

**NIGERIA INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PA, INC**  
**2837 ARCADIA AVE, ALLENTOWN PA 18103**

Our association started as an informal gathering of friends and other acquaintances four years ago. It eventually evolved into current organization as a result of recognition of gaping need for a formal organization that will meet the needs of our growing community here in the Lehigh valley and surrounding counties. One of the reasons why we chose to organize ourselves into an organization we are today centered on our desire to celebrate our independence day and to show case the strength in our diversity to our host community while using such opportunity to economically and socially empower ourselves.

We have come a long way in this endeavor; and we are not spared or immune from the upheavals and challenges faced by start up organization such as ours. We have made mistakes, and have admitted our shortcomings. We have within this period, performed evaluations of our performances and appropriate recommendations made on how to improve on our program deliveries. Our national day celebration, which was first held in a private residence of one of our members, improved to staging it the second year in a rented public hall. We learnt from that project and put up an impressive show on our third outings. We believe we could still do a better job. Our desire to be relevant at all times most especially amongst membership has led to many thoughts provoking questions on how to move this organization forward in a more positive ways so that members would see the value of membership.

It is important to know that since our organization was incorporated, we have not had an elected executive council until recently. Having the executive council in place is very crucial to sound and robust administration of our organization. The executive council had its first ever-inaugural session and it took an ex-ray into the affairs of our organization; most especially the membership, finance and level of commitment among members.

It did not require the services of a heart surgeon to reveal that the organization bleeds from lack of commitments that translates into non-payment of dues by some members. Further diagnosis of the situation further reveals that members are often non-challant toward the organization. The executive unanimously concluded that the bane of our members' non challenge is due to lack of value propositions, which translate into what is in there for me. We found out that, it is very common for people to be less enthusiastic about things that do not give them any value or incentives.

The leadership of this organization hears you loud and clear. To respond to this, the executive council has decided to implement some programs that will address some of the causes of lack of commitment and value propositions. We want to make it abundantly clear that we will gain more individually and collectively if we collaborate as a group rather than being individualistic. It is truism that one of our undoings in the diaspora is our inability to organize ourselves into a group and use its leverage as a springboard for economic empowerment. We shall strive to achieve this. We cannot do this without the support of all and sundries in this organization. Our vision and motto are very clear as we succinctly articulated them in our constitution preamble.

Quote:

*We, Nigerian by birth, Naturalization and uxorial relationships, residing in the United States of America, conscious of our common national heritage, realizing the importance of unity and economic cooperation as the tools to economic development and empowerment of the individual and of the group in our country of birth and here in the Diaspora, hereby resolved to pool our human talents, and resources with which the almighty God endowed us.*

*To demonstrate and celebrate the essence of our unity in diversity, we hereby resolved to stand together in the spirit of brotherhood in order to advance our socio-economic relevance within our host communities. This organization shall be a beacon of hope and possibilities; will strengthen bonds of friendships, fellowship, and brotherhood; and shall promote a sense of community among all members, guided at all times by fairness, equity, and excellence. In this spirit, we hereby enact the following constitution and by-laws to guide the affairs of our organization”*

The organization through its executive council will be proposing programs of values to the members for their approval. These propositions are Economic, Social and Educational initiatives that we intend to build upon with time.

a) ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM:

The organization will as a matter of deliberate policy embark on programs that will lay a solid foundation of economic empowerment for the benefit of the organization and its members. Foremost, we consider it critical that we must have a building that will be multipurpose to the organization. The building will serve as cultural center cum office space for the organization. It will be self-sustaining; as part of it would be used for some of our social program (Food Market). It will generate revenues from its usage by us and other members of the community.

The leadership will be setting up an ad- hoc committee to look at its feasibility and make appropriate recommendations on how to actualize this program. The support of all of you will be critical in this respect. We require a hundred percent participation from all of us. Individual with ideas and recommendation will be encouraged to liaise with this committee for the consideration of any idea you may have. The followings are some of the values to be derived from the building acquisition:

- Ease of access to the association.
- Venue for all our activities
- Good face to the association
- Serve as temporary accommodation for new arrivals

b) SOCIAL PROGRAM INITIATIVES:

The executive council, after careful analysis and consideration of ideas proposed for education and cultural awareness for our children and youth, came to the conclusion to initiate this program that will achieve the under listed:

- Our children will be able to learn more about our country
- An avenue to get the children interested about our country

- Improve parents involvement

c) COOPERATIVE VENTURE:

The food market venture earlier proposed will be given more impetus through strategic and logistic inputs from the organization, and those that have achieved success in the same field. The members responsible for the groundwork have done an extensive exploratory job and effort will be intensified to actualize it. Mr. Solace has agreed to partner with Rev. Abdul in this endeavor. This venture intent is to benefit members and the organization in the following ways.

- Source of Income
- Job training
- Give a sense of collective achievement
- Project collective image

d) FINANCE:

The organization regrettably informs the organization that our financial status is not robust as many members are falling short in their financial obligations to the organization. We are using this medium to appeal to you to consider this aspect of your membership. It takes money to make money. No matter how good our purposes and intent, without money it will come to naught.

As we unfold our programs, we are cognizant of your contributions to make it possible. We are using this medium to appeal to you for recommitment to our organization. For those of us that are still behind in our financial obligations, we do understand that the economy is currently over heating, however, we will implore you to make arrangements to bring your account current. Please work with us in this endeavor.

We implore all members to be a good steward, contribute some time and our God's given skills to advance the cause or causes that this organization stands to achieve. Posterity surely will have a positive place for us in future if we play our roles, as it ought to be played.

May almighty God bless us individually and collectively.