



**PAPER PRESENTED DURING THE BINI COMMUNITY CULTURAL/OPEN DAY CELEBRATION ON THE 25TH OCTOBER, 2008 AT THE PRESBYTARIAN CHURCH, DUBLIN 1 BY MR. FRED IRABOR, PRESIDENT, BINI COMMUNITY IRELAND.**

### **YOU AND THE COMMUNITY**

I have chosen this topic having carefully examine the emergence, development and proliferation of Community Organisation and other similar groups or association and the role they are playing in achieving it social objectives that is full integration of foreign nationals like us in the modern Irish Society of today.

To everyone present here today, what is a Community? Some of us no doubt knew the meaning of this word. On one hand, this terminology rings different bells in our respective ears and so to some extent this shapes our perception and understanding when we listen to anything associated with the word Community.

Various social scientists and theorists in their literature survey have giving their views on the definition of this term. According to Chambers 21st Century Dictionary, Community is defined as "A group of people bonded together by a common religion, nationality or occupation".

Also M. Hawtin and J. Percy -Smith in their Community Profiling, defined Community as "a Group of people related to each other, through a common bond. A primary common bond is the place where they live".

**But for the purpose of this paper, I shall define "Community simply as a group of people who are related through a bond and living in the same place with the aim of assisting and supporting themselves when the need arises".**

Having said this, as humans, we are social animals and can hardly survive without the support of our fellow kind. So it is on this theoretical understanding that Bini Community Ireland emerged, develop and to crown it all has come to practically stay for good. BCI has transformed from what most of us known and perceived as Progressive Unions or Committee of Friends. We have and continued to exemplify the style of democratic, bureaucratic and servant leadership organisation that manage their affairs in lines with rules and procedures. These to an open-minded persons are the qualities and acceptable fundamentals of an Organisation of the present century.

Brother and Sisters, you are part of the Community. You are unique and special. The Community needs you as much as you need the community. No one can be an Ireland of itself. You and the Community are the microcosm of

the Macrocosm. That is to say, for a full and real integration to work you and your Community needs to be part of it. Without these two variables, integration will not be experienced in its full scale and senses. It is a practical fact the humans of today seems to belong to other members of groups, associations, unions, committee of friends, professional organisation, political parties, churches, Christian Ministries etc. We all consciously or unconsciously belong to one group of the other. Why? Because numerous studies have showed that it makes life easier for us as individuals and also helps any government get in touching with the common people thereby covering the grass-root aspect of politics. In a nutshell, this fact is exemplified by the action of the Irish government by spending some money on Community Organisations because they know that we are part of the jigsaw.

Reasoning along this line, it is our collective responsibility to honestly manage and administrate these Community Organisation professionally. Volunteering is the first step and getting involved is the key. The goodness and reward in volunteering in these organisations is self fulfilling and divine in nature. So in the process of doing this, servant leadership should be your guiding principles..

*Recently, we see Community Organisation springing up and are guarded by greed, power and pride. Every organisation tries to duplicate themselves because of pride. Sometimes efforts are being made by organisations for merging and unification to ensure a one strong voice and mouth piece, but for self gratifying reasons, it is progressing very slowly. Communities should come together to talk in one voice and not to disunite thereby encouraging duplications copy-cats programs and methods of administration. Ladies and Gentlemen, if you are a volunteer and managing a community base organisation, try to lead by examples and show it practically because anything worth doing must be done well. Antagonizing yourselves is not what Community organisation is all about. So let us be the light and let us be a voice in the service of humanity.*

Finally, you are a unique and special being. If you are an active and peace loving member of your Community Organisation you are contributing your quota to "social and cultural integration of foreign nationals in Ireland and also educating the people of your rich cultural heritage".

***With best wishes for peace profound.***