

Dr. Sylvester Fadal – ENC President – Boston, MA, USA Election Speech



It will be selfish and ungracious of me not to recognize the opportunity you have given me to serve the Esan National Congress. I will be shortsighted not to recognize the trust you have placed in me.

I do recognize the challenges we face and the future we can influence positively as it relates to developing Esanland.

Strong, trusting relationships are just as important to me as the activities we perform and the results we achieve. I do not celebrate silo-driven successes nor does it impress me. We live in a world of success-emphasis where we are quick to ask “what do you do?” We live in an era of achievement-oriented recognition rather than one of caring and focus augmented by a passion for each other and for those that need our support. We must begin to develop compassion for the needy, compassion for the poor, a fight against injustice and the growing dichotomy between the rich and the poor generated by unequal policies and systems perpetuated through greed.

The most visible and practical archetype or model our leaders have used and maybe embraced over the years in leading our people is one of limited accountability, inaction, ethical compromise, an overwhelming zeal for personal gain, a disregard for our supporters and followers and blaming on the easy.

We identify, ally and in some cases try to isolate a group and then charge them with negatives. We can't embrace an inorganic system that does nothing but hinders us from achieving our goals, or from supporting Esanland and Edo State development. It is easy to internalized negativity and difficult to erase from memories the pain of neglect and isolation. This forum is a critical one to recognize and yet challenge the leaders we have within us including myself.

There have been cases where our leaders failed us but we must not be overly critical. We must not be over ambitious. We must be focused and effective in a variety of situations.

To appreciate the familial and societal inferences of the benefits of good governance, it is easy to look to the 1st world countries.

We face an intractable problem. The people of Esanland are felicitously isolated as if their basic needs and wants are unimportant.

To ensure continuous development of the association, we must avoid formulaic acts or decisions based on constitution or other guidelines that derails growth and suppresses upswing approaches in meeting our goals. The classic book approach of do nothing, say nothing is a practical access to mediocrity.

We need to establish goals of objectivity that balances the polarities of our needs. Let's focus less on identifying our faults and weaknesses and on building our strengths and solutions. Let's focus more on solutions. We must focus less on ideologies and concentrate on recognizing the human consequences of them.

I am truly grateful and consider it enormous honor to be given the mandate to serve the ENC. As I have often heard a man I truly respect Simon Ogbuide say on several occasions, the "ENC is greater than any one person or people." In recognition of that fact, I will serve with the best, ethical and respectful intent and will ask the same of all members.

We will all have to find ways to collaborate with one another, with other Edo State associations and also with our government and leaders. As we know, a cryptic Appeals Court decision in 2008 marked a new departure from the previous system of unequal protection and representation. We must now embrace and work with the government to ensure that the State focuses on the growing needs of our people, Esan people in the overall scheme of things.

Constructive Reality

In effort to grow our organization, our focus must be clear. Our job must be achieved with dedication that resides in reality. This constructive reality is what will entrap us in jointly realizing our goals. We all must trust each other at least in our efforts to develop the ENC. We must avoid being inherently dishonest individually and as a team. When we do and if we do, we become circumspect about the reality of our work.

Now is a new chapter. A chapter made possible by dedicated members, coupled with the efforts and insights on change and development by past leaders such as Mr. Paul Ijiewere and Mr. Victor Eboh among others. To you all, I say THANK YOU.

Today, there is a new chapter. As indicated by the details of representation here today, a new, dedicated chapter born out of a caring heart, by a group of dedicated servants through a simple meets and mingle, mission-based relationship effort has been established. The relationship that will drive our desires, grow Esanland and develop our state. There will be margins of differences. The gaps between our varied ideas are indications of our strength. We must appreciate these gaps and use them to develop and work as a team.

It is clear that as a group we have an unbridled enthusiasm to ensure that the ENC succeeds. As we strive to meet this goal, we must ensure that we insidiously do not hamper good judgments because of our differences. The world in general and associations like ours in particular have challenges and uncertainties. These unknowns are arguably the fundamental reasons why we must unite to regulate our growth.

Redrawing a Philanthropic Map

The struggle to establish the ENC and make it a formidable association that is sought by all for its balance-point approaches to galvanizing varied conventional wisdom for success, calls for everyone to be a volunteer. Regardless what position you hold, you must be willing to serve. We must suspend our independent goals in support of optimizing the efforts of all our members and affiliate supporters so the organization can succeed.

Individually, we must and should take appropriate steps to navigate and explore the ways we combat the hidden innate profiles we have embraced to enable us come together as a team with a common focus. I challenge you as an Esan person to embrace each other and work with each other to grow the ENC, Esanland and Edo State. Avoid being on the sideline when tasks are presented. We all need to actively participate.

Today, we have a lot of Esans that don't want to be affiliated with other Esans. The thrust of their arguments is often varied with complex forethoughts. Be that as it may, our actions can change that. Our joys and achievements will invariably create a multi-unifying effort that will be unparalleled. With your support, under my servant leadership, we will develop and be more enterprising in reaching our goals. The paradox, the complex paradox of storming before achieving success will be mitigated by our joint desire to succeed.

The continuing foundation we are setting today, the foundation we have established, the foundation that was born out of the visionary and empathetic wisdom of a few Esan people, will forever be a part of our history.

I thank you all.

MA Khato, Ma Khale, Ise.