



THE MUTUAL UNION OF THE TIV IN AMERICA NEWSLETTER

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NOTE FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

At MUTA, we aim to empower Tiv communities through unity, education, and innovation, fostering growth and collaboration among our members. We are committed to creating opportunities that inspire progress, enrich lives, and strengthen bonds within the Tiv diaspora. The launch of this quarterly newsletter marks an exciting step in keeping

our members informed, engaged, and connected. Our goal is to provide timely updates, celebrate achievements, share opportunities, and highlight the inspiring work of individuals and groups within MUTA. This platform will serve as a bridge, connecting us all with the latest developments, events, and initiatives that shape our organization and its impact.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we'll continue to build a stronger, united MUTA community!

Se sugh ne cii.

- MUTA PR TEAM

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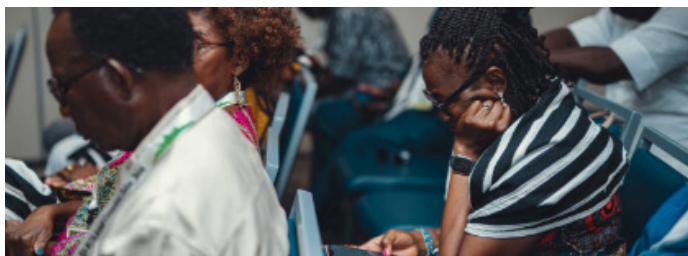


2024 MUTA CONVENTION, DALLAS, TEXAS

The MUTA 2024 Convention in Dallas, Texas, celebrated 30 years of impactful service to the Tiv community under the theme "Rethinking MUTA." Over four days, members engaged in deep discussions on the organization's legacy, challenges, and future directions. Highlights included a keynote address on MUTA's historical milestones, strategic panel discussions on enhancing trust and collaboration,

and vibrant cultural celebrations that honored past achievements while inspiring unity. Youth and women's forums emphasized intergenerational collaboration, and health and education sessions reinforced the importance of community well-being. With plans for future growth, the convention reaffirmed MUTA's commitment to its mission and set a forward-looking agenda for the years to come.

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A LANDMARK EVENT CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF IMPACT

Theme: Rethinking MUTA – A Strategic Reassessment and Adaptation for Effective Service

The MUTA 2024 Convention, held from August 1 to August 4 in Dallas, Texas, marked a historic milestone for the organization as it celebrated 30 years of fostering unity and development within the Tiv community.

The convention theme, "Rethinking MUTA," emphasized the need for strategic reassessment and adaptation to meet emerging challenges and continue

serving effectively. Over four days, attendees engaged in thought-provoking discussions, strategic planning, cultural celebrations, and heartfelt fellowship, all aimed at reinvigorating MUTA's mission.

Day 1: Warm Welcome and Opening Reception

The convention opened on Thursday,

August 1, with an Executive Council (EXCO) meeting that set the tone for the days ahead. This was followed by a welcome reception hosted by Tor Kyaagba, where MUTA President Dr. Akaa Daniel Ayangeakaa and local host Adom Kyaagba extended heartfelt greetings to attendees. The evening featured networking opportunities, informal discussions, and an atmosphere

of excitement and camaraderie as members reconnected.

Day 2: Inaugural Plenary and Keynote Address

Friday began with the opening ceremony, chaired by Mrs. Miriam Tivzenda. The program included prayers by Dr. Simon Tarpav, renditions of the U.S. and Nigerian anthems led by Ms. Shaana Michelle Aunde, and a poignant Tiv song led by Mr. Joseph Unongo. A minute of silence honored departed members, underscoring the community's shared respect and unity.

Dr. Moses Asom, the Convention Chair, welcomed participants before Dr. Ayangeakaa officially declared the convention open. John Block, representing the Mayor Pro Tem of Irving, extended warm wishes from the host city.

The highlight of the day was the keynote address by Professor James Tar' Gire, titled **"MUTA at 30: How Far We Have Come and the Journey Ahead."** Prof. Gire traced MUTA's roots back to its founding in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1993, and chronicled key milestones such as the launch of the scholarship program in 2001 and the health fairs initiated in 2008. He emphasized the need for strategic adaptation to ensure the organization's continued relevance and impact. His address inspired discussions about MUTA's legacy, its challenges, and its potential future directions.

Plenary Session II: Legacy and Strategic Reassessment

The afternoon session featured a panel discussion on the formation of MUTA and the legacy of its founders. Panelists, including Prof. Mku Ityokumbul, Dr. David Diwa, and Lt. Col. Ashi Nyamor, shared personal reflections on MUTA's founding and evolution. They highlighted the resilience, unity, and dedication that have sustained the organization over three decades.

In a subsequent strategic discussion, panelists analyzed MUTA's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Mrs. Mnena Gaadi and Dr. Aver Yakubu stressed the importance of rebuilding trust, enhancing financial contributions, and fostering greater collaboration within the community. Dr. Yakubu noted the decline in event attendance and underscored the need for renewed commitment among members.

The day concluded with the Cephas Tarzer Business Forum, moderated by Mnena Gaadi. Dr. Amos Ajo led an enlightening session on wealth creation, sharing practical strategies and inspiring participants to pursue entrepreneurial opportunities.

Day 3: Youth and Women's Engagement

Saturday's program spotlighted the vital roles of youth and women in shaping MUTA's future. The Youth Forum, moderated by Fanen Dimah and Ngohile Yakubu, focused on



increasing youth engagement and leadership. Key discussions addressed barriers to participation, the importance of mentorship programs, and initiatives like Tiv language education and a structured youth leadership pipeline. Volunteers stepped forward to lead these efforts, demonstrating a renewed energy among younger members.

The Women's Forum, chaired by Mrs. Rachel Ijir, celebrated the contributions of Tiv women in America while exploring opportunities for greater influence and involvement. Discussions highlighted the need for mentorship, community building, and fostering intergenerational collaboration. Notable contributions and philanthropic efforts also included the production and dissemination of sanitary products to female IDP camp inhabitants, addressing a critical need amongst the displaced and marginalized women of the community.

Plenary Session III: Health and Education Outreach

Health and education took center stage in the final plenary session, chaired by Reginald Orafa. Prof. Tor Iorapuu, Vice Chancellor of Benue State University, delivered a compelling presentation on the role of education in societal advancement. He urged MUTA to deepen its support for educational initiatives, citing examples like the university's entrepreneurship programs that empower Tiv youth.

Presentations by Dr. Orduen Abunku and Mrs. Esther Rov-Ikpah emphasized the importance of preventive health measures and community education. The session underscored MUTA's role in addressing health disparities and enhancing access to quality care, both in the diaspora and Tivland.

Traditional Night: A Cultural Celebration Saturday night was a celebration of Tiv heritage, featuring a dinner, cultural performances, and awards. The event

honored past leaders, such as Dr. Tar Gire and Professor Aondover Tarhule, for their outstanding contributions. Vibrant dances and music brought the evening to life, reminding attendees of the richness of Tiv culture.

Day 4: Closing Reflections and Future Plans

The final day began with meditation and worship, led by Pastor Sesugh John Kume. Dr. Ayangeakaa delivered the State of the Union Address, summarizing key convention outcomes and outlining strategic priorities. Discussions focused on enhancing member welfare policies, financial sustainability, and planning future conventions. St. Louis, MO, was confirmed as the host city for MUTA 2025, and members expressed optimism about the road ahead.

Conclusion: A Unified Vision for the Future

The MUTA 2024 Convention was a powerful testament to the organization's enduring legacy and its commitment to the Tiv nation. Through meaningful dialogue, cultural celebration, and strategic planning, MUTA reaffirmed its mission and laid the foundation for a brighter future. As the organization looks ahead, its focus on unity, innovation, and inclusivity promises to drive impactful change for generations to come.

AWARDS HIGHLIGHTS

Excellence in Professional Achievement Award

Professor Aondover Tarhule

Meritorious Service Award

Professor James Tar' Gire

Friends of MUTA Awards

Hon. Chief Mrs. Keziah Agundu
Chief Brig. General Atom Kpera
High Chief Dr. Timothy Terry Tar, JP



MUTA HEALTH FAIR GBOKO 2024

THE MUTA HEALTH FAIR SERVED OVER 2000 BENEFICIARIES IN GBOKO AND NEIGHBORING TOWNS

MUTA HEALTH COMMITTEE

1. Dr. Orduen Abunku (Chair)
2. Mrs Helen Nyamor
3. Dr Terwase Diwa
4. Mrs Ashizingwe Nyamor
5. Mrs Sughnen Agundu
6. Dr. Amom Tor-Anyiin (Secretary)
7. Mr Tavershima Asom
8. Mrs Florence Igbawua
9. Mrs Rumunter OluFemi

Gboko, Benue State – The 2024 Health Fair organized by the Mutual Union of Tiv in America (MUTA) concluded with resounding success, providing free medical care to over 2,000 residents in Gboko, the traditional headquarters of the Tiv people. Held at St. John's Secondary School and supported by the Catholic Diocese of Gboko, Global Health and Development Initiative, and Red Aide Nigeria, the two-day event underscored MUTA's commitment to improving healthcare accessibility for underserved communities.

The Chairman of MUTA's Health Committee, Dr. Orduen Abunku, highlighted the initiative's goals during a press briefing on Saturday. "Our aim is to complement existing health structures in the state and enhance the quality of healthcare delivery. Gboko was chosen because of its significance to the Tiv people and the pressing need for accessible health services here," he stated.

Dr. Abunku revealed that the most common ailment diagnosed at the fair was eye-related conditions, with one in every eight attendees presenting challenges ranging from itching to severe eye pain. Other prevalent health issues included hypertension and abdominal pain.

In describing the turnout, Dr. Abunku remarked, "We attended to over 500 individuals on the first day alone, and the numbers have significantly increased today. The crowd's response reflects the immense need for such outreach programs. By the end of this fair, we expect to have provided assistance to over 2,000 people."

The event was executed by a multidisciplinary team, including medical doctors, pharmacists, and support staff, all dedicated to ensuring that every participant

received quality care. Dr. Terwase Diwa, the head of the Pharmaceutical Unit, assured attendees that sufficient medications were available to address their needs. "We are well-prepared, with contingency plans in place to handle any shortfalls," he said.

Other key committee members, such as Mrs. Jene Abunku, emphasized that the health fair was a purely humanitarian initiative designed to address the pressing health needs of the community. "MUTA is committed to serving our people and complementing government and church efforts to improve healthcare services," she noted.

One of the beneficiaries, Mrs. Ruth Igbadoo, expressed profound gratitude for the assistance she received. "I've struggled with eye issues for years and couldn't afford medical treatment. Thanks to this health fair, I can finally get the care I need," she shared, praising MUTA and its partners for their life-changing intervention.

The health fair also served as a platform to raise awareness about common illnesses, provide preventive health education, and offer medications for chronic conditions.

MUTA's 2024 Health Fair exemplifies the organization's dedication to the welfare of Tiv communities both at home and abroad, demonstrating the power of collaborative efforts in bridging healthcare gaps. With its success in Gboko, MUTA continues to set a standard for impactful community outreach initiatives in Nigeria.



2024 MUTA HEALTH FAIR

WORDS FROM LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

Nrs. Agan Dominic Demesugh: We appreciate MUTA and the leadership for the opportunity given to us to come out and contribute the little we have to our great society (TIV). I also want to thank MUTA for taking good care of us since the beginning of the program. I can't forget to thank our uncle/brother Dr. Abunku and his dear wife for the wonderful things they have done for us. We learned a lot from them, it's a thing of joy working with them. We prayed that may God replenish MUTA more to continue with the Godly work. Thank you all. Long live MUTA

Emmanuel Antiev: On behalf of the ophthalmology team, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to MUTA health fair, Gboko 2024 for reaching out to over 400 eye patients out of which, about 200 benefited from reading glasses and over 200 received treatment for different eye problems. We thank God and the organizers for their contribution in preventing various forms of avoidable blindness. Prevention, it is said, is cheaper than treatment. I thank Dr O.Abunku for excellent leadership.

Nr Pricilla Adzo: It's my first time participating in MUTA medical outreach and I want to say the experience was quiet awesome, the relationship between us was commendable because the experience I have had at other medical outreach were not this cordial. In a special way I appreciate Dr Abunku led team and everyone who participated in the exercise, I also extend my appreciation to our brethren over there for providing a free medical support to us back home most especially at this trying moments in Benue and Nigeria at large. May God bless and replenish us all ijmnn Amen.

Dr Usha Anenga: It was a great experience. Special appreciation to the MUTA organizing team led by Dr Orduen Abunku or a great event. I wish you a safe trip back home. To all the health workers who put in a great shift, may God bless and reward you. I hope we all returned safely to our various homes.



A COLLECTION OF CAPTIVATING MOMENTS,
SIGHTS, AND SCENES FROM THE HEALTH FAIR,
SHOWCASING THE SPIRIT OF WELLNESS AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.



A FOCUS ON MUTA YOUTH

REVITALIZING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The 2024 MUTA Youth Forum, held on August 3, at the 2024 MUTA Convention focused on improving youth and young adult engagement and preparing them for future leadership roles within MUTA. Discussions highlighted the need to define "youth," with participants broadly identifying the 25-35 age group while acknowledging the necessity of tailored categories for those under 25. Participants also addressed challenges, including the unclear purpose of MUTA for many youth, financial barriers, and lack of visibility for positive outcomes. Motivators for attendance included cultural preservation, community building, and interactive activities, such as Tiv language lessons, storytelling, and traditional crafts.

To foster engagement, the forum recommended several outreach initiatives, including creating a user-friendly directory, quarterly newsletters, and expanding MUTA's digital presence through social media. Mentorship programs for high school seniors and outreach coordinators were proposed to strengthen connections among members in the U.S. and Nigeria. Youth-specific activities, such as breakout sessions, meet-and-greet opportunities, and age-appropriate programming, were identified as key to encouraging participation across various age groups.

The forum emphasized the need for structured planning and youth representation in convention teams to ensure the sustainability of initiatives. Participants called for dedicated youth leadership roles and better documentation of past youth contributions to inspire future efforts. A team of volunteers was identified to lead these initiatives, with plans to establish dedicated communication channels and integrate youth coordinators into MUTA's planning processes. These steps aim to create a more inclusive, engaged, and future-focused MUTA community.

- Sedoo Ijir

THE PATH FORWARD

**THE 2024 MUTA YOUTH
FORUM SET THE
STAGE FOR RENEWED
ENGAGEMENT AND
STRATEGIC GROWTH.**

By addressing barriers, enhancing communication, and fostering leadership, MUTA can leverage the energy of its younger members to advance its mission.

With actionable strategies and committed volunteers, the forum highlighted the vital role of youth in shaping a vibrant, united future.

AYATUTU KA UNO? KA SE!

MUTA YOUTH LEADERSHIP CHARTS PATH FORWARD IN POST-CONVENTION MEETING

Following the 2024 MUTA Convention in Dallas, the MUTA Youth Group convened in Chicago on September 15 for a strategic meeting to build on the momentum generated during the convention's Youth Forum. The meeting brought together young leaders and members from across the U.S. to discuss actionable steps for enhancing their contributions to MUTA's mission and strengthening their role in the organization.



MUTA YOUTH



IN



CHICAGO

JOIN THE MUTA YOUTH FORUM



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Akaa Daniel
AYANGEAKAA, Ph.D.

As we close the chapter on 2024, we reflect with pride on a year filled with remarkable accomplishments, strengthened bonds, and meaningful progress. Together, we have demonstrated the power of unity and commitment in advancing our mission.

This year, we made notable strides in empowering the Tiv nation through education, innovation, and collaboration. Below are key achievements in 2024:

Virtual Town Hall Meetings

We launched and hosted virtual town hall meetings under the theme “**A conversation with the Benue Diaspora**”. This was hosted in collaboration with Idoma USA, MUTUK, and several other Benue diaspora organizations. The meetings featured key figures such as His Excellency, Rev. Fr. Dr. Hyacinth Alia, Governor of Benue State, and the Managing Director/CEO of BIPC. These sessions fostered valuable discussions and raised awareness about developments in Benue.

Strategic Engagement Committee

The IDP Committee, chaired by Prof. Joseph Zume, was renamed the Strategic Engagement Committee with a broader scope. Among several impactful activities, a virtual town hall with His Excellency, The Most Rev. Isaac Bundeun Dugu, highlighted communal clashes and the plight of IDPs in the Sankara region, drawing global attention to these critical issues.

Working together for a better tomorrow

*With the collective passion of
our members, we will continue
to make a meaningful impact*

MUTA Health Fair

After a five-year hiatus, we hosted the MUTA Health Fair in Gboko, Benue State, serving over 2,000 participants with free medical care, preventive health education, and medications for chronic conditions, reinforcing our commitment to community health.

2024 MUTA Annual Convention

Held in Dallas, Texas, under the theme “Rethinking MUTA: A Strategic Reassessment and Adaptation for Effective Service,” the convention celebrated 30 years of achievements, honored founding members, and charted a bold course for the future. It featured plenary sessions, workshops, cultural performances, and networking events.

MUTA Scholarship Program

Through the MUTA Scholarship Program, we awarded up to 16 scholarships of ₦50,000 each for the 2024-2025 academic year, directly supporting students’ educational expenses and their academic success.

As we look ahead to 2025 and beyond, I am optimistic about our future. With the collective passion of our members, we will continue to make a meaningful impact. Thank you for being part of this great MUTA family.

*Together, let us continue to build on
our legacy and explore the boundless
opportunities that lie ahead.*



A FOCUS ON 2024

- Hosted a series of virtual townhall meetings tagged “**A conversation with the Benue Diaspora**”.
- Successfully hosted the 2024 MUTA Health Fair after a five-year hiatus. The program provided free medical services to over 2000 beneficiaries in Gboko and neighboring towns.
- Continued the MUTA tradition of offering scholarships to Tiv students.

AYATUTU
KA UNO?
KA SE!



MUTA CELEBRATES EXCELLENCE

2024 MUTA EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

AWARD RECIPIENTS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Education Committee of the Mutual Union of the Tiv in America (MUTA) has concluded the 2024 MUTA Education Scholarship Awards process, recognizing 16 exceptional Tiv undergraduate students for their academic excellence and dedication to community service. This scholarship program, aimed at supporting students from the Tiv-speaking local governments of Benue State, as well as Nasarawa and Taraba States, focuses on those pursuing degrees in STEM, Medicine, and allied medical fields in Nigerian universities.

The selection process was highly competitive, involving a thorough evaluation of applicants' academic records, leadership potential, and commitment to the Tiv nation. The winners represent the best and brightest of the Tiv student community, and their achievements reflect both personal discipline and a deep sense of responsibility to their roots.



This year, after a rigorous selection process, the following exceptional students from the 14 Tiv-speaking local governments of Benue State, along with representatives from Nasarawa and Taraba States, have emerged as winners:

BURUKU

Paula Kaun-Doowuese Abaagu
Mechatronics Engineering, Airforce Institute of Technology, Kaduna

GBOKO

Terungwa Sylvester Ato
Agricultural and Environmental Engineering, Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi

GUMA

Tersur Josiah Igba
Medicine and Surgery, Benue State University, Makurdi

GWER EAST

Jeremiah Tersoo Ahemba
Medicine and Surgery, Bayero University Kano

GWER-WEST

Samson Msughter Ioryoosu
Medicine and Surgery, University of Jos

KATSINA-ALA

Bemdoo Raymond Kwaghen
Nursing, Bayero University Kano

KONSHISHA

Iorkosu Salvin Terungwa
Medical Laboratory Science, University of Jos

KWANDE

Agber Jonathan Bunde
Chemistry, Federal University Gashua

LOGO

Ngutor Isaac Mai

Veterinary Medicine,
Ahmadu Bello University

MAKURDI

Joshua Terwase Igbawua
Medical Laboratory Science,
University of Maiduguri

TARKA

Terdoo Juliet Yainjoh
Electrical and Electronics Engineering,
Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University

UKUM

Wandoo Jacinta Terkimbi
Veterinary Medicine, University of Jos

USHONGO

Aondongu Theophilus Iortyom
Dentistry and Dental Surgery, University of Calabar

VANDEIKYA

Esther Ayima Udugh
Pharmacy,
Bingham University

TARABA

Dooshima Ellen Ukuna
Dentistry, Federal University of Health Sciences, Azare

NASARAWA

Wilson Angbiandoo Utume
Medical Laboratory Science,
University of Jos

These scholars not only excel academically but also embody the values of leadership, community service, and cultural preservation. They inspire future generations with their dedication and resilience.



ST. LOUIS MUTA 2025

A Shared Responsibility

Empowering the next generation is not the work of one person or a single event—it is a collective responsibility that requires the commitment of all MUTA members. From seasoned professionals to young students, every one of us has a role to play in creating an ecosystem that fosters leadership, innovation, and cultural continuity.

By choosing the theme **BeyondNow: Empowering the Next Generation of Leaders**, we affirm our belief in the potential of our youth and our commitment to equipping them with the tools they need to lead MUTA and the Tiv community into a future filled with hope, resilience, and opportunity. Let us come together to inspire and empower the leaders of tomorrow, for the legacy we build today will define the path they walk tomorrow.

What Does Empowerment Look Like?

Empowerment must be intentional and multifaceted. It encompasses education, mentorship, and the provision of platforms for young leaders to grow and contribute. Specifically, the 2025 convention will focus on:

- **Leadership Training and Mentorship Programs:** Connecting emerging leaders with experienced mentors across various fields.
- **Youth Engagement Initiatives:** Creating opportunities for the younger generation to take active roles in MUTA's projects and decision-making processes.
- **Scholarships and Capacity Building:** Supporting academic and professional development that aligns with our core mission areas.

BEYONDNOW: EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

The 2025 Annual Convention will be in St. Louis under the theme - **BeyondNow: Empowering the Next Generation of Leaders**

The year 2024 marked a pivotal moment in MUTA's history - a deliberate pause for reflection, reassessment, and recalibration as we rethought our organizational purpose, structure, and strategies. The robust discussions and participatory evaluations conducted during the 2024 convention emphasized not only the need for operational improvements but also the urgency of preparing for the future. With the machinery of MUTA now retooled and its mission and vision sharpened, the question before us is clear: What legacy are we leaving for the next generation?

The 2025 theme, **BeyondNow: Empowering the Next Generation of Leaders**, is a call to action for all of us to look beyond the immediate and actively cultivate the leadership, skills, and resources necessary for a sustainable future. It is grounded in the recognition that for MUTA to remain relevant and impactful, we must invest in building a pipeline of leaders equipped to navigate the complexities of a rapidly evolving world while preserving the essence of our cultural heritage and values. This investment is not only about inspiring individuals; it is about creating systems, structures, and opportunities that enable the emergence of visionary, ethical, and compassionate leaders.

Why Focus on the Next Generation?

Sustainability of Our Mission

For over three decades, MUTA has been a beacon of cultural preservation and humanitarian outreach, addressing pressing needs in education, healthcare, agriculture, and disaster relief. To ensure the continuity of this mission, we must

intentionally prepare the next generation to step into leadership roles with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to adapt to emerging challenges and seize new opportunities. Empowering future leaders is an investment in the longevity and resilience of MUTA itself.

The Global Context

The world is changing at an unprecedented pace, driven by advancements in technology, shifts in economic power, and evolving social dynamics. Our young leaders must not only navigate these changes but also position themselves as active participants in shaping a better future for Tiv communities and beyond. This requires a deliberate focus on education, mentorship, innovation, and cross-cultural competence. Preserving Tiv Identity in the Diaspora As the Tiv population in the diaspora grows, there is a pressing need to ensure that younger generations remain connected to their heritage while thriving in multicultural environments. Leadership development efforts must include a dual emphasis on cultural preservation and global engagement, fostering pride in our identity while building bridges to other communities.

A Legacy of Service

The essence of leadership is service. By empowering young leaders, we are embedding within them the values of selflessness, collaboration, and accountability that have been central to MUTA's work. This theme challenges us to see leadership not as a position of power but as a responsibility to uplift and empower others.

CELEBRATING CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION



Tersoo Shinku is a dynamic content creator celebrated for his contributions to comedy, cultural promotion, and storytelling, particularly within the Tiv community of Nigeria. Through his unique approach, he combines humor, tradition, and modern narratives to entertain and educate his audience.

One of his notable works, "Alogo Hemba Deri," is a comedy skit series that brilliantly incorporates Tiv humor, making it accessible to a broader audience through the use of English subtitles. This work not only showcases the richness of Tiv culture but also bridges cultural gaps, allowing non-Tiv speakers to enjoy and appreciate the comedic nuances.



Another remarkable project, "The Adventures of Kwembe," highlights Shinku's flair for creative storytelling. The series captures everyday challenges and humorous encounters in a relatable manner, reflecting societal realities while keeping viewers engaged and entertained.

Beyond skits and series, Shinku actively participates in cultural festivals and community-building initiatives. His work often aims to give a platform to underrepresented voices, particularly within rural and indigenous communities. His involvement in these activities underscores his commitment to preserving Tiv traditions while fostering dialogue and understanding across diverse groups.



Through his projects, Tersoo Shinku continues to inspire a sense of pride in cultural heritage while leveraging humor and storytelling as tools for both entertainment and cultural education.

Depicted in the pictures above His most recent work "**Justice In A Pot**" created and narrated by Tersoo Shinku Adzuo

Watch full Video here
<https://fb.watch/wJUl18jZ/>

Follow Tersoo on all his social media platforms for more exciting content.

The Artist: Fanen Dimah

One of the highlights of MUTA 2024 was the debut performance of rising star **Fanen Dimah**, a proud son of the soil with exceptional musical talent. Born on January 4, 1992, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and raised in the Chicago area as the youngest of three sons, Fanen holds a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from Northern Illinois University. His passion for music has taken him to stages around the world, including Nigeria, and he currently works in the music industry in Nashville, Tennessee.

Fanen's performance at MUTA 2024, featuring several original composition, captivated the audience and left the crowd electrified, filling the atmosphere with a blend of awe and excitement. A self-published author with a keen interest in watching sports, reading books, listening to podcasts, and studying philosophy and different cultures, Fanen embodies a vibrant and creative spirit. His debut at MUTA 2024 was a testament to his talent and the rich cultural heritage MUTA represents.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations Dr. Erdoo Mongol-Aga on her appointment as Managing Director/CEO of the Benue State Geo-Mining Company Nigeria Limited. With over 14 years of experience in mining, mineral exploration, and climate sciences, she brings a wealth of expertise and a commitment to sustainable practices that prioritize environmental preservation.

Dr. Mongol is a visionary leader dedicated to efficient resource management, youth empowerment, and education in underserved communities. Her strategic focus on balancing economic growth with ecological sustainability promises to drive transformative progress in Benue State's mining sector.

MUTA celebrates this milestone and wishes Dr. Mongol success in her new role. Her leadership is poised to foster collaboration, empower communities, and enhance the region's reputation as a hub for sustainable mineral exploration.



MUTA ELECTIONS

The highly anticipated 2025 MUTA elections are set to take place during the Annual MUTA Convention in St. Louis, Missouri. This year's elections will fill all executive committee positions, including:

- President,
- Vice President,
- Secretary
- Assistant Secretary,
- Treasurer,
- Financial Secretary
- Public Relations Officer

This is a significant opportunity for members to step forward, contribute their skills, and guide the direction of MUTA for the years to come.

Election Oversight and Guidelines

The 2025 elections will be overseen by Jerome Hule, Chair of the MUTA Electoral

Committee. Hule and his team are committed to ensuring a fair and transparent process. The official electoral guidelines will be released later this year, providing detailed instructions for candidacy, voting, and other key aspects of the election.

Eligibility to Contest

Members interested in running for office are encouraged to prepare early. As stated in the MUTA Constitution, candidates must be active members who have maintained their dues and demonstrated commitment to the association for at least two years. This is your chance to take on a leadership role and make a meaningful impact.

Eligibility to Vote

Voting is the foundation of any democratic process, and every eligible member is urged to participate. To vote, members must be at least 18 years old and up to date with their

membership dues. Voting ensures your voice is heard and helps shape the leadership.

How Voting Will Work

The election will be conducted by secret ballot, ensuring privacy and fairness. Members who cannot attend the convention in person will have the option to vote via absentee ballot. In rare cases where circumstances require, and members agree, the voting process may shift to an open ballot.

Why This Election Matters

Leadership transitions are critical to MUTA's continued success. Fresh ideas, strong leadership, and active member participation will ensure the organization remains vibrant and effective. Contesting for a position or casting your vote is not just a privilege—it's a responsibility to the entire community.



STAY INVOLVED AND GET READY

To all MUTA members: now is the time to take action. If you aspire to lead, begin preparing to contest for a position. If you're a voting member, ensure your dues are up to date to secure your eligibility. The strength of MUTA lies in the collective effort and commitment of its members.

Let's come together in St. Louis to celebrate our community and elect leaders who will steer MUTA toward greater achievements. Stay tuned for further updates from the Electoral Committee, and be ready to make your voice heard this election season!

THE 2025 MUTA
ELECTIONS WILL
INAGURATE THE 16TH
EXCO

THE MUTA SPOTLIGHT



Featuring the Remarkable Vitalis Lanshima

In this edition of MUTA Spotlight, we feature the extraordinary life of Vitalis Lanshima, a man whose story, teachings, and motivational initiatives continue to ignite hope and empower lives worldwide. His life exemplifies resilience, growth, and transformation, inspiring countless individuals to overcome challenges and achieve greatness.

A Story That Inspires

Vitalis Lanshima's life is a testament to resilience. After losing his hands in a tragic accident, he refused to let adversity define his future. Instead, he charted a path of determination and faith, becoming a global athlete, a scholar, and a public servant.

In 2002, Vitalis arrived in the United States as a student-athlete at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky. This opportunity became a turning point in his life, allowing him to excel academically and athletically while inspiring others with his unwavering determination. His story continues to motivate people around the world to rewrite their narratives, no matter the odds.

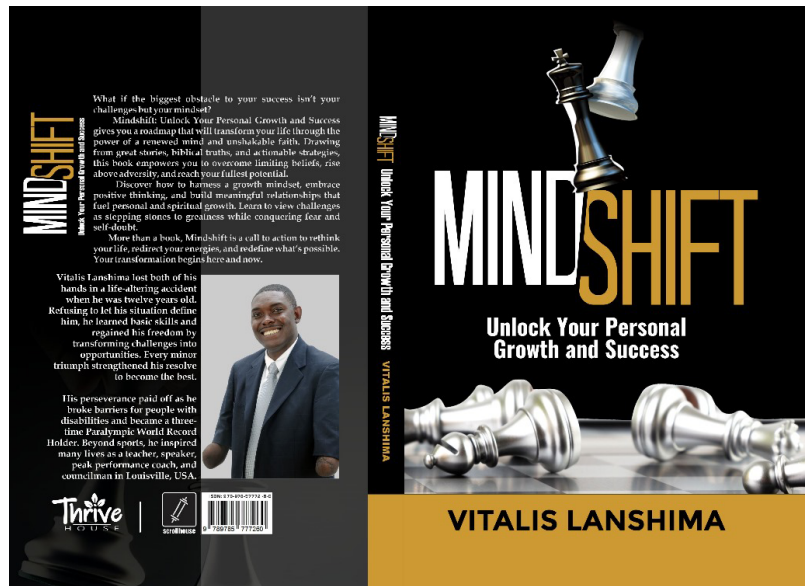
The MINDSHIFT Movement

On February 1, 2025, Vitalis will launch his groundbreaking book, **MINDSHIFT: Unlock Your Personal Growth and Success**. This book is a powerful tool for personal and professional transformation, providing readers with strategies to overcome obstacles, cultivate a growth mindset, and achieve their fullest potential.

The core principle of MINDSHIFT—shifting from “powerless to powerful”—is a rallying call for individuals ready to embrace change, conquer challenges, and unlock their true potential.

Motivational Nuggets: Wisdom for Everyday Triumphs

Through his motivational nuggets, delivered in engaging and accessible videos, Vitalis shares profound lessons distilled into practical advice. These short but impactful messages tackle themes like perseverance, leadership, and self-belief, offering daily inspiration to fuel growth and resilience.



A Vision for 2025 and Beyond

As we step into this year, Vitalis Lanshima's journey challenges us to reframe our struggles as opportunities for growth. His teachings remind us that transformation begins within and that resilience, action, and hope can lead to extraordinary outcomes. Vitalis envisions 2025 not only as a year of personal triumph but as a time to inspire collective growth. He encourages individuals and communities to foster a culture of perseverance, empathy, and innovation. Through his initiatives, he emphasizes the power of connection—building bridges between people, ideas, and aspirations to create a world where everyone has the tools to thrive.

His vision extends beyond individual growth to address societal transformation. He advocates for inclusivity, equity, and access to opportunities, believing that when we uplift one another, we create an environment where all can excel. By mentoring young leaders, collaborating with global organizations, and promoting education as a vehicle for change, Vitalis exemplifies how one person's dedication can ripple outward to impact countless lives.

The principles Vitalis champions — resilience, empowerment, and a growth mindset—are timeless, but they hold special relevance as we navigate the complexities of today's world. In an era defined by rapid change and unforeseen challenges, his story serves as a blueprint for thriving amidst uncertainty.



Vitalis encourages us to set bold goals and embrace the discomfort of growth. He reminds us that failure is not the end but a stepping stone to success, and that our greatest achievements often emerge from our greatest struggles. As he leads by example, Vitalis inspires us to reimagine what's possible in our lives and communities, turning 2025 into a year of meaningful progress and lasting impact.

The invitation is clear: let this be the year we move from surviving to thriving, from dreaming to achieving, and from doubting to believing in ourselves and the boundless potential we each hold.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

& upcoming events 2025

TIV YOUTH AMERICA

- Join us for our monthly virtual meet-up, a great opportunity to connect, network, and meet new members.
- Don't miss the chance to engage in meaningful conversations and strengthen our community.
- For more information, please contact **Ngohile Yakubu** at ngohile.yakubu@gmail.com or **Sedoo Ijir** at sedooijir@gmail.com.
- We look forward to seeing you there!

STAY IN THE LOOP

To stay connected to Tiv community and make sure you always receive this newsletter

Please visit <https://muta.org/directory> to complete our short directory form!



MUTA GLOBAL TOWN HALL

Starting this January, we will hold quarterly virtual meetings to foster stronger connections and collaboration among members.

These meetings will provide a platform to discuss important MUTA topics, share ideas, and explore ways to better support one another.

Stay tuned for details and mark your calendars to help shape the future of MUTA!

ANNUAL DUES

Membership Dues
\$50.00 - \$200.00



Scan to Pay

Please remember to pay your annual dues

pay.muta.org/dues

Zelle to: mutatreasurer@gmail.com

THANK YOU

- Thank you for taking the time to engage with us on this platform.
- Please follow us for more content and upcoming exciting events by filling out our directory form at <https://muta.org/directory>
- NYOM IHE IDOO!!

MUTA Public Relations TEAM
Rumunter OluFemi (Atii)
Sedoo Ijir
Kumaden Igyor

