An independent, non-profit professional society of scholars, teachers and writers dedicated to the advancement of African Literary Studies.

PRESIDENT

Lokangaka Losambe

Dept. of English University of Vermont 400 Old Mill Burlington, VT 05405 (802) 656-3423 lokangaka.losambe@uvm.edu

VICE-PRESIDENT

Anthonia Kalu

African American & African Studies 486 University Hall 230 North Oval Mall Ohio State University Columbus, OH 43210-1319 (614) 688-5779 kalu.5@osu.edu

DEPUTY VICE-PRESIDENT

Soraya Mekerta

Spelman College 350 Spelman Lane S.W., Box 286 Atlanta, GA 30314-4399 (404) 270-5552 smekerta@spelman.edu

PAST PRESIDENT

Janice Spleth

Dept. of Foreign Languages West Virginia University Morgantown, WV 26506-6298 (304) 293-5121 ispleth@wvu.edu

SECRETARY

Anne Carlson

Foreign Languages & Literatures Mailcode 4521 Southern Illinois University Carbondale 1000 Faner Drive Carbondale, IL 62901 (618)453-5416 acarlson@siu.edu

TREASURER

Fahamisha Patricia Brown

Metropolitan College of NY ACSHE 431 Canal Street New York, NY 10013 (212) 343-1234, ext. 2419 ALATreasury@mcny.edu

JALA EDITOR

Abioseh Porter

Dept. of English & Philosophy Drexel University Philadelphia, PA 19104 (215) 895-2448 abiosehp@drexel.edu

38TH ALA CONFERENCE

 $Southern\ Method ist\ University,\ Dallas,\ TX$

April 11 – 15, 2012 Dayna Oscherwitz

oscherwi@mail.smu.edu

May 16, 2011

Mr. Barack Obama The President of the United States The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

On behalf of the African Literature Association (ALA), an international organization of scholars, writers, students, and educators committed to promoting the study of and research into African literatures, I wish to congratulate you on your resolve and sustained effort to fight terrorism and restore respect for human rights in the world, especially in Africa.

Although the goal of our association is to "facilitate the attempts of a world-wide audience to appreciate the efforts of African writers and artists," we also actively support African peoples in their struggles for democratic principles and human rights. As such, we are committed to the safeguarding of African writers, whose lives are often in peril in the hands of autocratic regimes because of their dedication to justice and equal rights.

Because we believe in your vision of hope, we would like to urge your administration to work with African leaders as well as international government and non-governmental organizations to ensure the survival of citizens in several African nations currently on the brink of tragedy. We are particularly concerned about human rights violations that are currently taking place in Sudan, Ivory Coast, Uganda, Nigeria, Libya, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, and Zimbabwe.

We strongly believe that with your leadership, we can collectively work to provide necessary humanitarian and economic assistance, especially to ensure that women and children, those who often suffer the brunt of political and environmental devastation, are protected.

Once again, the African Literature Association supports your efforts, President Obama, and wishes you the best.

Sincerely,

Lokangaka Losambe

President, African Literature Association (ALA)
Frederick M. and Fannie C.P. Corse Professor of English
Department of English, University of Vermont
400 Old Mill, Burlington
VT 05405

CC. Secretary of State Hilary R. Clinton
Ambassador Susan E. Rice
Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Johnnie Carson
Rep. Emmanuel Cleaver, II, Congressional Black Caucus Chairman