**LETTER**

**FOR**

**PAUL IJWEWERE**

To all of my fellow members of the Esan World Congress,

It has always been a great privilege to be a part of an organization that serves to honor our heritage and culture while promoting connection, good will, and understanding within our native community and throughout the world. Although it is natural to find challenges throughout life, business and brotherhood, eventually the time comes when we wake up, take a look around us, and realize there is too much at stake…. There is too much division in the world and in our culture… there is too little time to serve our brothers and sister. The time has arrived when we must lead by example and work **together** in friendship and with common purpose to serve the people of the Esan nations throughout the world and at home, wherever that may be.

The Esan culture dates back for thousands of years and each sector of our nation carries with it a proud heritage that inspires unique points of view. Even with our diverse history, we are still united as one culture. We all know that our love of our country, our native communities, and our families does not get weaker with absence… our commitment grows stronger. In a world in which we are connected on so many levels… culturally, technologically, economically, politically, it no longer matters where we find ourselves geographically. What **DOES** matter is that we keep the mission of the Esan World Congress close to our hearts, minds, and actions. No matter where we are on this earth, we are joined together through the good work we have always done…. Work that supports and promotes the health, well being, and mental, physical, and economic prosperity of the Esan cultures.

Although our name has evolved over the years, our mission to stay true to the Esan people of the Edo nation is as important as ever. We must always hold that mission statement close to us as we work together to use our collective resources and commitment to serve our community:

***"****Promote the Unity of all Esan people in the World
through the facilitations of cultural,
educational and social activities that will allow for the
development, improvement and growth of the individuals
and organizations representing the Esan people in the
United States/Canada as well as Nigeria and in the world as a whole."*

**(This quote is from Ethiopian Regent Haile Selassie…. If you don't want to cite him and use his name, you can say, “a wise man once said” or “An African emperor once said”)** To paraphrase Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie, “ We must become bigger than we have been: more courageous, greater in spirit, larger in outlook. We must become members of a new race, overcoming petty prejudice, owing our ultimate allegiance not to nations but to our fellow men within our global community.” As long as there are members of the Esan and Edo nations that want for food, shelter, health, education, and personal dignity, we will all have work to do. In order to make a positive, long lasting impact, we must work together to serve our people and our community. The work we do at (**name the hospitals you support**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is critical to the survival of our culture. We save lives… we promote well being… we provide a path to the future. The work we do for (**name some schools you support**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ provides education so that our youth can grow strong, informed, and aware of what is needed for the Esan people to go forward and thrive.

We are blessed to have been born into a diverse and rich legacy and it is our turn to do what we can, with wisdom and **partnership**, to lead the way for our families and neighbors throughout the Esan and Edo nations and ultimately the world. It doesn't matter where we are,… we are Esan in our blood.

Thank you all for your partnership and passion. Let's continue to work **together** to fulfill our mission.

Sincerely,