

**GHANA NATIONAL COUNCIL OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO**  
**53<sup>rd</sup> INDEPENDENCE DINER DANCE – 2010**  
**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Honorable Commissioners Dana V. Stacks and Norma I. Reyes, Nananom, Niime, Togbewo, Leaders of the African Community, Members of the Clergy, Distinguished Guests, Fellow Ghanaians, Ladies and Gentlemen, On behalf of the Ghana National Council of Metropolitan Chicago, I warmly welcome you to Ghana's 53<sup>rd</sup> Independence anniversary.

53 years ago, I was 4 years. My father of blessed memory was a Police Detective and as he laid me into bed, kissed me good-bye and told me to sleep. I asked him where was he going and he told me that something big was going to happen and they need to keep vigil all night on the streets of Accra. My mother turned on to the radio and I heard the voice on the radio proclaiming quote..."at long last the battle has ended and Ghana is free, free forever." There were loud cheers... as the person speaks, he punctuates, "Freedom, freedom forever" to deafening cheers. Ladies and gentlemen, this is where we are today.

We are here in a perfect Union free from want, free from persecution, and free from victimization. Now, what have freedom got to with it? Yes, Freedom has to do with us free from taking our aspirations into our hands and making the best out of it. Clearly our destinies are defined by where we came from not forgetting unity and cooperation to foment brotherly love towards one another.

At this point, let me recognize ALL our fellow African Brothers here for a freedom re-union. For all of you from UAO, the GNC thank you for coming to celebrate with us. We promise to return your visit. Let the record reflect that the UAO is on the threshold. We are making an impact. It is real, it is real and it is real. Nothing will stop us from making those in responsible positions know that Africans too are here.

This is why you must allow yourselves to be counted. When you receive the 2010 Census forms, do not care of your status, fill it in and mail it. If you cannot fill it, send it to your Association let them bring it to the Ghana National Council and we will guide you. Our African-American brothers and sisters have held the black peoples position for far too long and we have to help by making the Black person count to spread programs proportionately.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Ghana National Council have joined the information super highway for good. We are Twitter, MySpace, Facebook, YouTube and PayPal. I am happy to report that as at today, we have 750 friends of Facebook and 317 Twitter. We twits as everyone else. What is lagging is, buy our products online because it is 110% safe. I was expecting to some tickets sales online but none at this moment.

This administration took office in January of 2008. I reported to you at then that the state of our finance was very weak. We looked for private sources to fund our events. We closed that fiscal year with \$8,000.00 outstanding.

In 2009, we still had no choice than seek private funding for our events. This administration then moved the Council to approve charging at Ghanafest for the very first time. It is gratifying to inform you that 6,000 people paid to attend Ghanafest. As a result, we were able to repay a whopping \$18,000.00 owed. Now we owe nothing but the endemic still persist. By our estimates, we hope to be fully funded after this Ghanafest so those who prefer free tickets, I plead with you to rethink your decision.

I know there are Ghanaians who can fund this Council without any difficulty. We now imply you to come to our aid after all, we are responsible enough and we have our integrity intact enough to repay you. As I speak, I have distributed letters of intent to borrow from All Affiliations to fund this year's Ghanafest. We promise you will get your money back without any hassle immediately after.

We thank Western Union, Liberty and all those who intend on writing a check to help donate towards our sponsorship. We are very appreciative and words alone cannot express our gratitude.

Finally, I will advise all those who intend on disturbing the programs of the Ghana National Council to rethink what they are doing. No intimidation would coward us into submission. We believe in co-existence and co-habitation. We sincerely believe in peaceful negotiations. Our Country, Ghana has seen allot of divisions but Ghana is still wholesome, no wars, no killings, no victimizations, no persecutions politically and socially. We in Chicago impartial and Illinois as a whole respect that. Please, let us talk because this administration refuses to be arm-twisted.

I will close by informing all of you that this year's Ghanafest is Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. The phones are ringing from all over the world and it will be the mother all Ghanafest. For the very first time, we have plans to sell and consume alcohol so those of you who have liquor license, call. The sale will be restricted to ONLY one tent barricaded to sell and consume alcohol.

I thank you very much for the attention. May God bless Ghana, USA and you.  
Long live Ghana, Long live USA.

**JOHN HENRY ASSABILL  
PRESIDENT**