

EKO CLUB INTERNATIONAL

A newsletter of Eko Club International

SPECIAL EDITION

DECEMBER 2005

OTUNBA TAJUDEEN OLUGBENGA ADISA ABASS ELECTED THIRD PRESIDENT OF ECI

Otunba Tajudeen Adisa Abass popularly known as TJ Abass and former Secretary of Eko Club International (ECI) was elected the third President of the club at the 2005 international convention of the organization in Los Angeles, California.

TJ Abass, a business executive from Eko Club Houston defeated Dr. Mustapha Sanusi, a medical practitioner and President of Eko Club California for the presidency.

The election which was highly contested brought the emergence of Mr. Kayode Opeifa of Chicago as the Vice President defeating Engineer Bayo Abina, the President of Eko Club Florida for the position.



Otunba TJ Abass, President, Eko Club International

The other elected officers are Mr. Lanre Oladega (Atlanta) - Secretary, Mr. Tayo Okupe (Maryland) - Assistant Secretary, Alhaji Zainudeen Popoola (New York) - Treasurer, Mr. Bissy Gaji (Dallas) - Financial Secretary, Mr. Yinka Oluwole-Aina (Canada) - Whip, Alhaji TJ Yussuf (Rhode Island) - Social Secretary, Alhaji Nasser Ipaye (Chicago) - Chief Liaison Officer, Attorney Larry Johnson (Houston) - Legal Advisor and Alhaji Gbolahan Gbadamosi (Minnesota) - Public Relations Officer.

The elected officers will direct the affairs of the club for the next two years.

LA 2005 — A RECAP

The international convention of Eko Club International was held in Los Angeles, California from September 8th - 11th, 2005 at the Los Angeles International Airport Sheraton Gateway Hotel. The convention which was attended by Eko Club members from across the US, Canada, Europe

and Nigeria kicked off on Thursday with a courtesy call by members to the Mayors of the cities of Inglewood and Los Angeles respectively. The delegation was led by Chief Sunny Ajose, Head of Civil Service, Lagos State Government. He was presented with the key to the city of Los Angeles by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

(continued on page 4)

Inside This Issue

Clips from LA2005 Page 3

Meet Your Chairs Page 4

Happenings Page 4

Upcoming Events Page 4

Eko Club International is published quarterly by the editorial committee of Eko Club International (ECI). The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of Eko Club International membership. Articles can be submitted to the editor by electronic mail at gbad0001@yahoo.com. We reserve the rights to edit and select the articles that appears in this newsletter.

All comments and inquiries should be directed to the Editorial Committee @gbad0001@yahoo.com.

Editor-in-Chief:
Alhaji Gbolahan Gbadamosi, P.E.

Editorial Committee:
Dr. Yomi Noibi – Chair
Mr. Lanre Ojo – Secretary
Alhaji Gbolahan Gbadamosi
Mr. Kunle Omiyale
Mr. Colin Atobajeun
Mr. Anthony Sijuade
Mr. Jaafar Williams
Alhaji Zainudeen Popoola

Executive Committee:
Otunba TJ Abass – President
Mr. Kayode Opeifa – Vice President
Mr. Lanre Oladega – Secretary
Mr. Tayo Okupe – Assistant Secretary
Alhaji Zainudeen Popoola – Treasurer
Mr. Bissy Gaji – Financial Secretary
Mr. Idowu Agbaje – Auditor
Mr. Yinka Oluwole-Aina – Whip
Attorney Larry Johnson – Legal Advisor
Alhaji TJ Yussuf – Social Secretary
Alhaji Nasser Ipaye – Liaison Officer
Alhaji Gbolahan Gbadamosi – Public Relations Officer

Board of Directors:
Mr. Deji Thanni - Chair
Mr. Adewale Ashade - Vice Chair
Mr. Kola Ogunyemi - Secretary
Mr. Diran Willoughby - Treasurer
Dr. Tunji Alausa
Ms. Kemi Baljack
Mr. Richard Opanuga
Mr. Fatai Etti
Dr. Gbolahan Olajide
Mr. Nojeeb Agunbiade
Mr. Adewale Dosunmu
Otunba TJ Abass
Attorney O.J. Lawal
Alhaji Olusesi Dawodu



Eko Club International is a community based organization of Lagosians in the diasporas established to foster cooperation and collaboration, unity, brotherhood and sisterhood amongst its members. And also to empower its members politically, socially and economically.

Website:
<http://Ekoklubinternational.com>

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the tenure of the 2005/07 Executive Committee of Eko Club International (ECI) and essentially a new year for ECI. It is also a great honor and privilege to communicate with members through this medium. I hope to use this newsletter periodically to inform members on the activities of the club.

I want to thank the Editorial Committee for putting together this special edition of the newsletter on a short notice. I know the committee has been working assiduously to produce a newsletter that would be engaging, informative and of unique quality.

I commend the committee members for their selfless dedication and commitment to ECI.

Also, I commend the members of the other ECI committees for their tireless efforts in their service to the club. Please keep up the good work and together we will continue to make a difference.

The success of this club as I have always alluded is not predicated on the brilliance of the executive committee but rather due to the unflinching support and commitment of the members, to whom I owe a debt of gratitude.

With the level of enthusiasm and excitement exhibited by the membership, this administration is committed to providing the leadership necessary to ensure that the aspirations and yearnings of our members are fulfilled.

We have made tremendous stride towards the goals established for ECI since the inception of our administration. We have planted the seeds of progress with all the necessary structures in place. These and the other achievements of this administration will be published in the first 100 days report due out soon.

The executive committee will continue to work diligently on your behalf and keep you informed on the activities of the club.

Finally, I urge members to use this newsletter as a medium for sharing information, providing education and communication in the community and the world at large.

I wish everybody a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

TJ Abass
President.

CLIPS FROM LA 2005

(Pictures courtesy of International Socialites Connection Magazine)



The 2005-07 Eko Club International Executive Committee, from left Larry Johnson, Nasser Ipaye, Lanre Oladega, TJ Abass (President), Kayode Opeifa, Zainudeen Popoola, Bissy Gaji, Tayo Okupe, Gbolahan Gbadamosi and Yinka Oluwole-Aina. (Not Pictured are TJ Yussuf and Idowu Agbaje.)



Eko Club Miami delegates, from left Engineer Bayo Abina, Mr. Aileru and Alhaja Etti.



Members of Eko Club Minnesota at the convention .



Senator Musiliu Obanikoro, second from left with friends at the Saturday night party.



From left Alhaja Abiodun Gbadamosi (Minnesota), Mrs. Taofikat Oshodi (Minnesota) and Ms. Bunmi Onimole (Chicago) at the Saturday night party.



From left Mr. Nojeeb Agunbiade, Mrs. Mojisola Fahm-Ojelade and Mr. Mufutau Bisiriyu (all from Minnesota) at the Friday night banquet.

LA 2005 - A RECAP

(continued from page 1)

The day ended with a family banquet at the African Bamboo Restaurant in Los Angeles. The banquet provided members from different chapters across the globe an environment to mingle and socialize.

The convention resumed on Friday with an economic session in the morning. The session discussed business and investment opportunities, commerce, housing and real estate ventures in Lagos State. Also, the current efforts of the Tinubu administration in improving the infrastructures in Lagos State was presented by the officials of the state government.

The economic session was immediately followed with a town hall meeting of candidates aspiring to the governorship of Lagos State in the 2007 election. The aspirants in attendance were Senator Musiliu Olatunde Obanikoro, Senator Tokunboh Afikuyomi both Senators of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Engineer Hakeem Gbajabiamila,

Lagos State Commissioner of Physical Development and Infrastructure. The town hall meeting was organized by Lagos Indigene Political Action Committee (LIPAC).

The day ended with a fundraising banquet at the hotel. The fundraiser was part of the efforts of ECI to raise funds for its numerous community projects in the US and Lagos. One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the community project embarked upon by Eko Club New York. The rehabilitation of Ansarudeen Primary School, Okepopo and Holy Cross Primary School, Epetedo, Lagos.

The Saturday events started with the convention meeting where the outgoing President Attorney O.J. Lawal delivered the state of the club address and his farewell speech. After a brief adjournment, debates and elections of new officers followed. The conduct of the debates and elections was unprecedented in the history of the club.

The day ended with an elaborate party Eko Style at the Hollywood Casino Hall in Los Angeles with Alhaji Sikiru Ayinde Barrister and his fuji band on the bandstand.

Happenings

OCTOBER 2005

Saturday 29 - Mrs. Gladys Atawo, President, Eko Club Canada celebrated her 50th birthday on this day. The Executive Committee, Council of Presidents and members of Eko Club International congratulate Mrs. Atawo on this golden anniversary of her life. We wish her many more years to come.

Saturday 29 - Eko Club International general meeting held in Toronto, Canada. The inaugural meeting of the 2005-07 Executive Committee.

A ROYAL ACHIEVEMENT

The Executive Committee and members of Eko Club International congratulate Princess Adejoke Akiolu, the daughter of His Royal Highness Oba Rilwan Akiolu I, the Oba of Lagos on this monumental achievement. She graduates from the University of Hull, England with a Bachelors of Arts in Business Administration on January 27, 2006. Also, our special congratulations to the Princess on her election as the Secretary of the Youth Forum of Eko Club International.

MEET THE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

CONVENTION

Mr. Nojeeb Agunbiade

CULTURAL

Mr. Toyin James

EDITORIAL

Dr. Yomi Noibi

DISCIPLINARY

Mr. Rasheed Giwa

LAGOS

Mr. Kolawole Daniel

LAGOS SISTER COMMISSION

Mr. Rilwan Alowonle

LAND AND HOUSING

Mr. Kolawole Ope

MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Tunde Anthonio

WOMEN FORUM

Mrs. Toyin Ola

YOUTH FORUM

Ms. Bunmi Onimole

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 2006

Saturday 25—ECI Meeting hosted by Eko Club Atlanta

APRIL 2006

Friday 28 - Eko Club Houston - Grand Opening of Eko Plaza
Saturday 29—Eko Club Houston - Grand Opening of Eko Plaza

JUNE 2006

Saturday 24 -ECI Meeting hosted by Eko Club Canada

The next issue VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1 is due out in March 2006. The editorial committee welcomes articles, letter to the editor and special news for publication. Please send them to the editor at gbad0001@yahoo.com. The deadline for submission of correspondence is January 31, 2006.