

Communique of the 2025 Global Convention of the Ijaw National Congress of the Americas (INC-Americas)



Dates: July 4–6, 2025



Venue: Marriott West Chase Hotel, Houston, Texas, USA



Theme: *Effective Leadership in Ijaw Nation*

The Ijaw National Congress of the Americas (INC-Americas), the umbrella body of Ijaws in the Diaspora, hosted its second Global Convention in Houston, Texas. The event convened global Ijaw stakeholders and allies to advance a vision for effective leadership, cultural preservation, economic sustainability, and unity in the Ijaw Nation.

1 Opening Ceremony

The Convention opened with welcoming remarks by Professor Benjamin Ogele Okaba, President of INC Worldwide, who commended the INC-Americas leadership for organizing the historic gathering.

Notable guests included:

- H.E. Dame Patience Faka Jonathan (Special Guest of Honour & Mother of the day)
- H.E. Senator Douye Diri (Special Guest of Honour)
- Dr Tammy Danagogo (Rep. of Gov. Siminalayi Fubara, Rivers State)
- HRM King Bubaraye Dakolo (Royal Father of the day)
- Senator Heineken Lokpobiri, Min. of State, Petroleum Resources-Oil (Rep. by Famous Daunumigha)
- Chief Samuel Ogbuku PhD. MD NDDC (Rep. By Engr Udengs Eradiri FNSE)
- Global scholars, community leaders, and 300+ distinguished guests & delegates

2 Plenary & Technical Sessions

The plenary was chaired by Prof. Benjamin Okaba and anchored by High Chief Amagbe Denzil Kentebe & Comrade Miabiye Kuromiema. Experts presented on leadership, heritage, and sustainable development, including:

- **HRM King Bubaraye Dakolo** – *The Ijaw Question and Code of Ethics*
- **Prof. Engobo Emeseh** – *Advocacy, Environmental Justice & Resource Control*
- **HRM King Seiyifa Koroye** – *Cultural Preservation Through Education & Community Engagement*
- **Balolo (Dr) Sam Sam Jaja** – *Visionary Leadership for Sustainable Development*

3 Presentation of the Ijaw Culture and Heritage Center (IHC)

A strategic presentation was made by Dr Ebizimo Nagberi, Attorney Nimi Iyalla-Ipaye, and Engr Ebi Komonibo detailing plans to establish the IHC in Houston. Legal, financial, and operational frameworks for sustainability and diaspora investment were discussed.

4 Awards and Recognitions

The INC-Americas honored distinguished Ijaw sons and daughters with diaspora recognition awards, including:

Recipient	Award Title
H.E Dr Goodluck Jonathan GCFR	Ijaw Diaspora Vanguard of Integrity
H.E Dame Patience Jonathan PhD	Ijaw Diaspora Heritage Guardian
Senator Heineken Lokpobiri	Ijaw Public Service Luminary
HRM King Bubaraye Dakolo	Ijaw Diaspora Public Service Luminary
H.E Senator Douye Diri	Ijaw Diaspora Nation Builder
H.E Sir Siminalayi Fubara GSSRS	Ijaw Diaspora Voice of the People
H.E Senator Seriake Dickson	Ijaw Diaspora Torch Bearer

Posthumous award to the Late Pa E.K Clark and distinguished special awards were also presented to Ijaw sons and daughters, promoters and supporters of the INC-Americas.

5 Ijaw Day Proclamation

The **City of Houston** proclaimed July 5, 2025, as *Ijaw Convention Day*, celebrating the contributions of Ijaws to cultural diversity, enterprise, and civic life. The proclamation was presented by Mayor John Whitmire and received by the Governor of Bayelsa State and the INC leadership.

6 Business Model for the IHC

Delegates explored a business framework using a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** to manage property acquisition and investment via partnership with governments, private entities, and the Ijaw community. The initiative aims to create equity-based community infrastructure.

7 AGM, Press Briefing & Executive Elections

The final day featured:

- Thanksgiving prayers
- World Press Briefing by Prof. Okaba, addressing environmental degradation, state creation, and political marginalization

- Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- Election of new INC-Americas EXCO for 2025–2028

Newly Elected Officers:

- Chairman: Dr Ebizimo Nagberi
- Vice Chair: Mrs Juliana Oguara ESQ
- Secretary: Mr Ebikeme Amafini
- Assistant Secretary: Bishop (Dr) Suobite Ayibakuro
- Publicity Secretary: Engr Isaac ThankGod
- Organizing Secretary: Dr Abiye Iyo
- Treasurer: Mrs Esther Kowei-Sanami
- Legal Adviser: Chief Kennedy Amughan
- Auditor: Sir Clifford Inimgba
- Ex-Officio: Sir Kenneth Anga KSC
- Financial Secretary: TBD

8 Key Resolutions

- Inauguration of the new EXCO set for Sunday July 13, 2025
- Full endorsement of the ICHC project and call for funding collaboration
- Encouragement for Ijaw organizations in North America to register with INC-Americas
- Call for creation of two additional Ijaw states
- Unwavering solidarity with H.E Sir Siminalayi Fubara GSSRS
- Strong condemnation of environmental degradation
- Warning of potential exit from the Nigerian State if systemic issues persist

END Conclusion

Closing remarks by Chief Kio Ayanate and Engr Ebi Wodu emphasized cross-national collaborations and announced the **2026 Convention** will also be held in Houston. The Convention concluded with final words of advice and prayers led by Prof. Benjamin Okaba.

Signed:



Engr Isaac ThankGod MNSE

Chairman; Convention Planning Committee

On behalf of the Ijaw National Congress of the Americas (INC-A) Sunday, July 13, 2025

🙏 *God bless INC-Americas. God bless INC Worldwide. God bless Ijaw Nation.*