

INAUGURAL SPEECH OF MR STEPHEN AWUNG, PRESIDENT ELECT AFRICAN PEOPLE CONVENTION-KASSEL.

Ladies and gentlemen,
Distinguished guests,
Dear APC members and families

You are warmly welcomed to this inaugural ceremony of APC executive. I am humble and honoured to be elected as the leader of this great organization that has contributed immensely in improving the lives of Africans and people of African origin living in Germany. I would like to thank the almighty God for taking care of all of us up till this moment. I would also like to thank the members of APC and their families for their constant support and all of you presence here for your time and encouragement. On behalf of APC, I wish to express our profound appreciation.

APC was formed to promote the culture of Africa, advocate and protect the rights of Africans and people of African origin, help promote integration and support its members and Africa in time of crises. For the past ten years, APC has been working very hard to achieve these objectives;

- Assisted some Africans with visa problems by putting pressure on the Foreign offices concerned to solve their problems without bias or prejudices
- Facilitated the procurement of some official papers from African embassies by their citizens to ease their integration to the German society (passports, TC, etc).
- Organized series of seminars to educate both Africans and non Africans on important issues centered to Africa's socio-cultural, economic and political lives from an African perspective
- Participated in German organized events like earth's day, spring feast where African dishes (culture) were sold to the general public
- Visited some asylum homes with the aim to assist them in case of need
- Supported the VOICE REFUGEE FORUM in the OURY JALLOH CASE. Sent delegations to the preparatory meeting in Berlin and the demonstration on the judgment day
- Prevented the issuance of emergency travelling certificates to a lot of Africans through consultation with the embassies
- Contributed to the successes of some of its members who are today politicians, intellectuals and business magnates.
- APC rented a bigger club house to give Africans in and around Kassel a place to socialize. APC club house is used by Africans to host seminars and cultural events. It is place for Africans to have fun. The house is equipped with modern technological gadgets for information and entertainment. It is open to the general public.

I would appeal to the general public, those of you who are present here and those who could not make it to join us and work hard to improve our lives and those of our children. To borrow from President Kennedy, we should not always ask what APC can do for us, but what we as individuals can do to make meaningful contribution to the society. It is worthy to mention that APC activities and achievements were rewarded with the ADLER AWARD 2010 as the best NGO in Europe by the African Youth Foundation based in Bonn. I am very contented for this reward which acts as a catalyst for us to work even harder.

My administration will use the above mentioned successes as a base to design policies objectives that will be attractive and beneficial to all Africans, irrespective of nationality. We would continue to work with our embassies and the German authority to solve problems and improve the lives of our people. We will support and fight all legitimate cases brought to our table. I hereby appeal to our people to respect the laws of the land. We will organize a forum to educate Africans and German on various issues concerning Africans interest. To this effect, we establish an African journal or magazine. We will continue to sponsors projects in Africa and serve as a bridge between Germany and Africa.

APC will need the support of everybody to achieve these goals. I call on all African living in Germany to forget about our petty differences and unite to form a strong force that can influence decision making in Germany. We can only improve our live in Germany, if we work as a collective force. APC is ready and willing to cooperate with any organization whose objectives meet our aspiration. Our doors are opened to everybody of good will.

Once more, I thank you all for coming here and wish you God's guidance and protection. I will be grateful if you can spend some time with us after the formal part of this occasion.