STATE *of* MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Over 6,700 Nigerian Americans currently reside in Minnesota, and Nigerian immigrants account for about 0.6 percent of the United States' overall foreign-born populations; and

WHEREAS: Many Nigerian immigrants and first and second generation Nigerian Americans have contributed greatly to Minnesota's economy; and

WHEREAS: On October 1, 2018, the Twin Cities Chapter of Umu Igbo Unite (Umu Igbo Unite-Twin Cities) in collaboration with Umunne Cultural Association Minnesota (UCA), Igbo Women League of Minnesota (IWL), and Minnesota Institute for Nigerian Development (MIND) will host the National Independence Celebration of Nigeria's 58th year as an independent nation; and

WHEREAS: Umu Igbo Unite-Twin Cities is an Igbo-Nigerian professional organization dedicated to connecting the diaspora and promoting community development and entrepreneurship within the Nigerian community residing in Twin Cities area; and

WHEREAS: The celebration will include youth arts and craft projects, storytelling booths, parades, cultural dances, religious services, and marches; and

WHEREAS: Umu Igbo Unite-Twin Cities has collaborated with Louis and Jackson Consulting, and the Minnesota DFL African American Caucus to host nonpartisan voter registration drives before, during, and after the celebration, in an effort to increase the number of American born citizens of the West African heritage to participate in the electoral process; and

WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota has found it appropriate that we celebrate the independence of Nigeria, and honor the residents here in Minnesota on the occasion of this nation's 58th year of independence.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Monday, October 1, 2018, as:

NIGERIAN PEOPLE OF MINNESOTA DAY

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 28th day of September.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE