



CAMCOH GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

STATE OF CAMCOH, OCTOBER, 2013

Fellow Cameroonians:

Four years ago, Cameroonians in the Greater Houston Community under the leadership of Dr. Elias Bongmba and his administration came together and created this umbrella organization we know today as CAMEROON AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF HOUSTON (CAMCOH). In 2010, CAMCOH was registered as a 501(c)(3) organization with IRS. From that time a lot of positive things have happened in our community, the community has also gone through challenges and seized on opportunities. As our community continues to grow and have impact in the Greater Houston, it is our task to keep improving CAMCOH and make it better than how we meet it.

Today, thanks to the proven determination and resilience of Cameroonians in Houston like you, there is much progress to report on. We have built and are continuing to build trust within our community on the long-term objectives of CAMCOH. We are making significant progress in raising funds for the construction of the CAMCOH Center. Many are excited about it and I am too. We have organized 3 successful cultural day events and this year on November 16 we will be celebrating the 4th event and a fundraising gala. According to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, CAMCOH is in good standing with its office. We opened a paypal account to provide you with the convenience of payments and on May this year we launched our new website (www.camcoh.org). This website is the state of the art; for this year its design and hosting is sponsored by Multi-world Technologies. Please visit the website if you have not already done so. As stated in the bylaws registration is free (very easy process) but membership to CAMCOH is \$50. It is important that you register because it grants you weekly updates on what is happening within CAMCOH and the entire community. In the beginning of the year (February, 2013) we organized an education forum on college planning and financing dedicated specially for our college students and their families. I know a lot of you who attended and found it very informative. In August this year 6 of our Cameroonian born Attorneys organized the second immigration clinic, informing the community about the current immigration laws and the Senate immigration bill which was passed early this year. If you did not have the opportunity to attend the immigration clinic the links are on CAMCOH's website. We continue to engage and visit Cultural/alumni groups as well as support them in achieving their internal cohesiveness and goals. In September this year, CAMCOH called upon your support to help send the remains of Mrs. Eneke Awa. I can tell you that she was peacefully laid to rest in Cameroon.



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As concerns the CAMCOH center, this year we have organized two very successful fundraising dinners, in May and August, in which we were able to raise a sum of about \$32,600 (inclusive pledges and paid sums). The next one is planned for December this year. The names of the donors are listed on our website. It is the focused goal of the executive and board to raise \$300,000 towards the CAMCOH center within 3 years. With your perseverance and creative minds I am confident that together we can and will achieve this task.

But we also have lots of challenges and steep hills to climb. Our people continue to ignore the importance of buying life insurance coverage; the lack of volunteers in organizing events such as the cultural day; registration into CAMCOH and people are reluctant to pay their annual membership dues. Financially CAMCOH is not in good standing. Annually we have a running budget of about \$10,000 and it is always a struggle. Today we have \$27,875.60 in the account, of which \$24,617.40 is money specifically raised and to be used only for the cultural center. Therefore, we have only \$3,258.20 in CAMCOH's revolving account. An organization like CAMCOH cannot function without financial capital. For example, we organized the educational forum and immigration clinic out of CAMCOH's budget; we organize regular meetings with the council of chiefs and the GA meetings. The Executive and Board cannot execute CAMCOH's objectives without having finances and volunteers. Therefore, I am encouraging you to help us deliver by either paying online, bank wiring or directly to the financial secretary. One other big challenge we face is to get our youths and young adults involved in CAMCOH. There might be certain things we are not doing right or at least we are not yet there but we are open for improvements. We may hold different views than the person besides us, but as Cameroonian immigrants in Houston we all recognize we need a functioning umbrella organization in Houston and we need the involvement of our young adults. They are the ones to take CAMCOH to the next level we may not imagine today.

I want to thank the entire executive and board members of this administration, who run the day-to-day activities of CAMCOH, in addition to their own family duties and career aspirations. I know it is tough and I am very grateful for such a strong and resilient team.

Thank you all, God bless the cultural and alumni groups, God bless you and God bless CAMCOH.

Dr. Elive M. Menyoli

President, CAMCOH



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Resignations

Mr. Stephanou Yonkeu (Board member)

Dr. Elias Bongmba (Board member)