

23<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL BCA-USA CONVENTION,  
Friday, May 28, 2010 at 1:00 PM – Monday, May  
31, 2010 at 4:00 PM (CT)  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

**PRESERVING OUR CULTURE FOR  
POSTERITY**

# What might be our thinking for the interest of Posterity?

- How culturally are we preparing our offspring to replace us effectively when we exit the planet earth?
- How will they continue to hold Bali-Nyonga in high esteem?
- Are we preparing them to face their tomorrow jealously in our language, music, dance, story telling, folklore, riddles, and sustaining our type friendship celebrated yearly?
- There is still space in our daily rat-chase for existence to start building today; Where there is a will, there is a way;
- Who will, tomorrow, sing *lela, danga, konikon, kumpi', baghlem, makongi, mandet, Kumom*, and many more?
- What is the fate of Voma, Su' fu, Keti Nnikob for Lela festival to take off?

# FAMILY REUNION

- Today we celebrate our recurring family day in friendship, candor and pumped up with zeal to adorn a space in Bali-Nyonga...
- We manifest our oneness in thinking and performing within our intrinsic capabilities..
- A positive sign purpose, unity, resolve to create a noticeable memento for posterity; we or some were born there, as well as our parents who lived there before us; the did what they could with what they had at their time; we're following their footsteps...

## SOME EXOGENOUS FACTORS

- Globalization
- Migration
- Information dissemination
- Visual communication
- Acculturation
- Peer Influence in school....
- Age and willingness to learn....

# Our Conviction Tune-up

- Sons and daughters of Bali-Nyonga frequently say: *If I were not born in Bali-Nyonga, when it rains, rain water will not sink!*
- What a powerful statement of conviction and resolve to give Bali-Nyonga their best;
- To defend it with all it takes to ensure its survival and the survival of its people in the present cacophonous society of survival of the fittest.

# Bali-Nyonga Hegemony, Stability and Progress

- Sons and daughters of Bali-Nyonga, regardless of where they may be today, are proud of who they are and where they come from;
- They are proud of their culture; hence their cultural affinity that sustains Bali-Nyonga hegemony to create an infectious camaraderie;
- Their collectivity is stronger today than when they had strong ties with endogamy and friendship only from within;
- In the past it was a taboo for a son/daughter of Nyonga to get married to someone outside of the ethnic group.
- That idea had since fossilized to oblivion.

# The world Yesterday and the Global Village of today

- Socialization of off-spring yesterday– Oral tradition
- Strong adherence to cultural mores
- Still culturally potent, prominent, enterprising, friendly and welcoming
- A grin was mistakenly accepted for a friendly smile
- Neighbors are still ambiguous in their thinking
- Why so much brouhahas about Nyonga and not about Bali-Gham, Gansin, Gashu and Kumbat?
- The role of the Christian missions: Switzerland and Germany
- Education for effective communication and understanding
- The plantation system at Coastal region and migration
- The beginning of acculturating other cultures to dilute the Nyonga culture.

# The role of Culture

- It offers an accepted behavior
- It enables treating others in a civilized manner
- It is a solid springboard for take-off and landing anywhere in the global village; it lubricates interaction with others without frictions.
- It is not a daunting pursuit for children born outside of Bali-Nyonga to speak Mungaka; Others hold that Mungaka would not help land a job; if you have that belief let's talk.
- It is aberrant for parents living in Bali-Nyonga to speak English at home; And culture!
- Sartre said *L'Enfer c'est les autres*

# Pre-colonial Bali-Nyonga

- Literacy according to Western definition was none existent
- Cultural mores were transmitted orally
- Fathers ensured the socialization of males while mothers socialized females to be....
- It was the best that they had at that time;
- Is it necessary to use today to measure yesterday (egocentrism)?

# What is Culture?

- It is a dynamic, priceless entity evolving in time and space. It floats and evaporates when not useful any longer or good passed on;
- It is a word with varied meanings and application: agri-culture, avi-culture, sample-culture in science labs, and so on;
- For our purpose: it is the composite of *language, Arts, story telling, folklore, idioms, belief system, traditional regalia, music, dance, accoutrements;*
- Belief system – Ñnikob; living after death.

# Princess Na'Nyonga's dynamism during her regency in Bali-Nyonga – Posterity must know

- Bali-Nyonga's resolve to be culturally conspicuous was received with mixed (ambiguous) emotions by neighbors;
- There was admiration in the excellent set-up and generated competitive spirit among the early settlers;
- The Tsamba group was seen thereafter as a threat to the existence of previous groups.
- She set the expectations that were not daunting her and her followers;
- Let us not be intimidated by the amplitude of our projects
- Little by little the bird builds its nest.

# MUNGAKA LANGUAGE

- We should be proud of Mungaka for many reasons: it's potent in vocabulary and expressions like any other language: a thief, for instance, has how many other appellations in English?
- Mungaka has 10 descriptive adjectives for a thief.

# Ngwen Mi Ni Ntsu a

- *Mu Ba'ni Tsamba ni me'ti tsu bo ni tsu nna-nna. Ba ti' ni lum i mfi. Nñikob beb Ngoñ bo me' mfoti bon ba dzi a bo bi ba*
- *Ku dzi yab a bo.*
- *Gahlia mo Gwangwa'a ma Sañ Mut'.*