



**ORLU REGIONAL ASSEMBLY USA, INC. (ORAUSA INC.)
19TH NATIONAL CONVENTION IN WASHINGTON, DC JUNE 19-23, 2019**

COMMUNIQUE

The 19th Annual National Convention of Orlu Regional Assembly USA, Inc. (ORAUSA Inc.,) held from June 19th, through 23rd, 2019 in Washington, DC. All seventeen active affiliates were represented by duly accredited delegates. About 900 people including members, their families and guests from within and outside USA attended the convention. A bus tour to the harbor on Wednesday June 19th kicked off the Convention for early attendees. On Thursday, June 20th, members undertook a tour of Washington DC, the Nation's Capital, visiting points of attraction including the Capitol and MLK Memorial. Our National President, Chief Tony Okpara, formally declared the convention open in a packed, festival-like Cultural Night held on Friday June 21st.

The Convention was the second to be organized by the National Executive led by Chief Tony Okpara as President and Dr. Uzo Unegbu as Vice President and therefore an election year. Chief Okpara and Dr. Unegbu were returned uncontested to their respective offices. It was also the second time ORA DC hosted ORAUSA Convention.

The President, Chief Tony Okpara, paid tribute to our departed members. The House of Delegates overwhelmingly voted for an amendment to the constitution that reads "In the event of a conflict between the ORAUSA Constitution and the Constitution of an Affiliate, the provision of the ORAUSA Constitution will supersede". They agreed to continue and improve upon the programs centered towards humanitarian service to the needy in the Homeland (ala Orlu Senatorial zone), projects to promote healthcare, education, technology and youth development in the zone; and to encourage programs that will bring diaspora youth into the main stream of the organization as future leaders.

The major programs and projects include the following:

MEDICAL MISSION: The ORAUSA Free Medical Mission will continue to provide needed free health screening in Orlu zone.

ORLU SUMMIT: ORAUSA will continue to hold its Annual Homeland Summit in Orlu in December to provide a platform for exchange of ideas between home-based and diaspora stakeholders.

YOUTH PROGRAMS: The ORAUSA Ikechukwu Onwuzurike Education Legacy Award granted scholarships totaling \$4,000 to 22 college students in attendance at the Convention this year. The youth attendees had fun-filled activities at the Convention.

MICRO FINANCE: ORAUSA will continue to empower indigent rural women through the Micro Finance program, championed by ORAUSA women. Recipients and their guarantors are to ensure that loans continue to revolve.

ORA-PAC: ORAUSA will continue to pursue programs that seek to educate the populace on their rights to participate in choosing the right candidates to provide good governance in a democratic setting.

Other Highlights of the Annual Convention:

ELECTION OF NEW ORA USA EXECUTIVE

Elections were conducted to elect new Executive Officers to run the affairs of ORA USA for the next two years. The newly elected/re-elected officers are:

1. President – Chief Tony Okpara re-elected
2. Vice President – Dr. Uzo Unegbu re-elected
3. General Secretary – Dr. Pauly Enwere
4. Asst. General Secretary – Mr. Austin Ofoha
5. Financial Secretary – Sir Ugochukwu Duru re-elected
6. Asst. Financial Secretary – Dr. Chinyere Achi re-elected
7. Treasurer – Mazi Emmanuel Orji
8. PRO – Chief Basil Ibenyenwa re-elected
9. Parliamentarian – Chief Chris Okala

Special Awards: Some awards made in the following categories to deserving individuals and groups include:

Emeka Chinedo Philanthropy Award-	Nze Daniel Chigbu Jason
Ikechukwu Onwuzurike Legacy Award -	Ugochukwu Egwuatu
ORAUSA Citizen of the Year -	Chief Green Iheka (Nigeria)
Orlu New Generations Award -	Clinton Ehidom (NY)
Host Citizen Service Award -	Chief Dr. Alamezie Ojiaku
Exemplary Affiliate Award -	ORA Houston
Presidential Service Award -	Deacon Charles Anumudu

Convention Hosts for 2020 and 2021: The conventions for 2020 and 2021 will be hosted by Houston and Baltimore, respectively. The convention hosting flag officially passed from Washington DC to the 2020 hosts, Houston, TX. The 2020 Convention is scheduled to hold in Houston from June 23 to June 28, 2020.

Convention Activities and Attendance

The Convention started with a Presidential Night hosted by Washington DC President on Wednesday for early convention attendees. This was followed by a tour of Washington DC on Thursday. The city tour which included a visit to the Capitol was well attended and received by attendees. The city tour was followed by a picnic featuring refreshment and recreation/sporting activities. On Friday the convention kicked off officially with a meeting in the morning and a cultural night in the evening. In attendance from Nigeria were ORAUSA Patrons Chief Green Iheka, Nze Gibson Chigbu and Grand Patron Chief Achike Udenwa; Chief Lawrence Eburuoh and Chief Ashimobi. The immediate Past President Chief Fidelis Ezewike was decorated as a Patron. We appreciate everyone who attended this convention and we look forward to a Texas-sized 2020 convention in Houston from June 23rd to June 28th. Start packing your bags folks!

Signed

Chief Tony Okpara	National President
Chief Chidi Nwameme	ABOD Chairman
Dr. Pauly Enwere	National General Secretary
Deacon Charles Anumudu	Former National General Secretary
Chief/Sir Basil Ibenyenwa	National Public Relations Officer