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From the Desk of Dr. Mustafa Moyenda

To the Elders, Board of Directors and membership body:

I, Mustafa Moyenda, with the grace of the creator and in the presence of our ancestors, am humbled by being nominated and honored to accept the nomination for President-Elect of The Association of Black Psychologists.

Page | 1

In my decade of affiliation and service to The Association, I have served: in the General Assembly; in local chapter membership and governance; as well as being a National Committee Chair. Truly, I had not looked at my work as a positioning statement for becoming President. However, I can now say, without the least equivocation, that running for President-Elect after spending four (4) years as chair of Strategic Planning and two (2) years as Rules Chair places me at being immensely qualified for this position.

I received a Doctorate of Education from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University Chicago, studying Counseling Psychology with an emphasis in Counselor Education and Supervision; a Master of Public Health with an emphasis in Complementary and Alternative Medicine; a Masters of Counselor Education in Community Counseling; I have been an independently Licensed Practitioner of the Healing Arts for 23 years (licensed clinical professional counselor; certified advanced alcohol and drug counselor; certified clinical supervisor and certified conflict manager)

I am a Counselor Educator and practicing clinician who has worked all over the behavioral health field, however, I am proudest to be the current and first Program Chair for the Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision at Grand Canyon University, with the tasks of creating the program, building the curriculum, hiring faculty, admitting students and seeking accreditation.

I have served as Omega Psi Phi 10<sup>th</sup> District Assault on Illiteracy Chair and as a local chapter Basileus (two terms graduate chapter, one term undergraduate). I also served as High Priest and Prophet for Al Hamid Temple #222 Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

I hold continuous membership with the Counselors for Social Justice (ACA) and the Sufi Psychological Association. Professional and Service accolades include nominations for: Omega Man of the Year; Adjunct Professor of the year (twice); and Faculty Advisor Recognition award (thrice)

My research interests and presentation include work in: Complementary and Alternative Methods for treating Stress related Psychological Disorders; Mental Health Disparities and Social Determinants of Mental Health; African-centered “out of school time” programming; as well as Social Justice and Advocacy within the Counseling Profession

I honestly do not believe that anyone wants to serve on the Board of Directors. Yet, I accept this nomination because, in any cause that you are committed to, there will be a time when the masses will call upon you to lead but only if you have made suitable proficiency as a



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follower. It is my belief that by virtue of this nomination the masses believe I have become proficient. It is my responsibility to live up to that trust.

My vision whether it was as Chair of Strategic Planning or as Rules Chair has been for ABPsi to realize our mission in the service of our people. I heard Baba Na'im Akbar say, "we may not be capitalist, but we need capital." I have worked with and will continue to work with Fiscal Affairs and the Treasurer's office to continue the building of a solid financial infrastructure. My designs for this have been laid out in my Strategic Planning reports over the last six years, my bylaw/policy and procedure redesign over the past two years and as President-elect we will begin to implement them nationally, regionally and locally.

Page | 2

Highlighted - we are expected to realize our potential by increasing our passive income sources, we are expected to revisit some and investigate other corporate sponsorships that align with our values, we are expected to monetize our Board Certification in Black/African Psychology and communiversity platforms, we are expected to grow our Ujuzi Kijiji which will entice membership trained in non-clinical specialties, increasing our community presence, and foster income growth. In addition, we are expected to re-activate the General Assembly as the working arm, allowing the Board of Directors and National Office to focus on raising funds.

We the Association of Black Psychologists must be true to our cultural core. We cannot just put forth an African centered ideology without it being a significant part of who we are and how we do business. Thus, the organization (NFP corporation) entity of ABPsi does not overshadow the entity that is the Association. At present, the financial picture of ABPsi largely rests in our membership. It is therefore consistent with fiscal planning to recruit new members, reclaim our "no longer active" members, and put forth a specific program to retain the membership that we have.

I have realized that the challenges that face ABPsi, systemically mirrors those of the Black Community. We are experiencing: insufficient capital and resources; reliance on others to protect and invest in our interests; and the lack of a unified voice when speaking to our agenda. Notwithstanding, we have the opportunity to deal the biggest blow in the war for the minds of Black people because we are the experts. Our people will not follow just anybody's word or direction without knowing that their voice is heard and that our traditions are revered. It calls to mind the lessons of Kwame Nkrumah who said,

"go to the people, live among them, learn from them, love them,  
plan with them, start with what they know and build on what they have."

The time is now for the reimagining of our image and strategic vision to be shown and proven as the manifestation of the creative and authoritative utterance of this body.