

Transcript
of
SPEECH
by
Dr. Hwa A. Lim (Hal Lim)
One of the Organizers and Co-founder of AHSA

“Hope for the Hungry of Africa”
August 13, 2011,
Saturday
7:00pm – 12:00am
43719-43725 Boscell Road
Fremont, California 94538
USA

Honorable Mayor Jose Esteves, VIP Guests, Parents and Children, Members
of the Media, and Ladies and Gentlemen,



My name is Hwa Lim. I am one of the founders of the Asian Hustle and Salsa Association, abbreviated to AHSA, and a co-organizer of this “Hope for the Hungry of Africa” event.

I am very honored tonight to represent AHSA and Bravo Dance Studio to say a few words in front of you.

AHSA is registered with the great State of California as a nonprofit organization, with the mandate to foster cross-cultural understanding, cultivate healthful habits, and promote healthy lifestyle through social and competitive dancing of the Hustle, Salsa, ballroom and related dances.

To this end, AHSA employs the philosophy of “Act locally, and think globally.”



Bravo Dance Studio is a platform and an outstanding facility to help carry out AHSA's mandate, goals, and mission.



Many of the dances we know today, especially the Latin dances, including the Hustle and Salsa, can be traced back to their Africo-Cuban roots. As we enjoy and derive the healthful benefits of dancing yesterday, today, and tomorrow, let's not forget their origins.

To quote Julius Kambarge Nyerere, first Prime Minister of independent Tanganyika (1961), first president of Tanzania (1964-1985), and the major force behind the Organization of Africa Unity (OAU; now African Union), "When we were at school, we were taught to sing the songs of the Europeans. How many of us were taught the songs of the Wanyamwezi or of the Wahehe? Many of us have learnt to dance the rumba, or the cha cha, to rock and roll, and to twist and even to dance the waltz and foxtrot. But how many of us can dance, or even have heard of the gombe sugu, the mangala, nyang umumi, kiduo, or lele mama?"



Asian Hustle and Salsa Association has a great track record of organizing charity and fundraising events to help the less fortunate and victims of natural calamities. For example, fundraising for earthquake victims in Haiti in 2010, and for Friends of Children with Special Needs in 2011.

Many people can feel and relate to calamities when the calamities are close by, or when they happen to someone whom we know. But this needs not be the case. Natural disaster can hit anyone: every single one, they transcend race, color, creed, ancestry, sex, marital status, disability, age, national origin, religious or political affiliations.

Today, with no exception, AHSA – a nonpolitical, nonreligious organization – is fulfilling its “act locally and think globally” philosophy again to reach another part of the globe, Africa.

Currently East Africa is facing the worst famine and hunger in sixty years, with 11.6 million people needing help.

This is why we are organizing this worthy event “Hope for the Hungry of Africa”. When we announced that we were organizing this event a few weeks ago, a number of people immediately came to volunteer their valuable

time. With these few, more joined in, and now we have a core body of volunteers to help out.



Ladies and gentlemen, if you are still with me, it is clear that the response tonight is beyond our expectations. Let us make this event a memorable one for everyone who partakes in this worthy event. And let us commend those who have been helping: in monetary terms, in kinds, or in time to make this event a successful one.



And as you walk out of Bravo Dance Studio today, I want you to feel that you have done something worthwhile, something special – contribute. We Are the World, and we are one world.

Thank you, and be special.