



A New Beginning at FIDUO. Being the Outgoing President's Handover Speech September 10, 2017

Fellow FIDUO Members:

It is with a deep sense of humility and gratitude to God Almighty that I address you today. It's now over four years ago, since you, the General Assembly of FIDUO, gave me an overwhelming constitutional mandate as President to lead this great organization. During this period, your contribution and support as well as your valuable ideas have strengthened our organization. Thanks to all of you members and executive officers of FIDUO who made our tenure a success. We could not have done anything without you and God helping us. We are very appreciative of all the support you gave us.

What did we achieve in the last four years? When we took office on August 16, 2013, I and my executive team promised we would abide by our constitution and by-laws. We did. These documents were our guiding principles. We did our best not to deviate from them. I take pride in that!

Details of our collective accomplishments were enumerated in my farewell address on July 29, 2017 at our recently concluded

convention in Maryland. But for the records, below are the highlights of our track record during my tenure.

- We successfully put FIDUO on a fairly stable financial path by leaving a current balance of \$1,389.48, in the treasury as at 8/31/17. This is remarkable given that in 2016, FIDUO incurred major expenses related to the building of the new Ultra-Modern Onikun Palace and the huge cost of hosting the 2017 Convention. We give God the glory for meeting our financial needs as an organization during my tenure.
- FIDUO successfully implemented an economic empowerment initiative, the establishment of Ikun (Ekiti) Ifelaju Cooperative Multipurpose Society in 2013 which assisted members towards establishing their own businesses.
- FIDUO signed a strategic partnership agreement with Grace Project International to increase the provision of free health care services to Ikun community.
- We developed a general framework for holding all Ikun career politicians and political office holders accountable to the community.
- During our tenure, FIDUO planned and conducted a survey to identify the root cause of youth violence in Ikun and recommended strategy for prevention.

- FIDUO played a pivotal role in fostering communal peace, harmony and stability during the last Onikun selection process.
- FIDUO formed strategic alliance with Youth Saving Lifestyle Creation Initiative (YSLCI), a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to promote awareness on the dangers of youth violence and drug abuse in Ikun community through preventive education.
- FIDUO at its recently concluded convention in Maryland, successfully established, in principle a strategic partnership with Bowie State University, an historically Black College in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. The overarching goal of this partnership is for both organizations to establish mutually beneficial programs that will benefit the educational goals of youths in the Ikun-Ekiti community, with special focus on those interested in studying abroad.
- FIDUO fostered the spiritual and social development of its members and Ikun community through organized intercessory prayer and community forum.
- During my tenure, FIDUO successfully embarked on several philanthropic and goodwill initiatives to further worthy causes in Ikun community.

Some Challenges:

Funds: Our greatest challenge was funding our community development projects. Although the nominal numerical strength of Ikun people in diaspora is over 100, less than 30% are

financial FIDUO members who diligently contribute their annual dues and special levies. While FIDUO would like to embark on more social and economic activities that can be of tremendous benefit to Ikun community, funding is the limiting factor.

Membership Drive: Despite the aggressive effort of our outgoing Membership Development and Welfare Officer in reaching out to members, increased membership and participation in FIDUO activities remains a challenge.

Future Direction of FIDUO:

Going forward, I encourage the incoming FIDUO administration to explore the following initiatives to help better serve its members and Ikun community:

- Renew the FIDUO 501c (3) status and put it into a more productive use to raise funds for community development projects and the welfare of members.
- FIDUO's welfare benefits package should be well funded to cater to the welfare of members. This could substantially reduce membership attrition.
- Explore forming strategic partnerships with international organizations and institutions to deliver educational, social and economic benefits to Ikun. Such partnerships could boost our local economy and improve the Ikun educational systems –Preschool, Elementary and High School.

- Sponsor the creation of cottage industries as well as a youth employment center in Ikun to provide a range of services (e.g. job training and placement, interview skills, vocational counseling, etc).
- Need for developing a new system for improved communication with FIDUO members on Ikun community development effort.
- Need to improve on FIDUO's financial reporting system to keep members better-informed of the financial status of FIDUO.

Conclusion:

Ladies and gentlemen, all the accomplishments listed above could not be successfully executed without your inputs. On behalf of the outgoing FIDUO Executive Council, I say thank you.

At this juncture, I want to quickly emphasize our collective strength in FIDUO. Although we sometimes disagree among ourselves on issues, as in any other organization, we always come back stronger together through dialogue and mutual understanding. I encourage us to continue to cultivate this virtue in the overall interest of our organization and community.

We are not where we want to be. I see the promised land ahead. We will get there in Jesus name. Our people at home are in poverty. Our educational systems need radical improvements. Our land is being taken away from us by our neighboring

community. Religious intolerance is still prevalent in our homeland. I encourage us to join hands in the fight against these societal problems on behalf of our people. We should not despair. It may seem dark now but light is at the end of the tunnel. We will overcome in Jesus name.

As we begin a new era under the leadership of Mr. Jonathan Adewumi, I challenge all our new Executive Council members to uphold their commitment to FIDUO and Ikun community by putting service above self. This is the perfect will of God because the Bible admonishes us that “No one should seek his own good, but the good of others” ([1 Corinthians 10:24](#)). This means that the true test of their leadership is to be like servant leaders by putting the interests of others and the community first.

To FIDUO Patrons and all Ex-Officio Members, I have a word for you. While your knowledge, experience, expertise and support will be a great asset to the new FIDUO Executive Council, please let your counsel be purely advisory and given only when sought. This would allow the new executive officers the freedom to run the affairs of the association to the best of their abilities. More importantly, it is a way to empower them for success. I’m confident in God that the new executive team will move FIDUO to the next level to better serve its members and Ikun-Ekiti community.

Let me close with these words to our new executive team: “To achieve good success, you should uphold what's true, what's

right, what's unifying, what's peaceful, what serves the interests of the greater majority, and what glorifies the name of God.” I wish you good success in the onerous task of leadership.

Finally, just as you supported us during our tenure, I urge you all to support Mr. Jonathan Adewumi and the incoming Executive Council with all that you have. On this note, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to serve and now I formally hand over the mantle of FIDUO leadership to Mr. Jonathan Adewumi.

Long live FIDUO

Long live Ikun-Ekiti

May God bless you all.

Gabriel S. Bomide, Ph.D.

FIDUO President (2013-2017)

"Therefore, let's keep on pursuing those things that bring peace and that lead to building up one another" (Romans 14:19).