



## **Bali Nyonga Cultural Association (BNCA) Washington DC Metro**

### **General Assembly Meeting minutes for September 30, 2023**

#### **Prayer and Refreshments.**

The meeting opened at 9:25pm with a prayer from Ma Helen Tete. This was followed with refreshments as members were introduced to the table filled with delicious food and drinks.

Reading of the minutes of August 26,2023 meeting.

The minutes was read by Na VP Stella Mbotiji and was adopted by Ba Doh Titaji and Ba Sama Foseh.

#### **Discussion.**

The house was happy to continue with the conversation about the Christmas party. After all the deliberations in the house, ranging from funds for the party, foregoing the party because of other celebrations (such as the Labor day ) president was supposed to have a talk with other Tahkums to see if the party could be done like before. Thus, it was agreed that the house should wait for the response from the president hoping he speaks to the other Tahkums.

#### **Uniforms**

The August general assembly meeting-initiated conversation for decision to be taken if the group will have a union or not. After a follow up series of deliberations, the house decided that a vote be conducted to decide whether the group wanted a uniform or not. The vote was conducted with the result being 9 votes in favor and 8 votes against the uniform. Base on the bylaws of the group and the results of the votes, it was agreed that, the house will have a uniform.

After the vote, some members were not satisfied, and the Vice President stated that all the criteria will be put into consideration to make it comfortable for all members.

#### **Sagi**

Due to the misunderstanding amongst the Sagi groups which was made worse during the pandemic, Sagi members were all made to understand that Sagi will have to pay a minimum of 8 deaths a month which will cause each member about \$20. Thus, members were encouraged to top-up the account since the first payment of such an amount was done last month. There was a suggestion that the Sagi account be separated from the BNCA main account. The Vice president said she was going to discuss with the financial department about that and update the house.

## **Labor Day Cookout**

Members who attended the Cookout said overall it was great as everyone enjoyed themselves. However, there were some concerns raised ranging from the price paid to the grill master, the envelope for those who participated in the race wasn't enough, the drinks liquor wasn't enough, there was no grill fish. The Vice president concluded that all the above concerns will be corrected during future events.

## **Website Talks**

It was made known to the house that the website is almost completed, and the group needs a webmaster to continue to monitor the website. One of our members said he could run security checks on the website when it's completed but a webmaster was still needed to monitor and update the website. The Vice President decided that she was going to have a talk about that with the President.

## **Deaths**

The house was reminded that, Ma Brigitte Kasper lost her mother and the death celebration was scheduled on October 13, 2023. All members were encouraged to call and extend a message of condolence with members in an event like that. Ba culture was also reminded to get all the cultural items ready for the occasion.

Ma Mourine Kungaba lost her brother back home as well. Members were encouraged to extend a message of condolence to her.

A visit to Ni Eric Sikod and Ma Irene was scheduled to take place on Saturday October 7, 2023. Ba Sama and Mamon Linda were to represent the group.

Ma Florence Musa shared her concerns that she was never visited nor received a package from the house when she gave birth to her daughter. Also, she said she was sick and never received anything from the house. The Vice president said the house was going to follow up.

## **Guests**

Guests were introduced to the house by the host and the house was opportune to listen to Ba Sama (Ni Charles Doh) who gave the house a brief talk leading to his appointment as Sama.

Ba Doh Titaji welcomed all the guests in the house and encouraged them to visit when they could.

Ba Tutuwan pledged to support the house with one small drum. The house was reminded of an invitation from the Noble Lady social group and Bonibo cultural group and checks were supposed to be given in support of the events.