ADDRESS PRESENTED BY CALABAR, MGBE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SEND-OFF OF CHIEF (Dr.) IVOR MILLER, ỌBOỌN MBAKARA, EFE EKPE EYO EMA, AND AN ERUDITE MEMBER OF CALABAR MGBE, CALABAR, CROSS RIVER STATE THE ORGANIZERS OF INTERNATIONAL EKPE FESTIVALS, ON FRIDAY, 30TH MAY, 2008.

CALABAR MGBE
(Organisers of International Ekpe Festival)

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AN ADDRESS, PRESENTED BY CALABAR MGBE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SEND-OFF OF CHIEF (Dr.) IVOR MILLER, OBON MBAKARA, EFE EKPE EYO EMA, AND AN ERUDITE MEMBER OF CALABAR MGBE, CALABAR, CROSS RIVER STATE, THE ORGANIZERS OF INTERNATIONAL EKPE FESTIVALS, ON FRIDAY, 30TH MAY, 2008.

OYEI....... ! BAB...... !! MKPE...... !!!

Our Special Guest, Chief (Dr.) Ivor Miller, the Mbãkãra of Efe Ekpe Eyô Ema and the Ambassador of Abakua, Cubà.

We are happy to gather here in our President’s Residence, Big Qua Town, Calabar to bid you farewell. We chose this venue to enable non-ekpe initiates who are friendly with Chief (Dr.) Ivor Miller feel free to join us and express their joy and happiness to interact with us in this Send-Off gesture.

On behalf of Calabar Mgbe, the Federation of Ekpe Lodges of the Efik, Qua, Umon, Efut and Okoyong Lodges of the Greater Calabar Area, and presently the Organisers of the International Ekpe Festival, we congratulate Chief (Dr.) Miller, for his Research work has solidified the cultural and economic relationship between Nigeria and Cuba. This is African and American relations which foster Inter-Continental Awareness.

Five years ago, when Chief (Dr.) Miller arrived Calabar, Non-initiates of Ekpe thought he was here on a mere visit, little did we know that his mission and stay in Calabar will facilitate contacts with Ekpe Lodges in Cross River State, Abia State, Imo State, Cameroon, Cubà, Equatorial Guinea, Congo, Gabon and other interests groups.
In our International Ekpe Festival Project Profile, Chief (Dr.) Ivor Miller is a Contributor, Director, Supervisor and Advertiser, in Name, Organization, Participation, History, Ekpe Boats, Opening Ceremonies, Carnival Parades, Drama/Concert, Songs Colloquium Nyooro/Ekpe Dance, Funding, Visits, Invitations, Receptions, Title Festivities, Photographing, Audio-Video Recording, Meetings and Entertainments.

Chief (Dr.) Ivor Miller’s presence in our occasions dignifies and colours the cultural and traditional ties between the black and the American people most especially as it is known that the Ekpe Culture in America and other countries of the globe roots in Calabar, the first Capital of Nigeria.

The transparent and social character of Chief (Dr.) Ivor Miller is a Testimony that has convinced many people that Ekpe is a cult but Not A Secret Cult, thus making the ‘Thomases’ to remove the doubts from their minds. Today, the number of Ekpe initiates and Chiefs has increased in Nigeria and diaspora, the erroneous existing gap between tradition and Religion has been bridged.

We, as an Association, commend Chief (Dr.) Ivor Miller to Persons in both Private and Government Institutions and Establishments to be very confident in this Epitome of Good Nature in person of Chief (Dr.) Ivor Miller.

OYEI....... ! BAB...... !! MKPE...... !!!

Chief Ekoñ E. E. Imona
(President) 26-05-2008

Chief Ekpenyong E. A. Ana
(General Secretary)