

**Inaugural Speech officially launching the Anti-malaria bed nest campaign by Oliver Saah, President,
African Union of Northern Nevada (AUNN), delivered on Saturday, December 14, 2013 at Holiday Inn
Hotel, 55 E. Nugget Avenue, Sparks, NV 89431, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Friends, Brothers and Sisters, welcome Guests!

The African Union of Northern Nevada (AUNN) would like to welcome you to our traditional Christmas party. Tonight, we will also be officially launching and promoting our new charitable cause: Anti-malaria bed nets Project for Africa.

It is over 12 years since 2001 when a group of young men and women, some of whom were students, had bold vision to establish an organization that would bring Africans together for social, economic, educational and cultural reasons.

Some of these men and women are still standing very tall among us in the likes of our 3 former Presidents, **Victor Wowo, Peter Aiyuk and Vitalis Ozoude. Because of your vision, sacrifices, and astute leadership, the African Union is standing tall, and Union strong!**

Under your collective leaderships, AUNN successfully convened and hosted the African Symposium and Cultural Festival in 2009 at the University of Nevada (UNR) main campus. You also structured our organization to become a 501 (c)3 Non Profit Entity. AUNN continues to support the Children Cabinet Adopt a Family program thereby bringing joy and smiles to Northern Nevada kids at Christmas.

Special thanks and recognition also goes to the gallant men and women of this organization, and in particular, to the Women wing for your enormous sacrifices. You continue to sacrifice your labor and time without asking for anything in return. You've done it again! Thank you for the delicious meal you have prepared tonight. To the new leadership team, I salute all of you and would like to recognize you for a great teamwork and unity. Always remember, we are servant based leaders, and our calling is to

serve. Ladies and gentlemen, please join me to acknowledge and congratulate our 2013-2014 leadership:

1. **Martha Aiyuk..... Vice President**
2. **Doris Anukam Financial Secretary**
3. **Gladys Wowo Treasurer**
4. **Mukwel Aiyuk General Secretary**
5. **Helen Kitii Assistant Secretary**
6. **Ben Osuji Publicity Secretary**
7. **Francis Kitii Assistant Publicity Secretary**
8. **Amadou Coumba Ba Web Administrator**

Some of you have asked what can AUNN do for you. AUNN is like a mansion with lots of room to accommodate everyone and needs. Like those who built this foundation, they were working for the greater good of giving back to the community first, and then helping the underprivileged in Africa. We must carry the same torch and spirit of giving so that others who follow will reap the benefits of the seeds we sow. **Then I would say to you, my friends: Let's not ask what AUNN can do for us, but first must ask ourselves what we can do to help AUNN impact our community, as well as help the poor and underprivileged in Africa.**

Let me share my story of the power of AUNN as an organization. Calamity as in death hit my home and took away my wife over 3 years ago. During my grief, AUNN, Rhema Christian Church and the 7th Day Adventist Church, in particular, consoled me. AUNN had a vigil and presented a donation to help me and my family. There can be no greater good or benefit in an organization than the fellowship and tide that binds its people. Like my story, we all have our stories and motivations to be part of something that is bigger than ourselves. As we are home, away from our motherland Africa, we want to tap into your

competitive advantages of working together as our brothers' and sisters' keepers in our community. This is part of the reason we want you to join us in helping those who we left behind in poverty, hunger, disease and illiteracy. We can do this through our AUNN Charities. First, we must increase our membership size to a solid triple digit active enrollment. We will do this by knocking on every door, and asking you to come back to AUNN. I can assure you that we will value your opinion, and your voices will be counted!

In the next 2 years, this administration will convene a Leadership Summit of all local African organizations. We will partner with faith based organizations and higher institutions of learning to discuss and strategize on social, cultural, educational and economic issues geared towards fighting hunger, poverty, disease and illiteracy in Africa.

This brings me to the Anti-malaria bed nets campaign that AUNN is officially launching tonight to help raise funds to fight Malaria in Africa.

Since we officially started this program at 6pm tonight, over 100 people including women and children have died from malaria. Every minute we spent each day without action, an innocent child is dying from malaria. In 2010, the World Health Organization (WHO) documented 219 million cases of malaria. Of that number, between 660,000 to 1.2 million died from the disease. Most of these tragedies were children from Africa. As the clock keeps ticking, we must do something no matter how small in measure to make a difference.

The Prevention of mosquito bites is one of the 3 methods of malaria prevention. As of now, Anti-Malaria bed-nets appear to be most cost effective way to prevent malaria. This is why we would like to expand beyond our charity in the Reno-Sparks community, and make an impact in Africa. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 annually to help buy Anti-malaria bed nets. The average cost of a bed net range from \$10.00 - \$20.00 which can save the life of an innocent child, mother or family.

On this night, I am calling upon all government institutions, non-government organizations, the business sector, and my African brothers and sisters including people of good will especially our American friends and Philanthropists, to join us in the fight against malaria as a killer disease.

The envelopes on your tables are intended to solicit your contributions which are tax deductible. You can make an impact by making pledges and cash contribution to help kick off our fund raising drive.

Thank you for choosing to be here with us tonight, and thank you for giving from your heart. We look forward to seeing you at next year's events. God bless the African Union of Northern Nevada. May God continue to abundantly bless this Great nation of the United States of America for giving us liberty and freedom in pursuit of happiness.

Thank you!