUO CONVENTION HELD IN MARYLAND, USA ON JULY 28-30, 2017.

INTRODUCTION

The 2017 FIDUO Convention was held in Laurel, Maryland, USA between July 28-30, 2017. The historic convention was a radical departure from the past because it was the first meeting to bring Ikun people together from around the world to felicitate with FIDUO on its 30th founding anniversary and to dialogue on ways to move FIDUO and Ikun-Ekiti community forward. It was a great and exciting family reunion!

Members and delegates started arriving in Maryland for the Convention from Friday, July 28, 2017 with the last batch of attendees arriving in the evening of Saturday, July 29, 2017. Attendees came from all over the United States, Canada, and Nigeria. Overall, the attendance numbered more than 50, with 7 delegates from Nigeria led by our Special Guests, His Royal Majesty Oba David Olusola Olatunde and Olori Omotayo Omowunmi Olatunde.

Other delegates from Ikun were: Dr. David Olowoyo, Engr. Michael Abolarin, Mrs. Rebecca Egun Akomolafe, and Elder & Mrs. Matthew Atejiroye. Invited guests from our neighboring towns of Otun-Ekiti and Ipoti-Ekiti, among others were also in attendance. It is gratifying that the Convention Planning Committee, led by Mr. Adesola Dada tried their best to make all our delegates and special guests comfortable in their respective hotel rooms before the convention program officially began.

FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2017 (Evening Program)

Opening:

The 2017 FIDUO Convention was declared open with prayer by Mr. Adesola Dada, Chairman of the Convention Planning Committee. He then welcomed all present to the 2017 FIDUO Convention. This was followed by a presentation by Chief Ayanlola Kolawole, who gave the history of FIDUO from inception to date. He also challenged us to come together to make FIDUO a formidable organization that can benefit us in the diaspora and our people back home. The Ikun Community Intercessory Prayer led by Rev. Canon Matthew Olajide and Pastor Wale Adeleye followed. Thereafter, Pastor Wale Adeleye's Book was launched by His Royal Majesty, Oba David Olusola Olatunde. The Kabiesi subsequently met privately with delegates from the various states including New York, New Jersey, Georgia, and Florida. All attendees at the Friday evening program were treated to a delicious dinner, courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. Gabriel Awoyemi. The program was very exciting as it afforded members the opportunity to socialize and exchange pleasantries of old memories.

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2017 (Morning Program)

The morning program started with a visit to Bowie State University, an historically black university in Baltimore. Princess Yetunde Awojobi and Mrs. Funmilayo Olajide anchored the program. The traditional Drummers led us in a colorful Royal procession to the university, courtesy of Chief Ayanlola Kolawole. Professor Okafor and Mr. Batten Robert, Director of International Student Services led us to the venue of the reception where we met newly elected President of Bowie State University, Aminta H. Breaux and Provost Weldon Jackson.

In his speech, the Kabiesi underscored the importance of our visit stating that the aim was to establish strategic partnership with Bowie State University to advance the educational goals of youths in Ikun community. The President of the university reiterated her commitment to help further the Kabiesi's vision. Our delegates were given warm welcome after which we went on a tour to the Center for Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Nursing to conclude the visit.

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2017 (Afternoon Program)

Mr. Jonathan Adewumi anchored a Business session where representatives of the Economic Development Corporation led by Mr. Martin Ezemma and Anietie Udofia Chairman of AgroBiz explained their business model and discussed the possibility of partnering with our community through FIDUO. The Kabiesi and FIDUO President were also in attendance at the meeting where the Kabiesi articulated his vision and development agenda and solicited the support of the business group in actualizing his vision. After the business meeting, the convention had a break session in preparation for the night program.

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2017 (Night Program)

The night program started with a prayer by Pastor Wale Adeleye, followed by the Kabiesi launching the FIDUO Youth Organization, aimed at motivating young people to join and contribute their own quotas to the development of FIDUO and Ikun community. The launch was followed by the strategic discussion forum led by Pastor Wale Adeleye, who spoke on "Making "Ikun better than we met it." Rev. Canon Matthew Olajide's paper focused on "In such a time as this." Dr. Gabriel S. Bomide, Elder Matthew Atejioye and Chief Ayanlola Kolawole also led a discussion on "Towards rapid social, cultural, political, and economic development of Ikun Ekiti." The session was very interactive as it provoked several questions from participants on ways to move FIDUO and Ikun community forward. The session concluded that in order to achieve the vision of Kabiesi to transform Ikun-Ekiti to Eko Kekere of our time, we must unite and work together, love and live peacefully with one another, and engage aggressively in business ventures that can bring rapid development to our community.

General Election:

The Electoral Officer, Mr. Adesola Dada declared open the General Election Session. He read out the FIDUO constitution relating to the election and the

sections that needed to be suspended to allow for the election to be conducted. He also read the vacant offices to be contested for. The assistant to the Electoral Officer, Dr. (Mrs.) Adeyinka Omotunde then read the names of the nominees from for the various positions. Since there was no opposition, the nominees were unanimously returned unopposed and elected for their respective offices. The results of the election were:

1. President - Mr. Jonathan Adewumi
2. Vice President - Rev. Canon Olufemi Olajide
3. Executive Secretary - Mr. Oladipupo Oyeleye
4. Assistant Executive Secretary - Prof. John A. Aina
5. Treasurer - Ms. Funmilayo Olajide
6. Financial Secretary - Mrs. Olutosin Ojogbede-Awonuga
7. Membership Development & Welfare Officer - Princess Abigail Awojobi
8. Public Relations Officer - Mr. Gabriel Awoyemi
9. Internal Auditor - Mr. Akinola Bamidele
10. Provost Marshall - Mr. Adebayo Aborisade
11. Project Coordination Officer - Prince Aremu Fashanu

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

1. Legal Adviser - Barrister Kehinde Awojobi
2. Community Liaison - Mr. Joseph Awoyemi
3. Patron - Chief Michael A. Awoyemi
4. Patron - Chief Ayanlola Kolawole
5. Patron - Mr. Adesola M. Dada
6. Patron - Dr. Gabriel S. Bomide
7. Grand Patron - Dr. Joshua O. Omotunde

Post-Election Remarks:

After the election, the Kabiesi charged the newly elected officers to be diligent and work together to move the FIDUO association forward. He also admonished the Ex-Official Members to give the Executive Council Members the freedom to run the organization to the best of their abilities. The outgoing President, Dr. Gabriel S. Bomide encouraged the officers-elect to depend on the strength of God for them to achieve good success in their new leadership roles. The President- Elect, Mr. Jonathan Adewumi thanked FIDUO members on behalf of the new Executive Council for the opportunity given the team to serve

and pledged to do their best to take the organization to the next level to better serve FIDUO and Ikun community.

Fundraising Dinner and Celebration:

Mr. Dipo Oyeleye, the Master of Ceremony for the night program coordinated the fundraising activity. A total of \$3,942.48 was raised during the event. Details of the proceeds are contained in the Financial Report. The outgoing President read the welcome address and presented his farewell speech. Chief (Mrs.) Esther Omotunde read the achievements of FIDUO to commemorate its 30th founding anniversary (1987-2017). The Kabiesi gave his Keynote address in which he highlighted the need for all Ikun people to live together in peace and harmony in order to promote rapid development of our community. He reported that a peaceful atmosphere is prevalent at home now following the resolution of the recent Masquerade/Muslim conflict by Governor Fayose. Four categories of awards were presented to honor distinguished members and leaders - Community Leadership Award, Community Service Award, FIDUO Leadership Award, and Strategic Planning Award. Participants were treated to delicious African and American cuisine. The FIDUO celebration time was notable. Live Music was provided by Lovesegeto International. It was fun all the way. Historic moments of this occasion were captured in pictures and in motions. We all danced, ate and drank till early morning of Sunday, July 30 when the event was brought to a successful close. Our hosts in Maryland were well appreciated at the event for their outstanding hospitality. The Convention Planning Committee members were equally appreciated for their excellent job. Special thanks also to all FIDUO members who supported FIDUO to make the 2017 convention a success. Mr. Oladipupo Oyeleye gave the vote of thanks and HRM, Oba David Olusola Olatunde said the closing prayer.

SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2017 (Morning Program)

The Guided Tour of Washington DC was cancelled due to circumstances beyond the control of the Convention Planning Committee. Delegates departed to their respective destinations. We thank God that all our delegates from Nigeria and in the diaspora arrived their destinations safely.

POST-CONVENTION VISITS BY HRM & OLORI

HRM and Olori made private visits to New York and Atlanta after the convention in Maryland. The royal family was accorded warm reception and generous hospitality in both places, thanks to Amarachi Restaurant and FIDUO members in both New York and Atlanta. In New York, HRM received prestigious Honorary Award Presentations, including a Proclamation by New York State Senator Kevin Parker. The Kabiesi also held a strategic business meeting with representatives of Maritime College. In Atlanta, HRM and Olori visited major landmarks as a memorial.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

It should be noted that no convention planning and execution is perfect. A few lapses during the convention should provide a basis for improving future planning. However, it is significant that the convention achieved two major

goals. First, it afforded the Kabiesi an opportunity to help unify FIDUO members and families with longstanding issues. It also availed the Kabiesi the chance to foster strategic educational and entrepreneurial relationships that can further our collective mission of accelerating the development Ikun-Ekiti. With the realization of these two cardinal goals, we make bold to say that the 2017 FIDUO convention was a huge success. And to God be all the glory!

Submitted to the General Assembly by:

Dr. Gabriel S. Bomide
Outgoing FIDUO President
September 7, 2017

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