

My dear brothers and sisters, I salute you. O Noa

My name is Francis Ginah; I am the new vice president of Nembe Ibe USA under the leadership of our president Mr. Andrew Eperi. On behalf of the board of directors and the new executive leadership team of Nembe Ibe USA, I salute you and thank you for your participation and support of the inaugural convention of Nembe Ibe USA, your new organization.

With the kind of enthusiasm and participation witnessed, albeit with very short notice in these trying times, I believe the future is very bright and we must not let this momentum slip. I am writing you this letter to say “thank you” and also to confirm alignment on our shared belief in the need to contribute to the betterment of our people and region. If you are not yet committed, we ask that you join with us in our effort to make Nembe Ibe a better place for us all – call or write to anyone of us to ask how?

For me, the excitement of the recently concluded inaugural convention of Nembe Ibe USA has not and will not wear out. How can it, after nearly 30 years of sojourn I have finally found my people. We share the bonds of the mudskipper we chased for bait by the waterside, the isemi (periwinkle) we picked, or the sense of freedom engendered by the waterways that define us as a people and undergird our spirit of sharing, adventure and quiet but confident leadership. Ama doko doko bio kpo. Our place in history and the future was paved millennia ago, our leadership stool awaits occupancy. Now is the time.

How can you help? Let me count the ways:

- Believe. Be positive, and be understanding as we grow.
- Encourage us with your participation at meetings.
- Volunteer to join a committee, take on a task, or ask to assist.
- Do your best to accomplish assigned tasks.
- Fulfill your financial and other commitments to the organization.
- Start planning for Atlanta 09 - your Nembe Ibe family convention site for 09.
- Be a goodwill ambassador for Nembe Ibe wherever and whenever you can.
- Spread the word.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve my people in this capacity. I look forward to your support of this organization, so that together we can refine and redirect the identity of leadership that history has bestowed upon our people.

I will be remiss, if I did not acknowledge the contributions of the Board, the Chicagoans, and all those who contributed services (design of emblem, T-shirts, financial enablement, time, the leg work, cooking, general event planning, hospitality, etc) in making the organization and the inaugural convention a resounding success. We thank you all.

O Noa.
Francis Ginah