

## [EBIRA-VONYA INTERNATIONAL \(EVI\)](#)

[Motto: "Avuvobe - One People, One Family winning together"](#)

### [Background and Introduction to the Organisation.](#)

For many years, those of us outside our motherland and community have been pondering and wondering what role we can collectively play to support the hard works on going at home on all our behalfs while we have been sheltered and cocooned away in another man's country and not really being involved with the realities of life faced by our people every day. We believe that the time has come when we have to come out of our comfort zones and get our hands dirty in the reality of life which our people and community face and deal with everyday.

In the past fifteen or so years, Ebira Community in Great Britain has been meeting and bringing all Ebira people together. The same can be said to be true in Germany, USA, Russia, China and in many other parts of the world. However, in the last one year as part of a global concern shared by all of our people, Ebira Vonya International (EVI) was formed. EVI is a mass movement of all well meaning Ebira people committed to peace and prosperity for our people and community. EVI aims to bring all Ebira people all over the world to work together for the social, economic and political advancement of our beloved Ebira community.

There is a great anxiety amongst all the Ebira people in the Diaspora and in fact everywhere that as a people we seem to have lost our direction and probably heading in the wrong direction to a point of no return. There is, of course, a genuine reason to agonise over the the disintergration of our community values today because some of our community leaders have tended to put their selfish personal egos and party political influences first before the interests of the people and community and as a result the whole community and people have been sacrificed in the process.

In the last ten years and certainly in most recent times we have all seen and witnessed how some of our political and community leaders were hell bent on destroying one another in the name of politics, and how our community has lost the values our forefathers fought for and bequeathed to us: respect, dignity, pride and good name, concerns and care for one another and the recognition by neighbouring communities that we are a proud, honest and hard working people. We have gone down the slippery road to almost anarchy, fear, self destruction and have engaged in a new type of violence "political violence" all in the name of political power that has so far eluded us anyway.

As a community we are suffering in pain, anxiety and the lack of respect for us by other communities in our state because of the one single issue that has continued to hunt and destroy us and that is: "our inability to unit as one people". This is a very serious and worrying development. We believe that we have reached a point when we can no longer remain silent while the community is driven down the slippery route because if we do history will not forgive us. It is with this in mind that EVI came into being.

Ebira Vonya International (EVI) unlike others before it is a dynamic umbrella organisation of all well-meaning indigenes of Ebira people at home and in the Diaspora. Whilst the organisation is still very much in it's formative phase and it's existence confined largely to the cyberspace, but it has the potential to be a formidable, influential, a powerful force and an icon for bringing our people together as one extended family.

To those of us outside the country the information reaching us on a regular basis about what is happening to the community continues to make our hearts bleed and makes a mockery of who we are as a people and we are very ashamed. Today our community seem to have lost its sense of direction. The testimony to this is the current political, social and economic situation in our community. There is a moral chaos, criminal tendencies, incitement to communal hatred, violence, intolerance, a seemingly lack of real leadership etc, etc, and we are heading for self- destruction.

As brothers and sisters, we can no longer therefore, bear to keep aloof as if we are not concerned. We believe that it is time to begin to find a common understanding as to what we all need to do together to restore our dignity, humanity and to take our rightful place in the community of communities both in our state and country.

We believe that where there is no love, respect for one another and unwillingness to challenge our individual weaknesses, there can be no peace and where there is no peace there will not be progress. We believe that what is happening in the community today is not God's will for us, therefore, a time has come for all of us as a people to begin a process of finding solutions by going just the extra mile. The birth of EVI therefore became a necessity and not an accident.

#### [What does EVI hope to do and achieve?](#)

It is a well known fact that many well-meaning indigenes of Ebiraland harbour an essential moral imperative and the desire to contribute in one way or the other towards the development of the community. This communitarian instinct has been a dominant factor behind the many past experiments to bring the community together but have not been very successful due to one factor or the other.

The euphoria that greeted the formation of EVI was never misplaced. Whilst Ebira Community has produced a good number of children who are privileged to have been placed in the positions of power and influence both locally and nationally, and some been away from our homeland to study, work and witness developments in different parts of the world however, this has unfortunately not translated into the changes and realities on the ground that we all had hoped for. Instead the community finds its self rather in a two tiered systems: the social, political and economic elites- the halves on one hand and the social, political and economic under class- the halves none on the other. These two tier communities are of course diametrically opposed to one another and could be said to be one of the sources of the on going community unrests. In such an atmosphere of insecurity and instability, potential investors be they our sons, daughters or any others who wish to support economic developments in the community would likely to be totally discouraged.

The present generation of Ebira elites are ready and willing to challenge this status quo that has confined our people, with rich, caring and proud history, to individualism and a subservient status.

Our own model of communitarian spirit will be based on local, grass roots, regional, national and international efforts of coming together to share our common experiences, problems, be our brothers keeper and to evolve a common strategy of dealing with the problems that confront us as a community. Ebira Vonya International is committed to this model as a matter of principle to promote the spirit of political tolerance, economic and social justices for all, peace and harmony, healthy debates and dialogues in resolving any differences that may occur in our journeying together.

There is no denying that the problems afflicting Ebiraland would have no quick fixes. According to the Chinese saying “a journey of a thousand miles begins when you take the first steps”. This is what EVI is about and that is why the formation of EVI has generated such a huge sense of history in the making, a sense of the arrival of a new generation and a sign of hope for the future.

The current situation in our own community and the wider community is a signal that there is much at stake and so much ground to cover in a very short period of time if we are to reposition ourselves to regain once again the trust, confidence and respect of our people and those of our neighbours.

EVI will engage in dialogue with our political and community leaders on how we can address the differences in our community today which, are causing so much pain and bitter enmity between brothers and sisters of our great and proud community. EVI will assist in finding some common grounds or at least narrow the differences that exist between our people because a divided people will always be a vulnerable species.

### [Our Vision and Value Statement](#)

“We believe that all human beings are equal before God and we will enshrine this principle in our relationships with one another. We believe that our strength depends on our unity as one people and community. For Ebira Community and People to become a community that is politically, socially and economically stable, strong and vibrant we must first of all seek and make peace within ourselves, value and respect one another”.

### [Our Aims and Objectives](#)

- The aims and objectives of EVI include:
- The promotion of the unity and interest of Ebira people.
- To encourage coexistence and peaceful resolution of disputes through honest dialogues.
- To advance the social, economic, political and cultural renewal in our land
- To promote respect for one another, the rule of law, lives, properties and the environment.
- To encourage the provision of social, economic and political infrastructures that contributes to increased standards of living for our people and community.
- To build on the values that unite us and not those that divide us, work towards strengthening our political democracy and to engender integrity in our dealings with one another.
- To accept that responsibility and accountability go hand in hand, therefore those entrusted to lead and influence community lives must be accountable to the community of their actions.

- To encourage our people to work together in the community rebuilding and development.
- To encourage better information sharing and communications between our people.
- To use our talents and skills for the development of a better and prosperous community for all.
- To encourage and support the development of full potentials of everyone in the community in order to enable them to play their full part in the progressive development of the community.
- To encourage our leaders to be positive role models for the community.
- To work with the entire community to ensure that everyone is given a voice in the matters that affect the community.
- Our future depends on the young people. We will work very hard to ensure that they are given equal say and that their views and voices are heard and incorporated into any community strategy.
- God has given all of us different talents and strengths. We will work, support and encourage those who are most able to support those who are less able in the community.

### [The Administrative Structure of the Organisation](#)

Within a very short space of time, EVI has grown into an organisation with a global reach. The spatial distribution of our members across the globe does present an administrative challenge. To bring its existence from the cyberspace to the ground, closer to the people, there is the realisation of the need for EVI to be regionalised, thereby ensuring manageability, efficiency, interpersonal contact and interaction between the members along the lines of the efforts and initiatives of the Ebira Community in the UK.

To handle the day-to-day smooth running of its affairs, Ebira Vonya International is divided into a number of regions. Each region has a Regional Representative. We believe that the survival and the efficacy of the organisation will largely be dependent on the emerging regional structures. To give direction and to help planning of its activities EVI has adopted an executive system and supported by the regional structures. The Regional Representatives and the Executive Officers form the National Executive Members and are charged with the running of the organisation. This system will of course be reviewed from time to time.

### [Executive Officers:](#)

The National Chairman  
 The 1st Vice Chairman  
 The 2nd Vice Chairman  
 The National President  
 Vice President  
 The General Secretary  
 Vice General Secretary  
 The Treasurer

Vice Treasurer  
Publicity Secretary  
Vice Publicity Secretary

### Current Regional Structure

- Region 1: Nigeria and the rest of Africa
- Region 2: Western Europe
- Region 3: Eastern Europe, Russia and the Former Soviet Republics
- Region 4: Asia
- Region 5: The USA, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean

The works and developments in the regions are invaluable and key to the success of the organisation. The regions will be the interface with the grass roots and the executive. They will be responsible for membership register and developments in the region, collect members dues, projects supervision and monitoring, information gathering and communication exchange and helping to define local needs and how EVI should respond and be involved.

### Conclusion

No one apart from God is perfect. I know that as we work together and look forward to the future, we will make many mistakes on the way. It is not the mistakes we make that will be the problem, our problem and perhaps our challenge would be whether we are prepared to learn from the mistakes and do things differently using the mistakes to put things wright.

I believe that with time and your support EVI would be able to contribute to a stable, dynamic and prosperous future for Ebira Community. For me there is no greater service than to serve your own people and community. I am therefore, very privileged to be asked to serve this organisation in the capacity of its Chairman.

Alfred Salami  
National Chairman.

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