



Mwalimu Steve Boley
89 Somerset Drive
Willingboro, NJ 08046
(267) 401 5243
mwalimuboley@yahoo.com

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Ref: Open Letter to Marylanders in the Diaspora

Greetings Fellow Marylanders.

I hope that this letter finds all of you in good health and spirit. From my humble abode in the Township of Willingboro, New Jersey, I wish to extend warm greetings to you and your family.

It might suffice to offer a brief introduction of myself, prior to going into the objectives of this open letter to you. My name is Mwalimu Steve Boley, and I am a Marylander. I had the good fortune of spending my formative years in the East Harper suburb of Bunker Hill and obtaining my primary and secondary education in Harper City, Maryland County. I have longstanding leadership experiences with various institutions and organizations in Liberia and in the United States. Presently, I am the General Secretary of the Maryland County Association of Pennsylvania (MCAP), and a first term representative of MCAP to NAMCAL's NRC.

Over the years, NAMCAL has made significant strides in responding to most challenges that were arisen at home. The Isaac T. Cla Russel Rest Stop in Pleebo-Sodokeh District, NAMCAL's ongoing well projects in the homeland, and emergency assistance to families and communities in Maryland County are glaring evidence of what NAMCAL has done. While the humanitarian acts are commendable, I passionately believe that NAMCAL could do more in fulfilling its moral and fiduciary responsibilities to Marylanders in the United States, as well as citizens of Maryland County in Liberia.

I subscribe to the conviction that the time has come for NAMCAL to modify its objectives to effectively deal with the multiplicity of problems that we continue to face as a community of people in the diaspora. Moreover, the challenges at hand demand that NAMCAL puts forth a bold, visionary, and progressive leadership that would genuinely seek to unite, reconcile, expand, and include all Marylanders in the diaspora. There is absolutely no excuse for NAMCAL's consistent failure to tap into the unlimited resources, services, opportunities, and the goodwill of America and American institutions. NAMCAL deserves a leadership that would actively engage in collaborative

consultations with municipal/state governments, academic institutions, hospitals, nonprofit organizations, and a host of other reputable entities with the view that benefits accrued from such efforts by NAMCAL would be used to help buttress ongoing NAMCAL's projects.

Given the foregoing, I wish to exploit this medium, to announce to you that I am a candidate in the race for NAMCAL's presidency in the forthcoming general elections, slated for Saturday – September 25, 2021, in Providence, Rhodes Island. My decision to run for the highest office in NAMCAL stems from a brazen vision that I have for NAMCAL's future. Please note that my vision for NAMCAL is being presented as such because NAMCAL's elections guidelines enjoins all aspirants for elected offices to run on their own merits, rather than on a team concept. Accordingly, I am imploring that you please support my candidacy. I further request that you join me to transform NAMCAL into a vibrant organization that would cater to our collective wishes and aspirations. To that end, my vision for NAMCAL, which consists of five major planks, are as follows:

Plank One AD Hoc Committee on Home Affairs

There is a need for NAMCAL to constructively engage elected/appointed officials, opinion/religious leaders, and civil society in Maryland County and Liberia. Accordingly, through the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on Home Affairs, our administration will:

- a) Constructively engage county officials, Maryland Legislative Caucus, and Religious Leaders
- b) Form collaborative partnerships with Tubman University and schools in Maryland County
- c) Build alliances with autonomous Maryland County Associations in Liberia
- d) Reach out to civil society in Maryland County

Plank Two Constitutional Revisions (Inclusion of autonomous Maryland organizations and Voting Rights)

To adapt to the realities of the age and time in which we live, there is a dire need that NAMCAL's constitution be revised to accommodate/include established diasporic Maryland County Associations, and to ensure that all Marylanders exercise their rights to vote at NAMCAL's conventions. As it is, NAMCAL is a chapter-based organization. However, our vision is to ensure the full participation of all legally incorporated diasporic Maryland County organizations in NAMCAL activities at every level. Therefore, our

administration will expand the mandate of NAMCAL's ad hoc committee on constitution/by laws to expeditiously introduce the necessary reforms that would:

- a) Expand/Include representatives of autonomous diasporic Maryland organizations on the NRC
- b) Expand/Include the leaders of autonomous diasporic Maryland organizations on the NLC
- c) Ensure that all Marylanders attending NAMCAL's annual convention have a right to vote

Plank Three Scholarship Program (Investment in Human Capital)

Recognizing the need to invest in the untapped human resources of Maryland County, and consistent with our moral responsibility to Maryland County and its citizenry, our administration will work along with NAMCAL's scholarship committee to revise our scholarship program. To that end, NAMCAL's scholarship committee will recruit high school graduates from the four districts in Maryland County, and provide them an opportunity to pursue academic careers in the disciplines of:

- a) Education
- b) Nursing
- c) Agriculture
- d) Science and engineering

Plank Four Resources Mobilization

There is undoubtedly, an unlimited number of resources, opportunities, and goodwill in the United States for non-profit entities. Consequently, there is a need for NAMCAL to recalibrate its mission and work towards the attainment of sustainable solutions for the multiplicity of problems that we continue to face as an organization. Our administration will seek to mobilize resources and undertake major fundraisers by:

- a) Establishing an Ad Hoc grant writing committee (NAMCAL's Tax Exempt Status)
- b) Hosting an Annual Maryland Day Festival
- c) Launching an Emergency Escrow Account for NAMCAL to fund calamities and problems from the homeland

- d) Collaborating with chapters and diasporic Maryland organizations to host joint fundraisers.
- e) Establishing relationships with American institutions of higher learning, cities, states, hospitals, and educational foundations
- f) Exploring opportunities for investment in Maryland County

Plank Five
Membership and Outreach Committee

The need to expand NAMCAL's membership base to the hundreds of other Marylanders in the diaspora is long overdue. To achieve this task, our administration will re-examine and revise current outreach strategies with the view to ensure that all diasporic Marylanders are free to join NAMCAL and contribute to its mission. Accordingly, our administration will:

- a) Organize programs that will specifically target and recruit our youths
- b) Reach out to diasporic Marylanders who are affiliated with no chapter
- c) Work along with chapters in recruiting new members
- d) Collaborate along with the leaders of autonomous Maryland County organizations in ensuring that their members participate in NAMCAL's activities
- e) Establish new chapters in other regions of the United States and Canada

Fellow Marylanders this is my vision for NAMCAL. I believe with every fiber of my being that with your support, we can achieve these objectives. Please accept the warm personal assurances of my highest consideration as we collectively strive to serve NAMCAL and our people.

Progressively Yours,

Mwalimu Steve Boley

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Presidential Candidate 2021
NAMCAL