

# 2023 MBAISE USA MEDICAL MISSION REPORT HEALTHCARE FOR ALL





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#### PAST MBAISE USA MEDICAL MISSION MEDICAL DIRECTORS OR CHAIRPERSONS











FIRST Row: Dr. Mrs Evelyn Chiakpo; High Chief SOS Echendu; Dr. Ms. Adanze Aguwa

Second Row: High Chief Emmanuel Anosike & Dr. Mrs. Oduagu Agatha Anosike;

Chief Dr. Chamberlain & Lolo Nwanne

Third Row: Dr. Vitalis Ojiegbe; Late Hon kingsley Anyanwu & Dr. Mrs. Chiakpo; Dr. Mrs.

Jovita Ike. Fourth Row: Hon John Nwokoroku

#### **Executive Summary**

After months of planning, solicitation efforts to donate medications and supplies, coordination with the host communities to ensure all appropriate measures including personnel recruitments are put in place to ensure a successful medical mission, securing all necessary national and state permits, the 2023 Mbaise USA medical mission commenced as planned on April 25, 2023, with a flag-off ceremony at Ezialakaohu Medical Center. Unlike in previous years, the 2023 medical mission program occurred concurrently at 7 clinic sites and 1 surgical site. The medical clinic sites included Aguneze, Ezialakaohu, Ihitte, Mbutu, Mpam/Ihitte Aforukwu, Obizi, and Umunneato. Each site was staffed by doctors, nurses and pharmacist recruited through efforts by an organizing committee for each host community. Additional medical doctors and nurses were supplied through recruitment efforts orchestrated by Mbaise USA to augment medical professionals in these communities.

In addition to the general medical doctors, there were also optometrists who provided eyecare services at many of the clinic sites. As one could imagine, range of medical conditions were addressed at each of the clinic sites such as the usual ailments including hypertension, diabetes, chronic pains, ulcers, diarrhea, infectious disease such as malaria/typhoid, parasitic infections, etc. Furthermore, there were many patients who presented with masses and other defects that required surgical attention. In all, more than seven thousand (7,000) people were seen and attended to during the 3 days of clinics that lasted from April 25 – 27, 2023. In all, more than 70 medical doctors, 15 pharmacists, 14 optometrists, 1 ophthalmologist, and more than 40 nurses worked at the clinic sites.

An integral part of the medical mission was the surgical care ably led by Dr. Mrs. Tessy Okere, Chief Anesthesiologist and Co-Medical Director. The surgeries took Place at the Holy Rosary Hospital, Ogbor Nguru. There were about 8 surgeons, 2 anesthesiologists, 4 nurse anesthetists who worked together to perform more than 115 surgeries. The ophthalmologist performed about 106 cataract surgeries during the mission. Surgical services were available from April 25-29, 2023. The surgeries performed during the medical mission ranged from hernia repairs, lump removals, etc.

The 2023 medical mission was especially unique in so many ways. As mentioned above, the 7 clinic sites operated concurrently for 3 days, which was different from 2 concurrently run clinics as had been the case during previous missions. Another factor that set this year's medical mission apart was a very productive and mutually beneficial partnership with the Emma Njoku Foundation. The clinic site at Umunneator community was primarily staffed by a medical team organized through the foundation.

Another integral part of the medical mission was the provision of medicines to the patients seen. There were more medications dispensed, during the 2023 mission than previous missions, by the team of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, who worked very diligently to dispense the medications while providing education about the functions and side effects of the medications.

The roles of the logistics, operations, and security team cannot be overestimated in making the entire medical mission experience move as smoothly as possible. The logistics team was instrumental in cataloging the medications/medical equipment in the United States of

America, coordinating the shipping/handling of all supplies from the USA and clearing/transportation of materials from the wharf to the storage facility in Mbaise. In addition, in collaboration with the operations team, the logistics team helped to manage the day to day activities at the clinic sites, including assisting with work flow, crowd control, etc.

The safety of our treatment teams and the patients was taken very seriously. With the help of the national president, Chief SOS Echendu, the Vice President Ezeji Chief Alozie Aguwa, the Deputy Director of Logistics and Mission Chief Security Officer, Hon John Iheoma, The Traditional Rulers of Ezuhu na Amadi Nguru; Egberede Nguru and Barrister Emma Njoku of Emma Njoku Foundation, a team of more than 60 heavily equipped military/police/state security personal protected the clinic sites and the surgical site. Additional arrangement was made involving and engaging Uvuru Police Command because of the unfortunate security mishap that involved officers of that particular command a few days before the start of the mission.

Despite the successes achieved during the 2023 medical mission, there were several lessons learned that once addressed, would make future medical missions even more successful. First, while the organization is appreciative of medications donated by individuals and groups for use during the medical mission, there are several key medications that tend to be of greater use for the population we see. These include antihypertensive, oral diabetes medications, antihistamines, acid reflux medications, antimalarials, antihelmintic drugs, glaucoma eye drops, antibiotics eye drops, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents, etc. Second, while we were able to recruit much more physicians by enlisting the help of the host communities, it is important to ensure universal vetting of all providers recruited.





Vice President Ezeji Alozie Aguwa shaking hands with Hon Val Ukwunna, Deputy Board Chairman Hon cliff Opara in neck tie, & staff of Emma Njoku Foundation, Albert Anusi observing the activities and visiting at Eziala-Kaohu Community Health Center.



Patients waiting to receive their prescriptions at Eziala-Kaohu Community Health Center Pharmacy.



More Pharmacy Pictures from Eziala-Kaohu



Dr. Leo Nwaigwe, Mayor of Mbutu with Stanley Odomena (Austin/San Antonio) 4th from left with Medical Mission Chairman and Deputy Director of Logistics during delivery of donated walkers prescribed for disabled members of Mbutu Community.



At Eziala-Kaohu Community Health

Center. Left to Right: DON Dr. Mrs. Jovita Ike, Oganihu Mbaise Washington/Virginia; Hon Sly Anochie, (South Carolina); Vice President Ezeji Alozie Aguwa, (MPA Dallas Texas); , RN Ugo Onuoha, (MAM); Medical Director Designate, Dr. Emeka Onuoha, (South Carolina.

#### **Mbutu Clinic Site**



Patients at Mbutu clinic site waiting to be called by the nurses



Community Volunteers for crowd control, logistics, etc at Mbutu Clinical Site



Left Picture: Mayor of Mbutu, Dr. Leo Nwaigwe next Hon John Iheoma, Deputy Director of Logistics & Chief security Officer being flanked by members of Mbutu Community during delivery of a Wheelchair to a member of the community. Right Picture: Hon John Iheoma, Deputy Director of Logistics & Chief Security Officer with Mission Chairman Prince Richard Nwachukwu-Abii, and Mbutu Community Leader at Mbutu Center.

#### **Umuneato Primary Health Center Eziala Nguru:**



Mission Chairman, Prince Richard Nwachukwu-Abii at Umuneato Eziala Nguru Center during Cite inspection.

#### **Ahiazu Mbaise LGA:**



At The Madonna Hospital Pharmacy Aguneze Ahiara. Mbaise USA 2023 Medical Mission Director of Operations, in yellow t-shirt, Ugo Onuoha, supervising.



At Chris VI Hotels & Resorts, Display of some of the medical equipments donated by Medical Missionaries, Manassas Virginia. Wheelchairs, Walkers, Canes and Crutches to be given to patients, by prescription free of charge, at the Left Hon John Iheoma, MAM; From Right Hon Emma Njoku, MPU Washington DC, with Volunteer Physicians.



Wheelchair donated to Holy Rosary Hospital Ogbor Nguru by Mbaise USA 2023 Medical Mission, courtesy of Medical Missionaries, Manassas Virginia. Left to Right: Holy Rosary Hospital Administrator Rev. Fr. Franklin Mirikwe; RN Ugo Onuoha; John Iheoma, Deputy Director of Logistics and Chief Security Officer.

#### Aguneze - Madonna Hospital Aguneze Ahiara:



At Madonna Hospital Aguneze Ahiara: Fifth from Left: Ngida Fortune Adiuku, Logistics; Dr. Solomon Akponye; Sir Ezinna Oliver Akponye; Hon Emma Njoku and other volunteers at Aguneze Ahiara.



Day 2 at Madonna Hospital Aguneze Pharmacy

#### Mpam/Ihitteaforukwu - Pater Noster Secondary School Ekwereazu Clinic Site

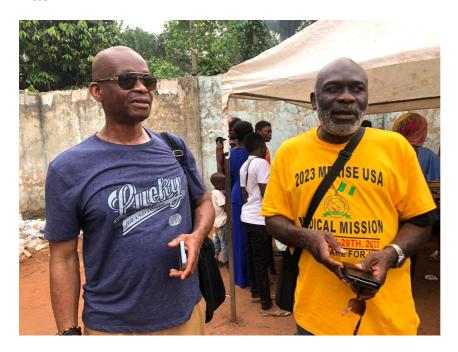


Cross section of people being attended to by physicians as well as those waiting to be called by the nurses at Mpam/Ihitteaforukwu.



From Left: RN Chief Mrs. Genevieve Ibe, Ugobuzuo Ochake, Assistant DON, 2023 Mbaise USA Medical Mission; Mr. Okechukwu; Mr. Anthony Njoku, Community Member; Chief Remy Onuoha; HRH Eze Dom Okoro, Eze Okrika Ama Community.

#### Ihitte



Chief Joachim Nwaogu, Left, Coordinator & Representative of 2023 Mbaise USA Medical Mission at Ihitte with Mission Chairman Hon Richard Nwachukwu-Abii at Mbaukwu Ihitte Health Center.



Patients waiting for their turn to see the doctors/nurses at Mbaukwu Ihitte Health Center,
Oparachi Ihitte.



From Left - Secretary, 2023 Mbaise USA Medical Mission, Prince Chizom Anyanwu; Mr. Albert Anusi General Manager of Emma Njoku Foundation, Mbaise USA Vice President Ezeji Alozie Aguwa; 2nd from right - Chief Joachim Nwogu of Ihite; 3rd from right - Paschaline Akaleke Admin Officer Emma Njoku Foundation and other Ihitte Community leaders and volunteers.

The 2023 mission attracted a lot of interest and support, particularly and as always, from members of Mbaise USA affiliate chapters who donated heavily, as never before. It was simply amazing. In terms of funding, the mission did not lack donations.

In keeping with its commitment of delivering quality healthcare, Mbaise USA recruited medical staff as follows:

- 21 Consulting Physicians & Nurse Practitioners; 10 Surgeons; 2 Anesthesiologists;
- 4 Nurse anesthetists; 10 Pharmacists; 18 pharmacy technicians; more than 28 nurses

In addition to the above medical personnel recruited by Mbaise USA, the host communities were required to recruit medical personnel from amongst their citizens, to volunteer in their respective centers, with exception of surgeons, anesthesiologists and Nurse anesthesiologists. It was an awesome collaborative project.



Patients at the Holy Rosary Hospital, Ogbor Nguru, 2023 Mbaise USA Medical Mission Surgery Center



During one of the Mission Strategy Sessions in Rev. Fr. Franklin Mirikwe's Office. From Right - Backing the camera Rev. Sister Elizabeth of Emma Njoku Foundation; Mission Chairman Prince Richard Nwachukwu-Abii; DON, Dr. Mrs. Jovita Ike; Special Assistant to the DON, RN Georgina Uwalaka; Director of Operations, RN Ugo Onuoha. Standing - a Technician staff of Holy Rosary Hospital.



Patients waiting for surgery at Holy Rosary Hospital, Ogbor Nguru. Over 100 surgeries completed during the official dates of the mission. April 25th - April 29th 2023. Many more body/minor surgeries pending under special arrangement with Emma Njoku Foundation.

106 Cataract surgeries completed. 56 of those paid for by Emma Njoku Foundation.





In addition to the hired buses, to lessen the financial burden on the mission, transportation services was also provided by ABC Transport and Bedewell Transportation free of charge. Furthermore, Mbaise USA President, High Chief SOS Echendu, provided three additional personal vehicles that were deployed throughout the mission until the last day the Mission Chairman, Prince Richard Nwachukwu-Abii, left Nigeria back to the US.

Others that provided their vans or personal vehicles for use during the mission were Hon Val Ukwunna - MAM; Vice President Ezeji Alozie Aguwa - MPA Dallas Texas; Deputy Director of Logistics, Hon John Iheoma - MAM; Director of Nursing, Dr. Mrs. Jovita Ike - Oganihu Washington/Virginia; President Emeritus Delaware Valley, Dr. Eugene Oledinma; Chief Kingsley Njoku, relative of Hon Emma Njoku Director of Logistics and member MPU Washington DC.



Nurses at Holy Rosary Hospital Surgical Site with ABC Transport staff assisting as logistics

In the true spirit and meaning of "Whatever it takes". Awesome and Exceptional guy. Truth be told, year after year, it seems as though CEO Frank Nneji and ABC Transport sends us their best staff with their best Vehicles. You had to be there.

#### **Publicity and Security**





Security was intense and adequate involving Army/Security Officers from Obinze Army Base; Police Officers from different divisions of the Force in Imo State, including The Uvuru Mbaise Police Command; Vigilante groups from the various host communities. All the security agencies worked together to ensure the safety of the missionaries and the host communities. In the foreground, Nigeria Naval Security Officer chatting with Director of Logistics, Hon Emma Njoku.

The military/Security Officers received medical attention also.



The 2023 Mbaise USA Medical Mission took publicity to a whole new dimension, via various print media and the NTA television broadcast. This of course culminated in near overwhelming number of people seeking medical attention. Through the preparedness of Mbaise USA and the commitment of the various communities, almost everyone who showed up received care. For instance Eziala-Kaohu Community made a separate arrangement to extend the mission to Tuesday, May 2nd 2023 in their community.



# At Chris VI Hotels & Resort, Nnarambia Ahiara Mbaise, Coordinating Venue for the 2023 Mbaise USA Medical Mission.

From Left: Army/Security Officer from Obinze Army Base; Vice President, Ezeji Alozie Aguwa, MPA Dallas; Mission Chairman, Prince Richard Nwachukwu-Abii, MPA Dallas; Director of Nursing (DON) Dr. Mrs. Jovita Ike, Oganihu Mbaise Washington /Virginia; Director of Operations, RN Ugo Onuoha, MAM; Deputy DON, Chief Mrs. Genevive Ibe, Oganihu Mbaise Washington/Virginia; Medical Director Designate, Dr. Emeka Onuoha, Mbaise Association of South Carolina; Army/Security Officer from Obinze Army Base.



#### **Directors Perspectives**

\*Medical Director (Presented by MD Designee Dr. Emeka Onuoha)

The 2023 Mbaise USA Medical Mission took place from April 25 – April 29, 2023 after a long period of planning. The medical mission has been an annual event dating back to 2009. This is an event that allows the indigenes of Mbaise in Imo State, Nigeria, and who reside in the United States of America to attempt to lighten the burdens of ill-health on their brothers and sisters who reside in Nigeria. The full scale medical mission was unfortunately interrupted for at least 3 years by the corona virus (Covid -19) pandemic that brought the whole world to its knees. As one would expect, so many people went without necessary health care services during the Covid-19 period, leading to the exacerbation of an already significant problems caused by chronically untreated or under-treated medical conditions including hypertension, diabetes, chronic musculoskeletal pains, etc.

The 2023 medical mission brought together more than 70 medical doctors, surgeons, nurse practitioners, optometrists/ophthalmologist, opticians, pharmacists, and anesthesiologists, who staffed 7 clinic sites and one surgical site. At the clinic sites, the medical doctors and nurses evaluated patients, providing medical education and counseling, and gave prescription medications that are then filled by the pharmacists. During the 3 days of clinics held concurrently at the 7 sites, more than seven thousand (7,000) patients were seen. Some patients who were deemed to have surgical needs were then referred to the surgical site, where they were then assessed by the surgeons for surgical interventions including lumpectomies, herniorrhaphies, and cataract surgeries. Suffice it to say that much was accomplished during the mission, the needs abound, but are not insurmountable.

According to an article published in the Lancet in 2019 titled "Burden of non-communicable diseases in sub-Saharan Africa, 1990 – 2017: Results from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017," there is a significant and alarming shift to non-communicable/chronic diseases facing countries in sub-Saharan Africa, including Nigeria. Gone are the days when the health issues that plague our people were infectious in nature.

As noted in the above report, the burden of disease due to conditions such as diabetes, stroke (cerebrovascular accident), mental health disorders, substance abuse (drugs and alcohol), malignancies (cancers), chronic pain, gastrointestinal disorders (acid reflux, ulcers), acid etc have skyrocketed since 1990, as measured with Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALY), a global way of measuring how diseases and health conditions affect an individual's or a population's quality of life, which can then affect the productivity of a person. Policymakers, researchers, and governments use this information (DALY) to calculate how diseases and health conditions affect the length and quality of life of a people or population.

It was estimated that between 1990 and 2017, DALY in sub-Saharan Africa increased by 67%. In essence, the impact of chronic/non-communicable diseases is growing and growing rapidly in our communities. Gone are the days when we used to think that conditions such as cancer, stroke, heart disease, mental health disorders, etc. only affected people in the western world. They are at our doorsteps and are not going away unless something is done.

The factors identified as driving this rise in non-communicable diseases include lack of education, especially as it concerns the effects of cigarette smoking, poor diet choices; poor healthcare infrastructure; uncontrolled hypertension and diabetes, etc. The conditions encountered and treated during the 2023 Mbaise USA Medical Mission so closely resemble the findings of this study published in the Lancet. The years of life lived with disability (YLD) as well as years of life lost (YLL) due to these conditions will not improve unless concerted and sustainable efforts are made to address these issues from the grassroots.

These include education regarding healthy lifestyle choices, identification of signs of stroke and heart attack, investments in medical education and rural healthcare infrastructure, collaborative efforts with governmental and non-governmental organizations, empowerment of people in the communities to seek healthcare services early and often.

The importance of what Mbaise USA is doing with the medical mission cannot be overestimated. The efforts of everyone involved, including the executive team, chapter leadership, chapter members, friends of Mbaise, especially the volunteers to give of their time to make the mission happen, are very much appreciated and commended. Obviously more can be done and more needs to be done. We need to continue to work in collaboration with healthcare providers and community leaders in Mbaise to make necessary investments and change the fate of our people for the better.

Burden of non-communicable diseases in sub-Saharan Africa, 1990ââ,¬â€œ2017: results from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2017 (thelancet.com)



Dr. Emeka Onuoha, Medical Director Designate, at Chris VI Hotels & Resorts, Nnarambia Ahiara during evening debriefing of the volunteer staff.

#### 2023 MBAISE USA MEDICAL MISSION DIRECTORATE OF PHARMACY: AN APPRAISAL

The Medical Mission by the MBAISE USA Inc, a US Based Non-Profit association of some Mbaise Citizens currently living in the United States of America is, in an overall assessment, one of the most impactful projects ever conceived and continually being executed by MBAISE USA to the benefit of our people at the grassroot in Mbaise and surrounding communities.

Other festivities and ceremonies do take place at different times of the year but the question is - how many lives of ordinary people are positively impacted?, hence the Mbaise USA Medical Mission is a laudable project that should be supported, sustained and improved upon in successive years to come.

Like every other human activity, the need for continuous evaluation of each outing shall pave the way for better performances in the subsequent medical missions. There can always be ways and means to better performances through constructive suggestions from the various departments.

#### **FRIEGHT & HALUAGE**

Medicines were delivered in good conditions and in tamper proof containers and packages. However, the labelling and identification of the contents of various cartons sometimes presented a big challenge because medicines, surgical, hospital equipment were mixed up inside one carton. Valuable medicines were inadvertently left at the bottom of some cartons because what was seen at the top were different materials. It may be beneficial for the department of Logistics working in concert with the Director of Pharmacy to make a list of the content of each carton which shall be placed inside the carton to enhance sorting prior to deployment to the point of utilization.



#### **LOCAL SOURCING OF MEDICINES**

The Mission may consider the involvement /collaboration of a pharmacist practicing in Nigeria with the requisite cognate experience to give guidance in the purchase of medicines that are wholesome,

efficacious for the treatment of tropical diseases like malaria, helminthiasis, scabies, dermatitis, atopy, colic pains, parasitic infections thrush, eye and ear infections, etc. As the mission solicits for support through the benevolence of its members and other well intentioned members of the public, emphasis should be made for not only non-communicable diseases but also tropical diseases that plague the population who are at the epicenter of the medical mission objectives. Complementary materials like the dispensing trays and spoons, dispensing envelopes, prescriptions papers and takeaway bags must be factored into requirements to ensure seamless execution of the medical mission. The use of dinning plates and spoons borrowed from the hotel for dispensing purposes diminished the professional outlook of the services rendered.



#### WORKFORCE

The engagement of Pharmacy technicians as supportive staff was impressive. Their performance as was guided by the supervision of Pharmacists made it possible to service large quantities of

prescriptions to the satisfaction of the populace. Due diligences on the antecedents of such personnel must be ascertained to keep away people with questionable characters from handling critical /sensitive materials in the course of service delivery. Name tags should be provided for proper identification of staff and to prevent unauthorized persons from breaching the service delivery processes.





#### **DONATION BY LOCAL DRUGS MANUFACTURERS**

It is noteworthy that not all locally produced medicines are of standards that could in good conscience fit into the quality designed for the medical mission.

It would appear that any drug dispensed in the course of the medical mission has a seal of quality and approval. It therefore behoves the medical mission to accept only medicines that rank among the best in their therapeutic class. Leveraging the medical mission by local manufacturers for the sole purpose of gaining a seal of approval to enable them penetrate the market and gain wide acceptance should be checked and discouraged. Expiration dates are also vital considerations to be noted before accepting and shipping medicines for the medical mission.

#### REMUNERATION OF THE WORKFORCE

Notwithstanding the fact that the workforce is mainly volunteers, the stipend provided for them should be able to take care of their basic needs and transport to and fro their places of abode. The pharmacy workforce does their work day and night to be able to keep pace with the trajectory of the work plan.

#### WAREHOUSING

All left over nonperishable items should be properly documented and warehoused so that they could be used in the next year's programme.

#### **CONTACT AND MOBILIZATION (RECRUITMENT OF WORKFORCE)**

Early commencement will enable the Pharmacy Directorate to engage suitable workforce. It will also enable prospective volunteers to make the necessary adjustments in their primary places of work, to secure casual leave or permission to absent from work for the required number of days the mission is projected to last.

#### **HOSTING RIGHT**

It will be desirable for Mbaise USA to specify the minimum condition to be met by towns that may wish to bid for hosting rights. Considerations may include conducive shelter, security, feeding, organizational framework, discipline, complementary local organizing committee as well as ability to beef up the medicines supply and workforce. These are some of the salient considerations though this might not be exhaustive.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

The Mbaise USA Medical Mission 2023 had afforded participants a platform to selflessly serve humanity where the needs are quite obvious. Those who are unable to afford medicines and Medicare in the society are usually the most vulnerable to diseases / sicknesses and these was the gap the mission sought to fill. By operating at multiple locations with a highly committed workforce and with the best therapeutic regimen, it was obvious that the positive impact made by the mission will remain an experience the people will treasure in their heart with profound gratitude for a longtime to come.

#### \*Nursing Director/Assistant Director (Dr. Mrs Jovita Ike/ Chief Mrs Genevieve Ibe)

The success of any medical mission hinges on the strength and commitment of the nurses, medical doctors, nurse practitioners, surgeons, pharmacists, and all who give of themselves the make sure the mission is successful. The 2023 Mbaise USA medical mission is no exception. The nurses, both from home and the USA performed beyond expectations. As has been previously mentioned in this report, the 2023 medical mission activities were conducted

concurrently at 8 different locations, with one of the locations being the surgery site at Holy Rosary Hospital Ogbor Nguru.

Across the 8 sites, there were more than 80 nurses with differing levels of experience, who were on hand to lend their expertise. These nurses performed exceptionally well in the duties ranging from patient triaging, education and counseling on disease prevention, diet, exercise, and other lifestyle changes that are important in healthy living. It is worth noting that a diverse array of medical conditions were encountered during the medical mission, ranging from diabetes, hypertension, chronic pain/arthritis, malaria, etc. It is one thing to suffer from one or two of these conditions, the inability to recognize or acknowledge the existence of these medical conditions contributes even greater to the morbidity and mortality associated with these conditions. It therefore makes it seem that lack of knowledge in the face of poverty is a comorbid condition that plagues the people in our hometown of Mbaise. Hence, the importance of continuing to make all efforts to support the medical mission and larger infrastructural plans in the works.

The surgical arm of the mission presented particularly unique challenges with nurse staffing and functions. To begin with, surgical care is a complicated area of nursing practice, especially when you have limited resources as is the case in Nigeria. The nurses rose to the occasion by working with the anesthesiologists, nurse anesthetists, and surgeons in the pre-operative, operating room, and recovery areas to ensure the patients are well cared for.

This year's medical mission has been billed by many as one of the most, if not the most successful since the inception of the medical mission more than 10 years ago. Thanks to the selfless work of the Chairman of the mission, directors of the different departments, support from the Board of Delegates and Executive leadership of Mbaise USA, all our chapters and their members, the host communities, as well as collaborating partners, especially the Emma Njoku Foundation, David Omenukor Foundation, Medical Missionaries of Manassas Virginia USA, Restoring Vision, ABC Transport, Bedewell Ehirindu Transportation, to name a few.

All the successes notwithstanding, there are many lessons learned and therefore opportunities for improvement to ensure the success of future medical missions. Starting with the nursing team, early recruitment of nurses in the United States of America and at home is very important. A healthy mix of nurses from among those in the diaspora and at home will create learning opportunities for both, and also creates a pool of talent to address the needs of our relatives at home.

Most of the nurses who work on the medical mission are based in Nigeria. While they volunteer their time, providing them with stipends to ease the financial burden they may endure by participating in the mission needs serious consideration, as they do lose a portion of their salaries to the time they dedicate to the medical mission.

While we had a large supply of nurses to perform their duties at the clinic sites, it was discovered that some of the clinic sites did not have adequate number of equipments and supplies, including sphygmomanometers, stethoscopes, glucometers, thermometers, etc. The provision of equipment and supplies is a shared responsibility between MUSA medical mission and each host community, and so should be explicitly addressed prior to commencement of subsequent missions.

Other areas that need attention include provision of adequate logistics personnel at the surgical site, provision of emergency medical kits including Automated External Defibrillators (AED), supplemental oxygen with tubing, Bag Mask Ventilator (BMV), Bi-level Positive Airway Pressure (BiPAP) or Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP), equipped emergency vehicle/Ambulance transport, and collaborative agreement with a tertiary care facility for medical emergencies.

These additional supplies and materials will require robust financial backing from the organization. While resources are not unlimited, it is imperative that financial constraints do not stymie what the medical mission attendants are able to do, within reason. We therefore welcome continued efforts to develop more partnerships with both governmental and non-governmental organization to continue to catapult the Mbaise USA medication from and episodic outreach to a sustainable endeavor capable of providing continuity of care through network of local medical practitioners who are available to provide follow up care.



Nurses attending to patients at Mbutu Clinic site



Nurses getting in the spirit of the mission. 3rd from left Stanley Odoemene (Austin/San Antonio) 4th from right, Mrs. Juliet Oguledo(MPU) flanked by other nurses.

# **Host Community Reports and Related Documents**

#### **Views From the Communities**

#### \*Mpam/Ihitte Aforukwu

The Mpam/Ihitte Aforukwu clinic site was Pater Noster Secondary School, Ekwerazu. Like most of the other clinic sites maintained for the Mbaise USA medical mission, people were attended to regardless of their place of origin. This was particularly true for Mpam/Ihitte

Aforukwu being a border town with Ehime, Mbano. Dignitaries, including HRH and Ugoeze Dom Okoro of Okirika Ama graced the program. Eze Dom Okoro was particularly grateful to Mbaise USA for the efforts to assist with the healthcare needs of our people at home.

During the 3 days of the medical mission, about 3,000 individuals were attended to with the help of 14 nurses, 14 nurses, 5 auxiliary/community health workers, 36 support workers performing different roles, 4 pharmacy technicians, and 2 Pharmacists, who worked tirelessly to see that each patient's needs were attended to within what was available for the mission.

The eye care section and the pharmacy area were especially busy. About 1,500 people were seen for eye complaints, majority of who received reading glasses, and many were referred to the surgery center at Holy Rosary Hospital, Ogbor Nguru for consideration for cataract surgery.

Especially helpful at the Mpam/Ihitte Aforukwu clinic site was the availability of on-site laboratory services made possible with the help of Mr. Patrick Okorie of the America Red Cross in Baltimore, Maryland in the United States of America. There was also free shuttle service that ferried people from Pater Noster to the surgery site, making multiple trips per day. The shuttles also helped to run errands within the Mpam community.

Food and refreshments were provided for the people while they waited to be attended to by the medical personnel. Refreshments were also provided for the more than 130 persons who worked at the Pater Noster clinic site.

The medical mission achieved and exceeded its goals. We remain grateful to so many individuals and groups who gave of themselves to make this a successful mission, especially for the people of Mpam/Ihitte Aforukwu. Security presence was very noticeable, including constables and the youth who helped with crowd control, and military personnel including an armored vehicle/rapid response team that was visibly present at the entrance to the clinic site.

Considerable effort was made to raise a substantial amount of money for the medical mission in Mpam/Ihitte Aforukwu. Worthy of mention, Ekwereazu Patriot Union donated the large sum of \$2,100.00 to support the medical mission in Mpam/Ihitte Aforukwu. However, the exceptionally large number of people who needed care resulted in a budget overrun to the tune of 600,000 Naira, which was graciously taken care of by Chief Remy Onuoha. A special thanks to Mpam LOC headed by Chief Steve Onu, Honorable Kev Agbaegbu, Engineer Martin Ibe, and Honorable Chief P. Egwim for their leadership. Engineer Clement. Nwamadi and RN Ugochukwu Onuoha also deserve commendation for their contributions to make this mission a success.

#### \*Ihitte

Mbaukwu Health Center at Oparachi was the site of the 2023 Mbaise USA medical mission in Ihitte. During the 3-day event, more that 3,000 individuals were attended to by the team of about 13 medical doctors, 20 nurses, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians. Many stakeholders including Ihitte Development Union, USA (IDUUS), Ihitte Clan Development Union (ICDU), spent countless hours planning and executing the 2023 Mbaise USA medical mission, which by may measures was a resounding success. Almost 4,500,000 Naira was raised through individual and group donations to finance the mission.

Through the leadership of individuals and groups such as Chief Joachim Nwogu, Ugoeze Pauline Amaechi (Lead nurse), Prince Chizom Anyanwu, Reverend Sister Rita Nwachukwu, Honorable Engineer Charles Echebiwe, Mr. Uche Ndukwu, Dr. Emilia Imoh-Iwu (Director of Nursing), Dr. Obioma Ekennia

(Medical Director for Ihitte), Ugomma Lynda Obioma (Chief Pharmacist, Ihitte), Leo Ibe (Pharmacist from the USA), and Ihitte Development Union, the goals of the mission were achieved and even exceeded. The people of Ihitte were very appreciative of the generosity of Mbaise USA.

The reach of the Mbaise USA medical mission went beyond the physical health of the people in the community. There was also significant economic impact, that we cannot begin to measure. May small business owners including hawkers of items such as fruits, mama-put, pastries, saw significant boost to their revenue as their products/goods were bought up very quickly by those of us who visited from the USA.

While there are many successes achieved during this year's medical mission, there were several lesion learned that would make future missions better. Among these is the recruitment of doctors and nurses who may be available locally. Most of the medical doctors who worked at the Ihitte clinic site were not originally from the area. A good majority of them traveled daily from very far places such as Aba and Port Har Court. As one could imagine, the road conditions and other challenges in Nigeria caused significant delays in their travels and arrival to the clinic, and hence, late start to the days. To this end, I would encourage stronger showing from our sons and daughters in the United States of America who are doctors, Nurse Practitioners, and Physician Assistants. This would give a strong boost to what we are doing for the people at home. The people of Ihitte remain indebted to Mbaise USA and committed and ready to host future Mbaise USA medical missions.

#### **Obizi Medical Mission Planning Committee Members:**

- 1. Pastor Dozie Uchegbulam ; 2. Sir. Chris Onyegbaduo 3. Mazi Chiedo Ugorji ; 4. Nze Allen Ihuoma
- 5. Lady Angela Alimole; 6. Mazi Emma Njoku

#### Obizi Logistics Coordinator: 1. Precious Eromaka

The clinic site for Obizi was Saint Augustine Secondary School. It is estimated that more than 6,000 people from Obizi and surrounding communities came through the clinic site for services ranging from general medical care to eye care services. Of those evaluated by the medical professionals, more that 1700 received medications for a chronic or acute medical condition. Services to these our people were provided by 7 medical doctors, 32 nurses, 1 pharmacist, 3 pharmacy technicians, and 6 optometrists for a total of 43 medical providers. Those who needed surgical care including eye surgeries were then referred to the surgical center at Holy Rosary Hospital Ogbor Nguru.

About 30 people were referred for cataract surgeries, 15 of whom had their surgeries prior to completion of the mission. About 50 referrals were made for general surgeries; 30 of whom were operated on by the end of the mission. Two people received wheelchairs, 5 people received canes, and 3 received walkers.

Obizi youth contributed immensely to ensure orderliness, as 23 youths helped with logistics and security.

All this was made possible through donations of \$10,290 to supplement funds provided by Mbaise USA. The impact of this medical mission on the people of Obizi cannot be measured in Naira or dollars. While there were challenges, these are by far dwarfed by the benefits derived by those who could not have survived another year without the medical mission. It is our sincere hope the mission continues to grow in its reach and depth in years to come. Obizi kwenu!!!

#### **Appreciation**

We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Chief SOS Echendu, President of Mbaise USA, along with his national executive council and all members of Mbaise USA, and to Prince Richard Nwachukwu-Abii, Chairman of the 2023 Medication Mission Committee, and all other committee members. Your tireless efforts and dedication contributed greatly to the success of the 2023 Medical Mission in Obizi and Mbaise as a whole. On behalf of Obizi USA, the Obizi Medical Mission Committee members, and the Obizi community, we thank you.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The Mbaise USA 2023 three-day medical mission was a resounding success. It provided valuable assistance to patients who lacked the means to receive treatment for their illnesses, surgeries, eyeglasses, walking sticks, wheelchairs, and more. The event enabled many individuals to relieve themselves of these burdens.



Mbaise USA Vice President Ezeji Alozie Aguwa, Far ight,

With HRH Eze Barr. S.O. Azubuine, Obizie V of Obizi, 4th from left and many volunteers.



Back Row: From left Hon Paschal Nneji; Albert Anusi of Emma Njoku Foundation and many other Volunteers at Obizi 4th from right - Mrs. Rose Alia Oganihu Washington Virginia; Prince Ogugua behind Mrs. Alia.



David Omenukor Foundation Manager Mr. Bright Ugochukwu providing Optical Services at Obizi



An Optometrist at work at Obizi clinic site



Prince Desmond Ogugua Jnr. delivering canes and wheelchairs to patients at Obizi Clinic site.



Wheelchair delivery to Eziala-Kaohu, Nguru Community



White Heart Diabetes Care & Hypertension Prevention staff testing patients for Diabetes

Some of Our Partners, Collaborators, Donors, Supporters, & Resource Providers.























- Mbaise USA Affiliate Chapters
- · Mbaise 2023 Medical Mission Host Communities
- Medical Missionaries Manassas Virginia
- Baylor Scott & White Hospital Faith In Action Dallas Texas Courtesy of Mrs. Mel Igbokwe
- · Maps International Foundation Atlanta Georgia
- NAFDAC

- · Imo State Ministry of Health
- · Barrister Emma Njoku Foundation
- · Broadway Pharmacy Nigeria
- · Catholic Diocese of Ahiara Holy Rosary Hospital Ogbor Nguru
- · Columbia Men's Group Columbia South Carolina Dr. Emeka Onuoha, Member.
- · David Omenukor Foundation
- ABC Transport
- · Bedewell Transportation
- · White Heart Diabetes Care & Hypertension Prevention
- · City Care Pharmacy Tampa Florida
- Nigeria Medical Association-
- · Nigeria Association of Rural Medical Practitioners Mbaise
- Golden Hope Foundation
- · Perrigo Foundation
- Mbaise Individual Donors
- Cassie Health Center Silver City New Mexico 2023 Mbaise USA Medical Mission Medical Director Dr. Victor Nwachuku & Staff of Cassie Health Center
- · Chris VI Hotels & Resorts Ahiara
- · Restoring Vision
- · Mbaise Europe



# **Financial Reports**

# **Donations/Supplies/Medication Procurement**

## MBAISE USA 2023 MEDICAL MISSION DONORS' LIST

## **CASH DONATIONS**

DONORS	Office		Pledged \$	Paid \$
North Carolina - M	Ibaise Family Union	2,690	.00	
Echendu, SOS & Ije	oma, High & Lolo	President		1,000.00
Engr. Paul Onuoha	& Family			300.00
Dr. Godwin Ugoeke	& Family			200.00
Prince Uche Ekenna	& Family			200.00
Sir Jonathan Onyene	ekwe & Family			100.00
Mr. Paulinus Nwach	nukwu & Family			100.00
Enrr. Nathan Adima	& Family			100.00
Hon. Maurice Ejere	& Family			100.00
Sir Lawrence Akwar	randu & Family			100.00
Sir Chijioke Alaribe	& Family			100.00
Sir Chigozie Alaribe	e & Family			100.00
Sir Austin Imoh & F	Family			100.00
Barrister Chares Ab	iahu & Family			100.00
Amb. Emeka Elegal	am & Family			60.00
Dee Jude Anyanwu	& Famiy			30.00
Nzuko Ndi Mbaise	Atlanta	750.00	0	
Mr. Linus Nwachuk	wu			100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Dozie O	nwuliri			100.00
Chief Paul Nwakudu	1			100.00
High Chief Atty Chi	inedu Iwuji			100.00
Ms. Ebere Anyanwu	ı			50.00
Mr. Chiedo Ugorji				100.00

Dr. Tobias Onuoha	200.00
Columbia Men's Group Columbia South Carolina Dr. Emeka Onuoha Member of the Club 3,150.00	3,150.00
Abii, Michael Ogechi & Francesca, Prince & Princess	300.00
Mbaise Association of New York 2,650.00	
Ugwuadi, &, Eze ndi Eze & Lolo	300.00
Agomuoh, Bethels &, Hon & Mrs.	300.00
Mazi Enyinna Chinenye Nwakwuo	100.00
Ahiwe, Reginald Iyke, Hon,.	200.00
Mr. & Mrs. Chinweike Ukaegbu	100.00
Mazi & Dr. Peter Ihionu	100.00
Eze Elect. & Ugoeze Chief Achor Mbalewe	100.00
Mr & Mrs. Kenneth Mbalewe	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Iroakazi	250.00
Mazii na Oriaku Enyinna Ezinwa	100.00
Anonymous	200.00
Chief & Lolo Dominic Anosike	200.00
Mr. & Mrs. Chijioke Nwagwu	100.00
Attorney & Mrs. Calistus Uwakwe	100.00
Mr. & Dr. Mrs. Ojilere	100.00
Chief Chikodi Kalu	100.00
Mazi na Oriaku Anthony Aligwo	100.00
Chief Barrister Ekeloma Chuku	100.00
Ahaghotu, Chris, Dr. & Mrs.	
Mbaise USA Medical Mission Chief Pharmacist and Mbaise USA Provost	200.00
Dr. Quintus Emeka Ngumah	500.00
Alilionu, Ferdy & Ijeoma, Crown Prince & Crown Princess	250.00
Ebiringa, Chidi & Virginia, Chief Sir/Lolo Lady	200.00

Iwu, Wilson & Ijeoma, Chief S	ir/Lolo Lady		200.00
Ogu, Ignatius, Chief			300.00
Oledinma, Eugene & Obidimm	na,		
High Chief Dr. & High Lolo			500.00
Onyeukwu, Emmanuel & , Hor	n. & Mrs.		200.00
Torres, Martha, Via Sir Emeka	Okoro		100.00
Ugbo, Goddy & Madonna, Sir	& Lady		250.00
Ukaegbu, Adolphus & Alice, S Chairlady, Women Empowerm			300.00
Maryland - Mbaise Asso. of N	Maryland (MAM)	9,000.00	
Nwokoroku, John, Hon. and M	rs. President of MAM		1,000.00
Ukwunna, Val &, Hon. &	Mrs.		2,000.00
Others			6,000.00
Boston - Obiwuotu Mbaise		1,015.00	
Echebiri, Goddy, Mr.			105.00
Iwejuo, Alex, Nze			100.00
Iwejuo, Charles & Berna, Chie	f Dr. Lolo Board Chairman		200.00
Iwuala, Sydney, Pastor & Mrs.			120.00
Maduakor, Emma & Ego, Dr. &	& Mrs.		200.00
Nwachukwu, Dama & Chinwe	, Barr. & Mrs.		100.00
Ogu, Pedro, Mr.			40.00
Okoro, Chinelo, Ms.			50.00
Uche, Linda Ozioma, Mrs.			100.00
Dallas - Mbaise Dallas Comn	nunity Asso.	4,800.00	
Achilike, Maurine, Hon. Lady			600.00
Ugwuibe, Maurice, Dr. & Mrs.			1,000.00
Akpunku, CY &, Engr & N	ſſrs.		1,000.00
Amaefula, Rev. & Mrs.	Pledge	200.00	

Asonye, Ibe & Julie, Chief & Lolo		200.00
Imo, Desmond, Ezeji		100.00
Okeke, Festus &, President & Mrs.		200.00
Onyekwere, Ray &, Hon. & Mrs.		500.00
Opara, Ethelbert & Mr. & Mrs. Pledge	200.00	
Chief & Lolo Leo Uzoechi		200.00
Opara, Law & Immaculeta, Sir & Lady		1,000.00
Dallas - MPA Dallas Texas	1,900.00	
Aguwa, Alozie & Ihechi, Ezeji Chief & Lolo Dr	Vice President	1,000.00
Anukam, Nnamdi & Chizo, Mr. & Mrs.		200.00
Anyanwu, Ethel & Lovina, Mr. & Mrs.		50.00
Izukanma, Magnus Izukanma, Chief & Lolo		50.00
Nwaogu, Peter & Ifeoma, Dr. & Mrs.		200.00
Nwoke, Williams & Marcia, MPA		
President Emeritus Mr. & Mrs.		
for Dallas storage Rental and 1 Walker		50.00
Ogbuehi, Rolyben & Ngozi, MPA Vice President Hon. & 2nd Lady		200.00
Ogoke, Thomas, Mr. & Mrs.		50.00
Osuji, Muzevi & Gina, Mr. & Mrs.		100.00
Dallas - Mbaise United Asso. Inc. DFW	2,800.00	
Agoh, Jacinta, Mrs.		50.00
Anozie, Paul, Sir & Lady		100.00
Classo, Peter Claver, Royal High Chief & Lolo		300.00
Ekwonye, Humphrey, Chief		100.00
Ihediwa, Innocent, Chief & Chief Mrs.		200.00
Imokoronkwo, Laserian, Chief & Lolo		100.00
Keke, CY, Nze & Lolo		200.00
Madu, Casmir & Hon & Mrs.		200.00

Madu, Joe, Sir & lady		200.00
Nwamkpa, Alex, Chief & Lolo		100.00
Nwaobasi, Ike & Chinwe, Mr. & Mrs.		100.00
Nwata, Emeka, Sir & Lady		100.00
Obi, Theo, Chief & Lolo		100.00
Odoemene, Godwin, Mr. & Mrs.		200.00
Odoemene, Theo, Sir & Lady		100.00
Ogu, Berthrand, Mtr. & Mrs		100.00
Onujuma, Clement, Nze & lolo		300.00
Onuoha, Veronica, Ms.		50.00
Opara, Bede, Nze & Lolo		100.00
Ugoagwu, Augustine, Mr. & Mrs.		100.00
Minnessota - Mbaise Obinwanne	970.00	
Amajuoyi, Linus, Mr		100.00
Amajuoyi, Pat Mrs.		150.00
Esele, Ignatius Mr.		200.00
Ikeri, Richard &, Chief & Lolo		120.00
Nwachukwu, Victor Mr.		100.00
Okorie, Erasmus Mr.		50.00
Okorie, Modest Mr.		150.00
Uwazie, Charles &, Mr. & Mrs.		100.00
New Jersey -Mbaise Asso. New Jersey Inc	1,840.00	
Amaechi, Joseph, Engr. & Mrs.		100.00
Anyanwu, Emeruwa, Rev. & Mrs.		100.00
Anyanwu, John, Chief & Lolo		100.00
Anyanwu-Irouwa, Chima, Chief (Mrs.)		100.00
Aririguzoh, Celestine, Chief Sir & Lolo Lady		150.00
Chimezie, Moses, Chief & Lolo		40.00

Ekeh, Emma, Chief Sir & Dr. Lady	100.00
Ihuoma, Chigozie, Mr. & Mrs.	100.00
Madu, Umezirike Sabinus, Sir & Lady	100.00
Nwachukwu, Peter, Mr. & Dr. (Mrs.)	100.00
Nwachukwu,Samuel, Chief & Lolo	100.00
Nwaigwe, Ezechinyere Donald, Chief & Lolo	100.00
Ogbuehi, Felix, Mr. Felix	50.00
Okonkwo, Mary Catherine, Mrs.	150.00
Okoro, Laetitia, Mrs.	50.00
Onwunaka, Patrick, High Chief Sir & Lolo	100.00
Onyebule, Kelechi, Multiple Chief & Lolo	200.00
Ozuoh, Anselm, Mr. & Mrs.	100.00
Southern California - Mbaise Family Asso. 2,800.0	2,800.00
Emma Njoku Foundation 10,000.00	10,000.00
<b>Total Cash Donations</b>	47,665.00

#### MATERIAL DONATIONS

DONORS MATERIALS

Walmart Supercenter Cockrell Hill Store Dallas Texas - donations of several boxes of various items including clothes for men, women and children, reusable table cloths, PPEs, etc, Courtesy of Ms. Valerie, Store Manager & Ms. Felicia James, Walmart Store Coordinator. Donations valued at more than \$6000.00

Aguwa, Adanze, Chief Dr., from Perrigo Foundation Michigan 12 Boxes of OTC medications

Alia, Roseline, RN Mrs. of Oganihu Mbaise Washington Virginia Medications of about \$1500.00

Amazu, Chinasa, Dr. Mrs. (Nee Sylvester Ugoh), via De Vincent Okoroha-children's formula

Anosike, Paschal & Rofina, Dr. & Dr. Mrs. Blood Glucose Monitoring device, infrared thermometers, and other medical devices

Ekennia, Uche & , Prince & Princess (MFA North Carolina) boxes 🗘 of PPEs and syringes

Houston Family Association, via Engr. Clement Nwamadi Box 🍪 of medications (Metformin, Amnodipine, etc)

Iheagwara, Angela Dr. Mrs. & other members of MFA Houston Texas 5 boxes of medications, boxes of medicine vials, and other supplies

Ike, Oliver & Jovita, Dr. & Dr. Mrs. boxes 🖨 and 🗘 boxes of essential medications

(blood pressure, blood glucose, cholesterol, antibiotics, pain, vitamins, allergies, etc, etc)

Nwachukwu, Victor, Dr. (Medical Director, 2023 Mbaise USA Medical Mission) Medications of about \$5,000.00

Nwogu, Joe & Uloma, Chief & Lolo Medical supplies for adult and seniors daily living

Okoroha, Vincent, Hon. & Mrs. of Oganihu Mbaise Washington Virginia; Osondu, Law, President Emeritus Dr. & Mrs. of MPA Dallas; Board Chairman Emeritus Loveday Charles, Chief & Lolo of MECCA Chicago 23 boxes of medications

Dr.Mrs. Keyna Omenuko & David Omenukor Foundation 3000 pairs of eyeglasses

Onyedinma, Tony, Dr. of Tampa Florida Medications of about \$2,000.00

Onyeise, Dinos Nnamdi, Hon. & Onukaogu, Simon of MAM; Medications

#### **APPRECIATION**

We appreciate the above donors listed and any others we may have erroneously failed to list here. We encourage others to continue to support the Mbaise USA Medical Mission now and in the future. The mission is truly making an impact in Mbaise.

Richard Nwachukwu-Abii Prince Chizom Anyanwu

Chairman Secretary

For the 2023 Mbaise USA Medical Mission

#### **Letters of Appreciation**



# OBIZI HOME & ABROAD UNION [OHABU]

OBIZI, EZINIHITTE LGA, IMO STATE, NIGERIA

30th May, 2023.

The President, Mbaise USA Inc.

ATTN.: High Chief SOS Echendu,

#### LETTER OF APPRECIATION

On behalf of the entire people of Obizi Autonomous Community, Ezinihitte-Mbaise LGA, Imo State, Nigeria, we sincerely express our deep appreciation and gratitude to the Mbaise USA Inc. and the Emma Njoku Foundation for the exceptional organization of the Mbaise USA Medical Mission to Mbaise, Imo State, Nigeria. The mission, which took place from April 25th to 29th, 2023 at Afor Obizi, was a resounding success, and its impact on the community cannot be overstated.

The selfless dedication and tireless efforts demonstrated by Mbaise USA Inc. and the Emma Njoku Foundation towards ensuring the sustenance were truly remarkable. The medical mission provided crucial healthcare services to the people of Obizi and Mbaise at large, bringing relief and hope to those in need. Through your collective vision and unwavering commitment, you have made a tangible difference in the lives of countless individuals, fostering health and well-being within the community.

The seamless collaboration between Mbaise USA Inc. and the Emma Njoku Foundation showcased the power of partnerships and the positive outcomes that can be achieved through unity. Your joint efforts ensured the smooth execution of the medical mission, allowing for the effective provision of medical care, health education, and essential resources to those who needed it the most.

We would also like to express our appreciation for the dedicated team of medical professionals and volunteers who participated in the mission. Their expertise, compassion, and willingness to go above and beyond their duties played a significant role in the success of the endeavour. Their selflessness and commitment to serving others are a testament to the values upheld by Mbaise USA Inc. and the Emma Njoku Foundation.

By organizing the Mbaise USA Medical Mission, you have not only provided vital healthcare services but have also fostered a sense of unity and community spirit. The impact of this mission extends far beyond the immediate medical care provided; it has sown seeds of hope, healing, and solidarity among the people of Mbaise.

On behalf of the good people of Obizi Autonomous Community, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to Mbaise USA Inc. and the Emma Njoku Foundation for their exceptional leadership and unwavering



( commitment to improving the well being of our community. Your efforts have touched the lives of many, leaving an indelible mark on our hearts.

Please convey our gratitude to all the individuals who contributed their time, skills, and resources to make this medical mission a reality. May you continue to be a beacon and a source of inspiration to others as you embark on future endeavors aimed at uplifting communities in need.

Once again, thank you for your outstanding work and dedication to Obizi and Mbaise. We are honoured to be associated with Mbaise USA Inc and the Emma Njoku Foundation, and we look forward to witnessing the positive impact of your future endevours.

With warm regards, signed ,,,)

#### Response:

Thank you for this soul-enriching, spirit uplifting, and desirably emulative appreciation from HRH Eze O. Azubuine, Obizie V of Obizi, the President General of Obizi Autonomous Community, Dr. Ben Ujoatuonu, and the great people of Obizi.

Appreciative gestures, such as this, act as unstoppable catalysts for more community development initiatives while increasing the sacrifices by those in a position to positively impact communities, such as Obizi.

Your sense of gratitude as vividly and eloquently expressed shall be cascaded to the entire members of Mbaise USA and the Emma Njoku Foundation. Let it also be on record that Obizi/Obokwu sons and daughters in the United States contributed immeasurably towards the successful outcome of the Medical Mission in Obizi.

On behalf of Mbaise USA, I thank you for this special acknowledgement but please kindly extend our special and equally appreciative greetings to HRH, the Executive Council and leadership of OHABU, the members of the Eze-in-Council, and the generality of Obizi citizens, for their hospitality and altruistic efforts to ensure the safety of Mission participants, non-hindrance and absence of intrusive behaviors throughout the entire period. We appreciate Engr. Nwachukwu Obioha for hosting all the Mission participants in his home at the conclusion of the outreach in Obizi. We also thank and appreciate Chief Okeahialam for providing a vehicle that was used by the medical missionaries.

Remain divinely blessed.

SOS Echendu President, Mbaise USA. June 5, 2023.