

Peace Ambassadors Launch Campaign for National Unification

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Dr. Raphael Ogar Oko

A group, Ambassadors for Peace, launches Campaign for National Unification 2014 through 1,200 Ambassadors for Peace Couples Rally and Marriage Blessing

The Nigeria Chapter of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) is pleased to announce the convening of a special assembly to flag off the nationwide campaign for national unification 2014. The campaign will be launched at a special ceremony in Abuja on December 12, 2013, is expected to bring together 1,200 specially selected couples to add their voices to the call for proclamation of 2014 as Year for National Unification of Nigeria as the nation marks her 100th anniversary of

national amalgamation. The 1,200 Ambassadors for Peace Couples Assembly will also feature renewal of marriage vows for national unification based on the realization that the building block of any society is the family which

begins from stable and united marriages.

In a statement issued by the Office of the Secretary General of the Universal Peace Federation at the Peace Embassy in Abuja, Ambassadors for Peace all over Nigeria are being mobilized to stand up for

national unification of Nigeria and to prevent the prediction that Nigeria will disintegrate by 2015. The organization is calling on all Nigerians to support the campaign for national unification by becoming united couples, build united families and communities and stand for the unity of Nigeria.

“On December 12, 2013, the UPF will formally launch the nationwide campaign for national unification 2014 through a couples rally and marriage blessing program for 1,200 couples. The event shall provide opportunities for the UPF to demonstrate her global commitment to peace and unification by advocating for the proclamation of 2014 as Year for National Unification and for committing couples to stand up together to strengthen marriages, build families and serve our nation”.

The December 12 event has a special significance for the new future of Nigeria. “As many Nigerians should be aware, December 12 is the anniversary of the movement of the federal capital from Lagos to Abuja, and with Abuja as the center of unity, our gathering on that date will also celebrate Abuja and the Nigerian people. From Yakubu Gowon, who created the first 12 states to Goodluck Jonathan, who is the present President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, we have 12 generation of leaders who have all stood for the unity of the nation. At this momentous period in the history of our nation, we must bring all the efforts of the past together and make a common determination to move ahead together. So, it is a moment of celebration of our commitment to national unity. This is why 1,200 couples shall gather to make new vows on behalf of their families and our nation to stand together for national unification. While we will celebrate the accomplishments of Lord Lugard, we need to set a new agenda for the nation. We shall proclaim the opening of the new era of

National Unification and call on all Nigerians to join in registering their marriages and families as citizens of the Unified Nation of Nigeria and say goodbye to all the divisive tendencies like state of origin, indigenes, settlers, etc”, the statement signed by Dr. Raphael Ogar Oko said.

Among many other activities, there shall be presentation of special awards for national unification. The UPF shall use the event to designate some Nigerians as Ambassadors for Peace while National Unity Award shall be presented to organizations, institutions and some individuals. There shall also be the National Unity Couples award for inter-ethnic and interreligious couples. One of the inspiring awards to be presented shall be the Sacrifice for National Unity award, which shall be presented to the Imam and Pastor, to the original inhabitants of the FCT for the sacrifice they have made.

Also, the Sacrifice for National Unity award shall be presented to the Niger Delta People and the Nigerian Armed Forces and the Police. Also, they shall be special Service for National Unity award to be presented to some selected organizations in Nigeria that are contributing in significant ways to national unity. All participating couples shall join in the marriage blessing and renewal of marriage vows ceremony. The UPF is hopeful that this campaign for national unification will make Nigerians more committed to national unity and declare 2014 as Year for National Unification.