

**Acceptance Speech delivered by Green Etisiobi Dim,  
President Elect, at the DOBANA 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention  
which was held in Los Angeles, California (August 22 – 24,  
2014).**

Fellow Dengramites:

When I was elected Vice President of DOBANA at the last convention in Washington DC, I was excited about the opportunity to serve my alma mater. Working with Dr. Okpokwasili, the current President, to advance the agenda of DOBANA and DMGS became intoxicating because of the ambitious agenda of the current administration. With the passage of time, I began to wonder how much more difficult it would be when I become President. Soon, I began to realize that I may have accepted this role without realizing the magnitude of its responsibilities. You see, it never occurred to me at the time that the Vice President would become the President in the next term. Besides, we are talking of a job which involves managing the affairs of the best and brightest anywhere in the world – Dengramites. Following that realization, I became nervous. I was nervous because I was not sure if I was qualified or capable of serving as the President of DOBANA - one of the premium organizations of DOBAWW. Until my arrival at the convention today, I was still not sure that I could do this job. But with the gathering of all of you Dengramites here today, I started to regain my confidence. I reminded myself that I am a Dengramite. Dengramites are fearless, they are the best in the world, and they take second place to no one other than to fellow Dengramites. I realized that as Dengramites, we can do anything. For me, I know that “you got my back.” I am prepared to go to battle anytime with Dengramites behind me. Gibson Boyle (my classmate) will probably object to my

speaking in vernacular, but I am sure he will allow me to mention one Igbo proverb which says that “muo nyelu nwata nkapia, g’enye ya miri o g’uji kwuo aka” - meaning that the gods that put a skunk (a smelly rat) in the hands of a child must also give the child the water with which to wash his hands. I have no doubt that if you elected me to the presidency of DOBANA, you will also support me, and you will make it possible for me and our team to be successful.

Thank you for having the confidence in me. To my seniors, your responsibility will be to act as my gps - making sure that we are on course and on target. To my juniors, your responsibility will be to challenge our administration to explore uncharted territories, and to help us come up with innovative ideas that will not only make DOBANA and DMGS competitive in the years ahead, but will put DMGS among the best secondary schools in the world. To my classmates, your role is to make sure that I do not embarrass the '71 set. You should be my strongest critic because through your lens and candid admonishments, our administration can achieve its highest potential for DOBANA and DMGS.

I want to thank my other colleagues and other DOBANA members who were elected to serve with me in the new Administration. Together, we are a team. It will be our plan to operate as a team to move this organization forward in a way that accomplishes the goals of DOBANA and contributes to the return of DMGS to its status as one of the best, if not the best, secondary schools in the world.

Before I conclude, I want to make it clear that we have a President. His name is Dr. Bertram Okpokwasili, Ichie Onyeogadilinma. His term does not end until December 31, 2014. As you heard from his speech, he still has punch list items to complete before the end of his term, and I intend to help him to accomplish whatever goal he has set for the organization for the balance of his term. We have no power vacuum. The current team is in place, and every decision

regarding DOBANA must continue to be directed to Dr. BCI Okpokwasili, our current President through December 31, 2014.

Over the years, the President and I have gotten to know each other quite well. I did not even know that his wife is my extended in-law. Neither did I know that older Dengramites allow “junior boys” to go to dinner with them. During my term, I will continue to tap Dr. Okpokwasili’s immense knowledge of the history of DMGS and his experience in the running of DOBANA. We will continue to work on many of his ambitious programs, but we will not shy away from improving on any programs when necessary. It is also my intention to continue to reach out and seek the support and contributions of all members of DOBANA, especially prior Presidents who have ‘been there, done that.’ Also, it will be our goal to continue to work with the executives of DOBA WW, DOBA UK, the DMGS Administration, and the 2025 Covenant Project to come up with ideas for improving and implementing successful programs at DMGS.

Looking forward to 2015, our new team will be meeting behind the scene to develop an agenda for the new administration. We will be working with the current administration to assure a flawless transition. For members of the current administration who are not continuing into the next term, I want to personally thank you for your services to DOBANA and for tolerating my idiosyncrasies. In the interest of DMGS, I ask you to help your counterparts with transition processes. I have no doubt that your commitments to DMGS will continue despite your decision to take a temporary rest before coming back into active service of your alma mater. Let me summarize by reminding all Dengramites that one’s commitment to DMGS does not stop at the end of his official duty. On the contrary, it is just beginning. A Dengramite’s gratitude, loyalty, and generosity to DMGS are determined, not by the things he does when he is in-charge, but by the things he does when he is not in-charge.

Thank you all. Together, we shall succeed.

Lux Fiat.

Green E. Dim  
Vice President/President Elect  
August 23, 2014