

**JUMUIYA
YA AFRIKA**
BERMUDA



*Annual
Report* 2020

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Pre Charity Registration

2020 has been an eventful year to all of us and for some amongst us, perhaps a year to forget. It has been much like Okonkwo's worst farming year in Achebe's Things Fall Apart. That year, nothing happened at its proper time and the year had gone mad. Harvest was sad, like a funeral, and many farmers wept as they dug up the miserable and rotting yams. Okonkwo knew he was a fierce fighter, but that year had been enough to break the heart of a lion. "Since I survived that year" he always said, "I shall survive anything". We dare say since we have survived to this point, we shall survive anything else that gets through at us in the future.

Whilst saying this, we must nonetheless spare a thought for those who lost their jobs and those whose business suffered. We cannot feel your loss but we do empathise and pray that like the proverbial phoenix, you will rise from the ashes to heights greater than you have ever been.

The year started with plans in earnest to organise an African Day event with a live Jollof Rice cooking competition which was slated for the 30th of May at John Smiths Bay beach. This event was to follow up on our very successful event at the same venue as the previous year. Kenya, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Nigeria and Zimbabwe were the countries to be represented in this competition. The event was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Not to be outdone by the restrictions of the pandemic, we organised a virtual music session to replace the Jollof Rice competition with our own Kimani Ngugi serenading us with some good African music. A virtual quiz was also organised on the same night and it is fair to say that it was a Ugandan affair. The three winners from first to third were Brian Rubuubi, Jean Akol and Isaac Kabunga.



The winners pictured above from right to left, Brian Rubuubi, Jean Akol and Isaac Kabunga with Covid protocols duly observed!

Towards the end of May, our brother Paul Njoroge contacted us and informed us that on the day of his testimony to the US Congress, Boeing had committed to setting up a fund to support families and communities of the 346 victims of the Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 and Lion Air Flight 610 plane crashes. Affected families were required to select/advise on programs, projects, or charities to be funded and he chose to have a \$40,000 allocation given to causes in Bermuda in the name of Caroline Quinns and Jumuiya ya Afrika. We selected the Family Centre and SCARS to share the funds and we are pleased to advise that both made submissions to the administrators of the fund and would most likely receive their donations early in 2021. We are grateful to our brother for considering Bermudan causes for this donation and we have no doubt that it would go a long way to further the wonderful work that these two organisations do in the community.

There is also a very encouraging workstream being led by our brother Pierre-Charles Tiani to look at pooling together resources and expertise within our community to consider investments for mutual gain. If there are any interests in this, please contact Pierre-Charles.

Post Charity Registration

Arguably, the highlight of the year has been the formal registration of a charity by name Jumuiya ya Afrika to serve as a platform to get us together to promote the cultural and economic synergies between Bermuda and Africa. The Charity will be governed by its trustees, have patrons as support and advisory capacity and two classes of memberships; full members and honorary members. The trustees are Henry Thomas, Nana Otu Turkson, Priscilla Ogamba, Phoka Makakole, William Randolph, Tinashe Johnson, Jean Akol and Rotimi Martins. For patrons, we currently have Ronita Teye-Botchway, Sylvanus Nawab and Amoti Nyabongo. We hope that as many of you as possible would sign up to be members and contribute to make the charity successful now and in the years to come. For more information, please visit the website through www.jumuiya.bm

Further to the forming of the charity and under its banner, below are the tentative activities we hope to organise in 2021;

- Build membership for the Charity,
- Explore opportunities with the Ministry of Education and the Libraries,
- Organise an exhibition of African Art at which the Charity will be formally launched,
- Arrange an input for the May parade if possible,
- Organise an Africa day event with a Jollof Rice contest on the 29th of May,
- Organise a summer cruise and
- Organise a Christmas event.

It is worth mentioning that because the Charity's reporting year is from September to September, this would be our last new year report. Our next report would be done in September 2021 so as to start the new cycle.

Finally, for all who in diverse ways have assisted us throughout the year in the formation of the charity, cooking, organising events, contributing financially etc, we say thank you. Many a time, it is the devoted hours and contributions some dedicated brothers and sisters which culminate in the successful events we are able to put up. There is not a lot we could have achieved if it had not been for the roles each and every one of you played.

Happy New Year!

Trustees

