



# TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR WOLE SOYINKA ON HIS 77TH BIRTHDAY

lot has been said and written about the man Oluwole Akinwale Soyinka. On this occasion of his 77th birthday, the government and people of Ogun state, with joy in our hearts and pride on our faces, congratulate the illustrious son of Ogun state.

It is not surprising that the first Nobel Laureate in literature from Africa hails from the Gateway State. We also are not surprised that the organisers of the International Cultural Exchange Programme titled "Open Doors" chose to use his birthday as the platform for their annual event which has a major focus to "restore the dignity of Man". Professor Wole Soyinka is a man who

has proved consistent over time in his literary ingenuity and his revolutionary zeal. In his 77th year, we have noted an undiminished fervour as he continues to pressure our leaders to do the best for our nation in particular and humanity in general. All of these in an attempt to restore the dignity of man. Furthermore, quality education, which Ogun State is known for and which produced the Nobel Laureate, is one of the cardinal points of this administration. As this exchange programme also focuses on education and mentoring of the youths, we cannot but applaud it because our state is dedicated to providing free and qualitative education which will in

future produce more Nobel Laureates in other areas as well as arts and culture.

It is therefore with gratitude to God for the life, and achievements of Professor Wole Soyinka that we say a very happy birthday to Kongi as he turns 77. May he have many more years on earth to continue to work for the upliftment of our children and our country.

Long live Kongi. Long live Ogun State. Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

**Senator Ibikunle Amosun (FCA)**Governor, Ogun State



# Teju Kareem Executive Producer

ANOTHER YEAR HAS ROLLED BY.
MEMORIES OF THE PREEMPTIVE
SEVEN TOUR ARE STILL FRESH
ON MY MIND.

t a time like this when the challenges facing our country seems so insurmountable, we at Zmirage feel we should affirm like never before that "we love our country". It is only love, faith and belief in our country that will help us weather these challenges. The future of our beloved country lies in the youth and the youth are the focus of season 2 of the open door series. That is why we have asked young Nigerians from all over the country and in the Diaspora to write an essay to commemorate the 77th birthday of Professor Wole Soyinka, Africa's first Nobel Laureate on the topic "I love my country". Seventy-Seven of these lucky youngsters will spend a day with the great man at his home in Abeokuta and hopefully thereafter find yet more reasons to love their country.

For us at Zmirage, "Open Doors" a platform for International Cultural Exchange has come to stay. We greatly appreciate the magnanimity of Prof. Soyinka in permitting us to adopt his birthday as the calendar date for our cultural exchange program. It will be an annual event through which we hope to use the vehicles of arts and culture to foster greater unity among humanity.

#### THOUGHTS FROM BACKSTAGE

hief Bola Ige – Ex governor of Oyo state, democracy activist and long time close friend of Nobel Winner Wole Soyinka – was Nigeria's Attorney General, when he was woken from sleep and brutally assassinated in his own bedroom. A prime candidate for Nigeria's Presidency, an exceptional Nigerian, Bola Ige had just been tapped to serve on the World Court, when he was murdered. In 2011, ten years later, the hired political thugs and the men that hired them continue to roam the corridors of power in Nigeria's tenuous democracy. It was he -Bola Ige who organised and presented the first public festival in honour of Soyinka's birthday at sixty (60) in 1994, resisting the immeasurable

machinations of the agencies of government to disrupt the festival.

As it was in that year, the events today seventeen years on - are part celebratory and part reflective. Soyinka's years with us, have been marked by his exemplary courage in defence of human dignity and freedom. An attempt to delineate the threads of his life as an activist from his prodigious creative contribution in the last half century is simply futile.

Zmirage steps forward with today's celebrations, as the first effort to internationalize the annual festival in celebration of Wole Soyinka, his cast of celebrant performers - Tunji Oyelana

(Emukay), Peter Badejo (O.B.E), Teni Aofiyebi, Taiwo Obileye, Kunle Bamtefa, Moji Bamtefa, Golda John and Wale Ojo - men and women of great art and service, converging in London and Lagos, have all come in humble acknowledgement of the commitment and courage of the man we love to hail as our own WS. It is only fitting that our excerpts come from "Kongi's Harvest", to solemnize the warring souls of the courageous departed like Bola Ige, Ken Saro Wiwa, Mamman Vasta, MKO Abiola and many more heroes yet to be born. It is for them all – the dead, the living, and the unborn – that Wole Soyinka's 77 years must be marked as the beginning of the best years of our lives!



Segun Ojewuyi (London 2011)

#### PRODUCTION TEAM



**Executive Producer** 



Executive Director



Teiu W. Kareem Taiwo A. Kareem Lillian Amah-Aluko Mike Dada



Project Consultant



Bivi Oni Project Manager



Avo Oluwasanmi Red Carpet/Advocay



Dafe Ivwurie Head Sponsorship/ Protocol



Lekan Olujinmi Coordinator



Ola Adeniran Documentary Director



Prof. Segun Ojewuyi



Lvnda Amadi Children's Program Coordinator



Toyin Bifarin-



Jahman Anikulapo Head Media Consultant



Anote Ajeluorou Ola Tehinse Project Media



Stage Manager



Tosin Ajirere Tunde Odede Media Consultant





Arc. Yemi Bello Sam Oluwatosin Leo Adam-Etuk Peter Badejo OBE Tunde Osinnibosi Haneefat Ikharo Bonny Botoku Project Accountant Technical Director Technical Officer Camera Operator







Coordinator.



(Laface) Event



Administration



Production



Oluwafunbi Research and



Stephen Ogundele Biodun Balogun Documentary Editor

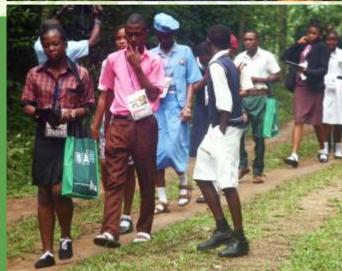


Stage Manager



# ABEOKUTA \\\\\\\\\\ SOYINKA'S HOUSE







Students walking the scenic route to Prof. Soyinka's house





Ogun state Governor Senator Ibikunle Amosun being welcomed by Wole Soyinka



# Helping to nurture growth since 1990...

We are at the forefront of nurturing businesses and discerning organizations to grow from start-ups to efficiently managed enterprises.

Our professional services are designed to meet specific needs of our clients. Over the years we have truly become a real partner for growth and progress.

Audit • Accounting • Taxation • Business Advisory Services



Ibikunle Amosun & Co.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Ladegbuwa Plaza, 2nd Floor, 6, Ashabi Cole Street, Off Agidingbi Road, (CBD) Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria. Tel: +234-803-303-3473; +234-803-321-3993 | www.ibikunleamosunandco.com

## 

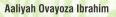




Essay writing in progress

#### **ESSAY FINALISTS**







**Abbey Folashade** 



Adebayo Dorca



Adegoroye Adedotun



Agbaji Samson



Agboola Omowumi



Aggo Laura



Agnes Jacob



Aire Joshua Omotayo



Aisha Baba Kaumi



Aisha Faisal Hassan



Ajayi Mosinmiledluwa



Alem Bello



Ali Tochukwu Thomas



Amodu Victoria



Andrew Ishaya



Asiuloka Amaoge Mary-Linda Brenda Michael Asotibe





Cecelia Geoffrey



Chibueze Camillus Ukachi



Chukwu Albert



Dada Eniola



**Dakup Peters** 



**Daniel Nnenna Mary** 



**Dorcas Buoro** 



Eric Ohejene



Faje Elijah Kashope



Fasanya Oluwaseun



Faseun O. Samuel



Fatoba Omolola



**Felix Effiong Orok** 



Igemokhai O. Mervyn

#### **ESSAY FINALISTS**





Inyang Ita Asuquo



Joseph Maichibi



**Jubril Binta** 



Kyaaja Gift



Makinde Boluwaji Ibukun



Marian Bashiru



Martins Edeh



**Mbakwe Chibuzor** 



**Nsofor Colette Obioma** 



Nwachi Ikechukwu



**Nwafor Grace** 



Ogbegie Victor



Ogungbe Olaoluwa Samuel



**Olamide Adekunle** 



**Oladipo Faith Taiwo** 



**Olu-Ajayi Blessing** 



Olumayokun Ogunde



Zahrah Abdulganiyu Bello



**Ononyume Gilbert** 



Osakwe Maryjane



Osudoru Morenike



Precious Popoola



**Precious Samuel** 



Samson Nwachukwu



Samuel Audu



Sha'awanatu Aliyu



Shadrach Okolo



Tobi Adebisi



**Uche Chigozirim** 



Ujebe Onyekachi



Wisdom Ikediashi

# 









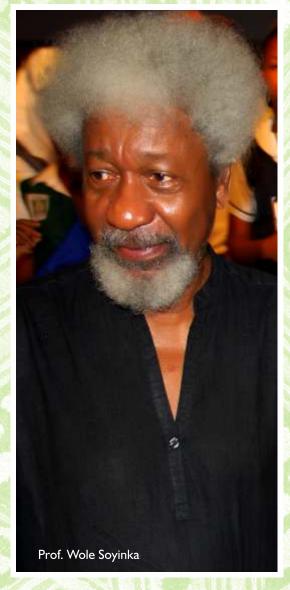
## CULTURAL CENTRE \\\\\\\\\\ ABEOKUTA



















# CULTURAL CENTRE \\\\\\\\\ ABEOKUTA







#### 

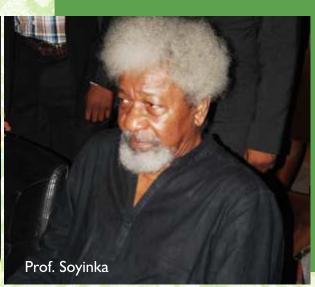


## CULTURAL CENTRE \\\\\\\\\\ ABEOKUTA















# 



Dignitaries with cast and crew of "Ajantala Pinocchio"





# **LAGOS STATE**

**GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA** 

Congratulates

**The Nobel Laureate** 

#### PROFESSOR WOLE SOYINKA

on his

77th Birthday Anniversary

Eko o ni baje o



#### CULTURAL CENTRE \\\\\\\\\\ ABEOKUTA



# A Luxury Hotel of Unparalleled Standard...



Presidential Boulevard, Ibara, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria. Phone: 08033734340. Fax: 039-244377 e-mail: info@continentalsuites.org



On behalf of the entire staff of **Snridu Hotels** 

we wish

#### Prof. Wole Soyinka

Happy Birthday with many more fruitful years of service.

We say long live KONGI!!!



#### ABEOKUTA \\\\\\\\\\ SOYINKA'S HOUSE



Prof Soyinka with students in his amphitheatre









# ABEOKUTA \\\\\\\\\ SOYINKA'S HOUSE



L - R: Mrs. Ogunbiyi, Executive Producer-Teju Kareem, Wole Soyinka and Lekan Olujinmi







# TRIBUTE OF ONDO STATE GOVERNOR DR. OLUSEGUN MIMIKO TO PROF. WOLE SOYINKA ON HIS 77TH BIRTHDAY.

n the 13th of July, 2011, Professor Akinwande Oluwole Soyinka, will be 77 years of age. A multidisciplinary gift to Nigeria and the black race, a Nobel Laureate and internationalyl acclaimed giant on the world's literary stage, a political activist, humanist and polemicist of transcendent abilities, Wole Soyinka needs no introduction to either the world of Letters where he is very much celebrated or, that of Ideas & Action, where he remains an Icon.

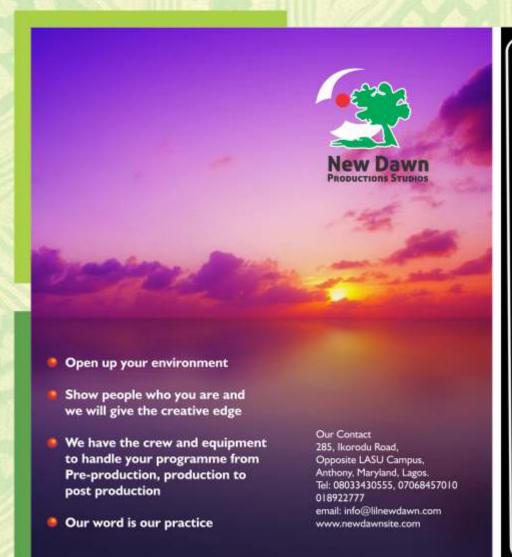
Born on July 13, 1934 in Abeokuta, Ogun State to a school headmaster and influential Egba mother, Soyinka's writing career did not become serious and intense until he went to the University of Leeds where he made contact with the renowned English scholar of Shakespeare, George Wilson Knight, who sharpened Wole's critical and literary sensibilities. By

1956, Wole Soyinka had written his first dramatic sketches. The rest as they say is now history. Through a stint at the Royal Court Theatre in London, Soyinka acquired considerable skill and immense self-confidence as a dramatist. His prodigious output in drama, his literary prowess in novels, numerous poetic works and scholarly essays came to the inescapable attention of the world academic communities which became fascinated with his corpus of work that was eventually cited in 1986 by the Award Committee of the annual Alfred Nobel Price for its ability to"....fashion out the drama of existence"

Because Wole Soyinka's plays are both the vehicle for his genius and the praxis of his revolutionary commitment, he has been able to transform his audience, inspire the people, help to shape the socio-political struggles by dramatizing the exploitation of

the oppressed and demonstrating his abhorrence for tyranny and antagonism to injustice. Despite suffering imprisonment for his political activism, Wole Soyinka, over a course spanning half a century, has been in the vanguard of agitation for justice, social and civil rights of the people and the emancipation from autocratic government. His political temperament and ideological complexion inexorably over the years, have been of the antiestablishment hue but there is no doubting the fact that even successive administrations in Nigeria revere his person and take his occasional criticisms in good strides.

On the occasion of his 77th birthday, and on behalf of the good people of Ondo State, the Sunshine State and the entire State Government, I wish Kongi many happy returns of the day and many more years of fruitful service to the people.







# ABEOKUTA \\\\\\\\\ SOYINKA'S HOUSE

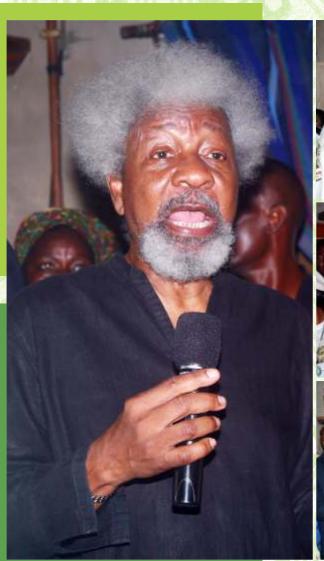








## ABEOKUTA \\\\\\\\\\ SOYINKA'S HOUSE











Speeches...





Students listening with keen attention to Nobel Laureate Prof. Wole Soyinka



#### ABEOKUTA \\\\\\\\\\ SOYINKA'S HOUSE



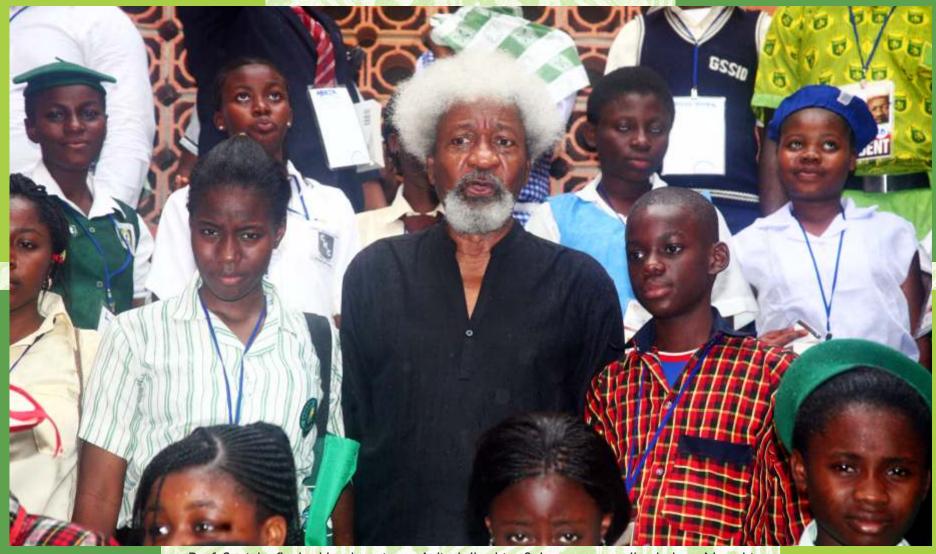
Excited students spending time with their mentor





Group photographs of the students with Prof. soyinka in his amphitheatre





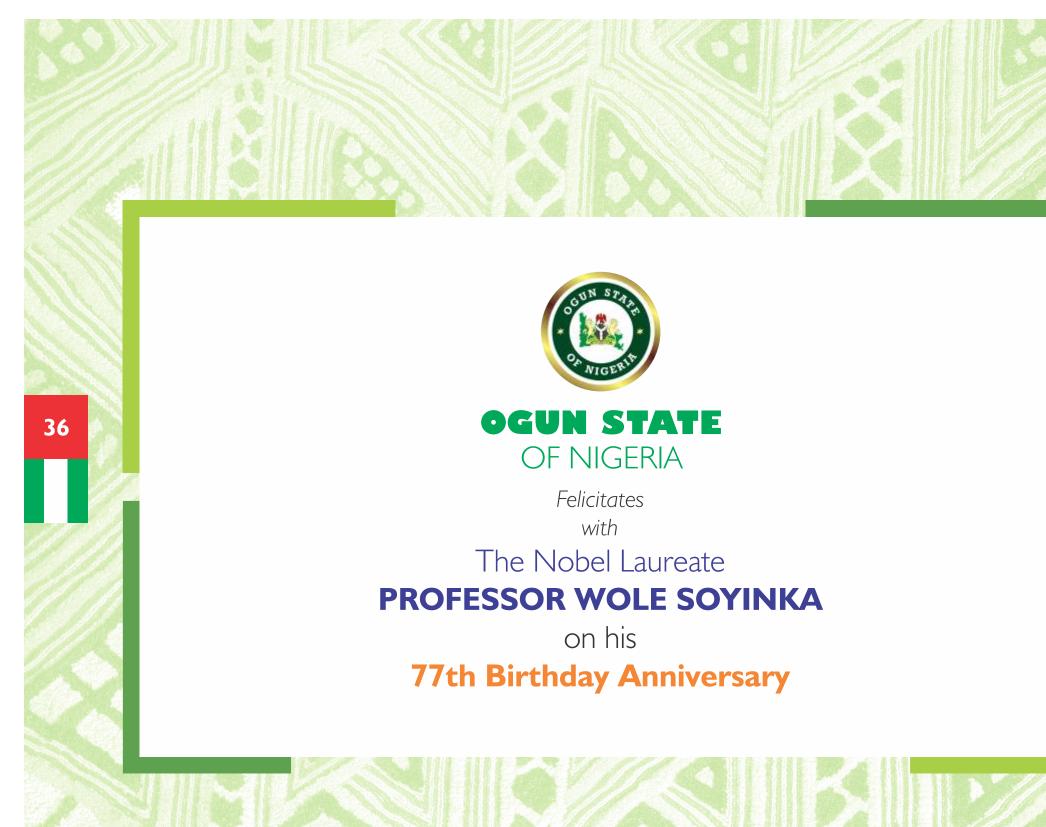
Prof. Soyinka flanked by the winner Aaliyah Ibrahim & 1st runner-up Ikechukwu Nwachi

# SOYINKA'S HOUSE \\\\\\\\\ ABEOKUTA





Participants and officials at Olumo Rock







#### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN THEATRE ARTS PRACTITIONERS (NANTAP), LAGOS STATE CHAPTER

Upon its establishment in 1989, the National Association of Nigerian Theatre Arts Practitioners (NANTAP) emerged in 1990 as the only Arts organization duly registered under the Land (Perpetual Succession) Act of 1960, Cap 68, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, to cater for Theatre and Allied Arts and its practitioners. The Association's emergence came through a merger of two Bodies namely Association of Nigerian Theatre Arts Practitioners (ANTAP) in the Southern Nigeria and National Association of Nigerian Theatre Artistes (NANTA) in the Northern part of Nigeria.

In the last 22 years, NANTAP has brought a hitherto ignored sector of our cultural life back into focus. In the first two years of existence, its attention was focused on bringing together as many practising theatre artistes as possible under the umbrella of the Association. With such consistency of membership drive, the Association has been able to build its membership from a meagre 215 Lagos-resident artistes and 96 Jos-based artistes to a robust number operating under numerous State Chapters across the nation. Oyo, Imo, Ebonyi, Edo, Delta, Abia, Rivers, Cross Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Katsina, Kwara, Plateau, Kano, Kaduna, Kogi, Ekiti, Ondo, Ogun, Osun, Benue, Abuja and Lagos now have vibrant NANTAP State Chapters in Nigeria.

The Lagos State Chapter has remained vibrant in its many programmes and proactive approach to issues bordering on theatrical, cultural and intellectual developments. With its many successful programmes ranging from performances to capacity building, from workshops and lectures to seminars and round-table discussions, NANTAP-Lagos, apart from keying into the pragmatic aspirations of the National Body, has also generated programmes and events leading to spurious development of the culture sector.

#### NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Mr. Greg Odutayo

#### STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Mr. Mufu Onifade
Mrs. Bukky Ogunnote-Ogunade
Miss. Titilayo O. Akinmoyo
Mr. Raph Olukomogbon
Miss. Nathalia O. Ajayi
Mr. Sam Uche Anyamele
Mr. William Ekpo
Miss. Edith Amatotsero

Chairman
Vice Chairman
General Secretary
Assistant General Secretary
Director of Finance
Director of Publicity
Director of Productions and Screening
Chief Whip

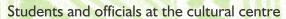


# CULTURAL CENTRE \\\\\\\\\\ ABEOKUTA





















Ogun State Executive Council welcomes students and officials













































Group photo of the students with the Governor



















The judges collecting scripts













## LAGOS STATE \\\\\\\\\\\ ESSAY COMPETITION













NAME: AALIYAH OVAYOZA IBRAHIM

SCHOOL:

**ZAMANI COLLEGE, KADUNA** 



## THE FREE SOUL: A MYTHICAL MAN

"Come here my boy," the man said. He was a tall man, gruffy and white haired old man. He sat under a large mango tree in a sparse land with a hill close to the tree.

The man was addressing a ping wandering boy passing by. The boy taken unawares by the sight of the man turned sharply in surprise. "Come," the man repeated, "Don't be afraid, I won't hurt you." He smiled as he repeated the last word and that invited the boy over. Holding the boy's hand affectionately the man said, "my dear boy, climb over to that hill there and tell me what you see." The boy did as instructed and came to the man saying, "I see nothing but sparse land and people going about their business." The old man smiled knowingly and said in a croaky

voice, "Tell me what you know about this land." After a pause the boy replied, "Nothing much, just what everybody else knows." "Are you sure?" The man Inquired "Yes, I am," the boy replied. "Sit my son, I have something to tell." Intrigued by whatever the man was going to say, the boy crouched at the feet of the man and listened attentively. The man cleared his throat exaggerating the process and said", "I have lived for long and yet knowledge about this land never ends. For beginners, I was thought in school that this land is bordered in the North by another nation called Niger, in the Northeast by another nation called Chad, in the East by a larger land called Cameron, in the West by Benin and finally in the south by the ocean that brought the

white men, the Atlantic Ocean." "Hmmm," the boy murmured in approval and understanding. The man began again, "I know that this land has more than 250 ethnic groups, cultures and traditions so diverse. Times have changed because now this country has a bicameral system of government, about 700 local government areas, 36 states and even 11 geographical zones and 6 geopolitical zones." "Okay," the boy replied trying to assimilate all the fact at a go. As the man cleared his throat once more and smoked from a pipe he brought out from the breast pocket of his long traditional gown, a woman heading for the market with pretty materials on her back passed by inattentive to those under the tree as she struggled with a child in her



CLASS:

SSS I

**WINNER:** 

**IST POSITION** 

# I have lived for long and yet knowledge about this land never ends.

hand. Like a bulb suddenly lighted over his head, the old man said, "Ah! Such a woman." He continued by lamenting to the boy saying, "my SON.

I shall show you that a child's and his mother, it's like a nation and its people."

He went further and relayed details about how when a child has cold, it's like corruption and poverty. Is the mucus stuck in the nose of the child as they are in the habits and lives of people. But you know what "the man said", the love that the mother nurtures the child with is like the love the people use to fight against corruption and poverty." The boy the smiled, in silent and understanding. At that moment a group of children appeared, dressed in different attires and having

different hairstyles. The man's gaze followed them into the horizon and then he said to the boy "come closer, I need to tell you about the children who just passed." He began by relating in almost silent tones the story of those children. He related about how they came from different parts of the land but still played together, set traps for wild animals together and even ate from the same bowl.

He then further relayed that the one with a large white wrapper hung across his neck came from a place filled with rich mineral resources that helped the entire land. The man continued saying that the cultural diversity of that place filed with the likes of Masqueraders, lesser gods like Amadioha and festivals like New Yam Festival

fuelled the child's love for his land. The man then said to the boy, "that the second child dressed in a large buba and sokoto meaning dress and trouser that were colourfully dyed came from a part of the country where the dense tropical hinterland climate encouraged growth of a large variety of crops and special fruits such as hazel nuts and where gods such as Ogun and Osun are treated with severity and this made the child love his land more. Finally the man told the boy about the last child that wore a beautiful large agbada that comprised many folds. The old man said the child was one that came from a cattle rearing community that was endowed with crops such as groundnuts and millet and these and more made the child love his land. The boy then spoke

saying "I wonder how they can be so different and still live together?" "The people of this land are strong people, they adapt and survive wherever they are, and they fight and settle and even marry one another no matter what. Their love for their country and land binds them together" the man explained. Then he said to the boy, "I am to take my leave now, duty calls. "But," the boy asked, "who are you and what is it you want me to do?" the man then replied saying in a laughing manner, "I am a free soul." A gush of wind swept by and when the boy turned, the man had disappeared. As the dust settled, written where the man sat were words "I love my country Nigeria," and the boy in them could see the wonderful future that awaited him.



# A PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROJECT WS7728086

NAME:

**NWACHI IKECHUKWU** 

SCHOOL:

**SAINTS ACADEMY, JOS** 

### I LOVE MY COUNTRY

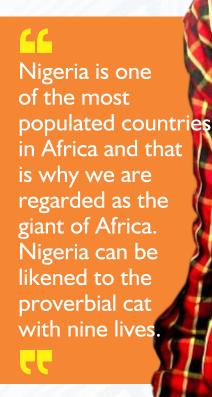
My country Nigeria got her independence from the British in the year 1960.

The name Nigeria was given by Mrs. Flora Shaw. Whenever, I look at that green, white, green flag, waving big and proud in the breeze, my heart swells near to busting and a tear forms in my eyes from thinking of all that it represents.

Freedom, glory, tradition for this land, the greatest in mother Africa. As a boy growing up in Jos, I always have a profound sense of honour and pride deep in my soul when every morning lined up in my school's assembly around, I stand to sing the national anthem and then recite those famous words. I cant help but love Nigeria for reasons too

numerous to mention. Nigeria is richly blessed with natural and human resources which is judiciously harnessed would shoot us to the top of world economy. We have crude oil, iron, coal etc. Talking about human resources, Nigerians are very creative and innovative. Nigeria is one of the most populated countries in Africa and that is why we are regarded as the giant of Africa. Nigeria can be likened to the proverbial cat with nine lives.

Through out our chequered political history from independence. We have been through thick and thin but each time have overcame. Our electoral process has tremendously improved. This can



# A PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROJECT WS7728086



CLASS:

ISS<sub>3</sub>

**WINNER:** 

**2ND POSITION** 





be seen in the last elections conducted in the country. Absence of natural disasters like earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes is yet another reason why I love my country. We are all privy to what happened in Haiti and recently Japan. The after maths are beyond the scope of this write up. Nigeria is a country who holds her social norms to a very high esteem, and that is why she kicks against some unusual oriental behaviours like gay marriage, incest, legalisation of abortion and so on. There is a high level of co operation. For instance, our President Dr. Goodluck Ebele Ionathan is a Christian while his vice Dr. Nnamdi Sambo is a Muslim. How wonderful. Nigeria

is a tourist attraction resort. Tourists from different countries ball over the world come to places like Idanre Hills in Idanre, Osun State, the Obudu cattle ranch and so many other places in Nigeria for fun, sight seeing, touristry and so on. Nigeria is a country with different cultural diversities. The culture of those in the eastern part of the country is different from that of the people in the Northern and Western part of the country making this country a very enjoyable place to be. Finally, one line of national anthem says "The labour of our heroes past shall never be in vain "so let us fight to finish to ensure that we realize the dreams of our founding factors. I love Nigeria and I'm proud to be a Nigerian.





The Client is the Author. We are the interpreter.



ZMIRAGE MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Plot 285 Ikorodu Road, Maryland, Anthony, Lagos - Nigeria. Tel: 01-9503034, 7679838 e-mail: info@zmcng.com



Your well-being, sourced!

#### Services available:

#### Geophysical investigations:

We employ non-invasive methods to determine the presence and location of underground features.

#### Drilling and installation of boreholes:

Installing the infrastructure needed to source the clean water, such as underground pipes or storage tanks.

#### Constructing small earth dams and weirs:

In addition to drilling and installing boreholes we are also able to construct small earth dams and weirs.

#### Water treatment:

Treating the water to make it safe for consumption

Nigeria (Head Office): 83 Lagos Bypass ...

Challenge, Ibadan P.O BOX 37237 Oyo State Nigeria info@folagwaterprojects.

info@folagwaterprojects.com +234-803382-0242

UK Office: International House Suite 501 223 Regent Street London, W1B 2GD info@folagwaterprojects.com +447570315422 Clean water - the source of our wellbeing. At Folag it is our mission to make water accessible for the benefit of a healthy nation.

Our core values are shared by our knowledgeable staff who employ leading-edge technology to deliver our vision: of being a recognised performance leader of the water industry.



NAME:

**FASANYA OLUWASEUN** 

SCHOOL:

**GRACELAND INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, PORTHARCOURT** 

## I LOVE MY COUNTRY

I love my country, Nigeria. I appreciate God sometimes solely for the fact that he made me Nigerian. I am indeed blessed to belong to a nation which has produced numerous heroes like Dr. Nnamdi Azikwe, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, President Goodluck Jonathan to name but a few. These sages left their marks on the sand of time by deciding to serve Nigeria and believe i can also be a legend just by apprciatinf the fact that I am Nigerian and dedicating my existence to improving Nigeria. I love Nigeria and have great hopes for hero. It is for this reason that I sometimes speak critically but always positively about her. I admit the fact that Nigeria has not especially in recent times lived up to

expectations or been able to compete against her foreign counterparts, but she has relentlessly continued fighting and challenging her obstacles. I indeed appreciate this feat of hers. I love Nigeria because she possesses some of the most beautiful and breathtaking landscapes in the world. I love Nigeria because she can boast of the most lovely cultures there are in the universe. I love Nigeria because virtually everything and anything is possible and acceptable. In Nigeria, you can be the highest earner and still pay the smallest tax, a husband can kick out his wife just because she conceived a female child, I leave the rest to your imagination. I love Nigeria because there is happiness and joy everywhere, in fact a slang

66

In Nigeria, you can be the highest earner and still pay the smallest tax, a husband can kick out his wife just because she conceived a female child, I leave the rest to your imagination







CLASS: SSS 2 WINNER:

**3RD POSITION** 

"No dulling" has been coined for this attribute. Nigerians are the only people who have nothing to eat or no jobs and will still sit in front of their televisions and cheer their national sporting teams to victory. This unique privilege of joy and belonging, I will trade for nothing else. I love Nigeria if not for anything but the fact that I attend a good school situated in Nigeria and is managed by proud Nigerians. I love Nigeria because she is a true emblem of love, strength and courage. Nigeria is the true example of the popular saying, "Black, proud" I love Nigeria because she provides lots of locations for me to relax during my holidays. A visit to the Ikogosi warm springs, Olumo rock, Zuma rock and definitely the Obudu

cattle ranch will change the perception of anyone about Nigeria forever.

I love Nigeria because she is not perfect. Nigeria has been confronted by the hydra-headed monster corrupter for so long infact a lot of people thought she would have come to an end by now. But contrary is the case, she has fought enviably although not so superbly well against this opponent and I hope she overcomes corruption soon because I definitely want to see a better Nigeria.

As long as I have a choice, I will only stay in and believe in a country which upholds hospitality, liberty, joy, peace, unity and equity of all men before law. I will forever raphsodize gallantly about Nigeria.



# SYNOPSIS: DANCE OF LIBERATION

ance of Liberation is a metaphor on our ongoing political experience whereby the people's voice are almost muffled, with its resultant negativity on governance. Oba Danlola remains truthful to the people's tradition in refusing to relinquish his authority as the king and second only to the Orisa by allowing a usurper take over the eating of the 1st yam. This is the kernel of the confrontation between the people and the usurping authority. This excerpt is taken from Wole Soyinka's KONGI HARVEST\*

#### **PROFILES OF THE ACTORS**



Tunji Oyelana is a native of Nigeria, and is of the Yoruba ethnic group. He is a folk singer, social crusader, renowned actor and was once a lecturer at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Most of Tunji Oyelana's songs are in Yoruba. In the early 1980s, he teamed up with Nigeria's Nobel Literature prize winner, Professor Wole Soyinka, to record a musical album that satirized the corruption of the Nigerian political elite. Tunji Oyelana currently lives in the United Kingdom.



Jimi Solanke is a well-known storyteller, actor and performer. He used to perform with Soyinka's troupe and has appeared in many films. He is still full of beans, taking his own theatre company into rural areas to perform ethics-based plays. He also taught at Ife (OAU), focusing on oral history.

He re-told the Yoruba origin story – the mischievous Esu getting creator-spirit Obatala (a.k.a Orishala) drunk, leaving Oduduwa to climb down and form the earth. Till today, devotees of Obatala cannot drink palm wine.



Peter Badejo is one of Nigeria's foremost choreographers, dancers and African performance specialists. In the UK since 1990, he has had a dramatic impact on British arts in general. He is the Artistic Director of Badejo Arts, a company he founded in 1990. In addition to his own productions of allegorical contemporary African dance, including Sisi Agbe Aye (Opening the Gourd of life), The Living Circle, Ebo lye (Transitions), Emi Ijo (The Heart of Dance) and Elemental Passions. Peter has appeared in major dramas such as Cambridge University's Eshu's Faust, and Phylida Lloyd's productions of Medea and Death and

the King's Horseman.

Dance companies throughout Africa, Europe and America have commissioned Peter Badejo's work. In the UK, Peter has choreographed for Adzido Pan-African Dance, Ensemble, Kokuma Dance company (History of the Drum and Awakening), IRIE Dance Theatre (Agbara), Sakoba Productions, H Patten, The Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester, Cambridge Arts Theatre and Pan Project.

Choreographer, performer, teacher and academic, his commitment to Africa performance arts has also involved research conducted through the Universities of London, UCLA, where he completed his MA degree and Ahmadu Bello University. Currently, Peter is a Research Fellow at the University of Surrey (Dance Department) and was (January-June 2007) a visiting lecturer at the University of Richmond in the USA. In March, 2008 Peter was Choreographer/performer in SAMARKAND production at the Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, USA.

Peter has received numerous awards, amongst which is the Fellow of the Nigerian Arts Guild. In 2001, in recognition of peter Badejo's contribution to Arts in Britain, he was awarded an OBE by the Queen.



**Teni Aofiyebi**, Now this is a woman of many parts. A broadcaster, actress, teacher, facilitator and business woman. Teni cut her acting teeth at her primary school - Corona school, Yaba, Lagos in 1963. She attended schools in Lagos Nigeria, London UK and Paris-France. After obtaining her 'A' levels and graduating with a University Diploma in English/drama in 1974, she returned to Nigeria to take up appointment with the Lagos state Audio visual and Broadcasting section teaching English on NTA Educational television. Her television

exposure and experience started from there.

She has performed in lead roles on stage in the UK at the little Theatre at Leicester square in 1974 and in "The Sisters" at Hackney Empire in London 2006 and also played the part of Wuraola in "Kongi's Harvest" at Gov. Amosun's inaugural in Abeokuta in May 2011. She has also performed in plays at the National Theatre and the Muson Centre both in Lagos. Teni took lead roles also in several of the "For better for worse" plays on NTA. She as anchored and co-anchored Talk shows on NTA, AIT and MINAJ televisions. Teni Aofeyibi was indeed likened to Ophrah Winfrey by a columnist in the Punch newspaper. A very versatile personality that holds her own admirably as a compare at different social and corporate events, Teni is a facilitator for English Elocution, public speaking and Deportment / Etiquette programs.

She loves to dance, travel, entertain guests and read. Teni is married and has three sons.



Kunle Bamtefa, A University of Ibadan trained 1979 Theatre Arts Graduate. He majored in Acting, Dance and Directing. Worked with Radio Nigeria (NBC), Nigeria Television Authority where he created produced and directed television programmes until he left to form his own Kunle Bamtefa and Associates in 1986. He is still actively involved in the Arts, Taking Acting roles on stage, television and films. He has represented Nigeria in countries like the USA, Japan, Germany, Netherlands and many other African countries over the years.

He is an associate member of the National Theatre Company of Nigeria (The National Troupe)











Crown Troupe in performance











Dancing and singing by invited students















Officials and students watching and performing















# LAGOS STATE \\\\\\\\\\ FREEDOM PARK



The actress gave out gifts to the winners

# BRIDGING THE GAP

#### SKY CHANNEL 184

Your major, original, passionate and First Ethnic Satellite Channel in Europe Broadcasting across Western Europe and Africa.

- Product Launching Africa/Europe/Global
- . Market Planning and Management
- UK/Europe Events Planner & Consulting
   Film and Music Video Production
- Keynote Speaker by leading European Speakers
- Training and Seminar Facilitators
- Course and Short Certificated Organisers
- . Web & Graphic design

EUROPE! +44 208 808 8800 +44 7050 202460 AFRICA: +234 803 700 6745 +234 802 300 8895

EMAILS: admin@bentelevision.com jadergroup@yahoo.co.uk

WEBSITES:
www.hentelevistim.com
www.nigerlandecide.com
www.nigerlandecide.com







The students and officials at Freedom Park







## LAGOS STATE \\\\\\\ RED CARPET>> MUSON CENTRE> > ADVOCACY TALK



## ADVOCACY TALK>>MUSON CENTRE>>RED CARPET\\\\\\\ LAGOS STATE





Guests enjoying the show at Muson



## LAGOS STATE \\\\\\\ RED CARPET>> MUSON CENTRE> > ADVOCACY TALK











## PUBLICITY>>MUSON CENTRE>>RED CARPET\\\\\\\\ LAGOS STATE



Nobel Laurence Prof. Wole, Swing's 77th, hirthday, won marked with cultural events it has vecucis in Lagas. Last received. Expectally, the take secol or good gravities is, reports OZOLUA URAKHEM, assistant lidear (Acts)



### MIDWEEK REVUE 19

Kongi, Ajantala

Pinocchio chase stage

for cultural exchange

\*Lat you in Principle

### courts jazz

observation. Microbiological for . Lorente has performed at more concepts on most relate in Nigera a year. Nigera, relating the 2000 felationes. metans for the hear of manic Edu-If his above been hip has affect teleso you. This is the best most. form and that is only fact taking sweenly row, Alexand, people how stored siretting with as and we are two opposite that the end and will be post."

At an Africant artist who have spent a govoler poet of their career periorates and burne No would for the paid 10 years, ies says the her mountably businesses the highest water by blick organ Well, I won't say that there are no challenger you ned more use, dialst a great TASK framereds electroposes. I rolle is frototop between melodic has constructed him grown by make his boar identified by for speedly mobile term and Account when home got the basis VETERACL salters such as Number Bounds, for good match. Those white and Tolero Children one block firm side and I play name one on stage to the Z Mange's Cotton.

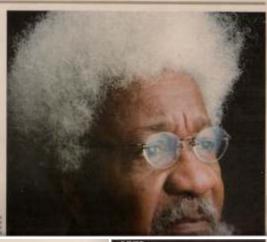
those white just settine plays. Eachings progressive that old also much the Net terfelop of the Nobel Inspense, Pro-West Suprise No. Taxon Ottleye and 30

None House, on Directed by Ay Horsest, as overgo

# Discourse

25 Years After Nobel... Why Soyinka Is Alone In The Honour List

in Occuber 1986, Well Soyliska charried the world by worning the prestigious Nobel Prim in Literahave. He was the first black African over to do no. trokeel. African introduce will never be the same opinin, optimizes said. But 25 long years after that feet, there is no sign that another Nigertan is any closer to clinching what is, unarguality, this most prestigates literary patro in the world



THE NATION WITH PLAY ALL D. SHI

The Midweek Magazine



Soyinka's shows stir UK audience

ARTS Kongi @ 77 Tasting Soyinka's Pidgin Stew on MUSON stage

...as friends unveil his love for Nigeria





### From Z-mirage, another seasonal play beckons







## LAGOS STATE \\\\\\\ RED CARPET>>MUSON CENTRE>>PUBLICITY

THE GEOMETRIAL Sending bely assume

### For Soyinka At 77... Dance Of Liberation Berths In Lagos

The Midweek Magazine

### Soyinka to host 77 students



### Kainebi's Body Parts holds at Nike Art Gallery

### Group set to revive Igbo movie-making

THE NATION WEINSHAY, JUNES, 2011



KONGI'S 77TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION







### The Midweek Magazine





### **SPONSORS**

### **PARTNERS**























































Rumer



### The Tabernacle W11

Powis Square, Notting Hill tabernaclew11.com

### The Yaa Centre W9

1 Chippenham Mews, Maida Vale carnivalvillage.org.uk















## LAGOS STATE \\\\\\\ RED CARPET>>MUSON CENTRE>>PUBLICITY



30 SUNDAY INDEPENDENT Jul 10, 2011

Innœuous Scribbles INNOCET ANDROO DECONTROLE

### Babawale seeks promotion of Nigerian languages

THE ARTS

### Lilian Amal-Aluko's Open Doors in London

LAST VEAE, the brought America in the MUSON Centre in Lugar. Nighth, freeigh distinct role that was out of the date of the date of the date of the date of the property one freeighted from world than it was Kingly to the fact, but had been a Landon. I are latting about no chart they distinct the dependence and attende the dynamic produces or of attended to the distinct of the date of the

and computational for least of the regional in sortice of the Niger regional in sortice of the Niger regional field produced as in a C. V. Samuer, O. V. House, S. V. Samuer, O. V. House, S. V. Samuer, O. V. Samuer, S. V. Samuer, O. V. Samuer, S. V. Samue





terrotters, which is currently a global smoblem, can only and when and dive all adopt the line and let live approach, I are doubly determined to



## PUBLICITY>>MUSON CENTRE>>RED CARPET\\\\\\\ LAGOS STATE



THE NATION BUIDAY, BULY 13, 2001

### Don't emulate me, Soyinka tells younger generation

refinery with

Amosun extols virtue at 77



By Jude Impace and Swidey Departures

Why NYSC allowances





Why youths shouldn't emulate me, by Soyinka
Amosun greets Nobel laureate

READING NATION

### Young Achievers









## LAGOS STATE \\\\\\\ RED CARPET>> MUSON CENTRE>> PLAY & DRAMA



## PLAY & DRAMA>>MUSON CENTRE>>RED CARPET\\\\\\\ LAGOS STATE







## LAGOS STATE \\\\\\\ RED CARPET>> MUSON CENTRE>> PLAY & DRAMA











Dr. Awosanmi's group performing "Etiko Revolution"

## PLAY & DRAMA>>MUSON CENTRE>>RED CARPET\\\\\\\\ LAGOS STATE







## LAGOS STATE \\\\\\\ RED CARPET>> MUSON CENTRE>> PLAY & DRAMA











Dr. Awosanmi's group performing "Etiko Revolution"



















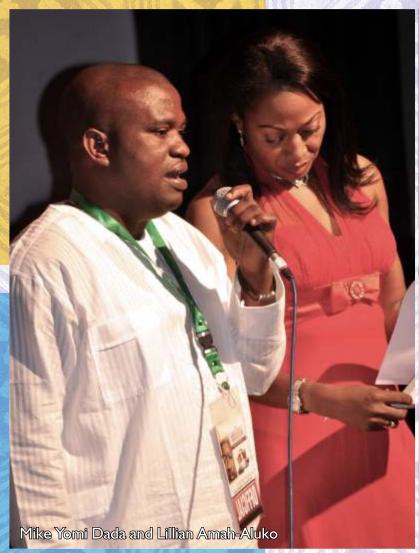


































Peter Badejo, Wale Ojo, Kunle Bamtefa, Moji Bamtefa & Others





## LONDON |||||||| DANCE OF LIBERATION









Wale Ojo, Peter Badejo and Kunle Bamtefa in "Dance of Liberation"





Peter Badejo, Wale Ojo, Kunle Bamtefa, Moji Bamtefa & Others













# A Product of **Zmirage Multimedia Limited**

in collaboration with **ZMC & New Dawn Productions** 

Teju 0802 306 0555 Lilian 0803 343 0555 Micky 0813 294 0888

# PROJECT WS7728086

### -THE INSIDE STORY

### LONDON

The starting point of this year's event was The Tabernacle in Notting Hill. The opening night on July 1st a glittering red carpet event was very well attended. Guests ranged from members of the diplomatic corps to white collar professionals, artistes, scholars and Nigerians in Diaspora. Our partners were out in full force with Arik Air. Ben TV. OHTV. Klub International and staff of The Tabernacle led by their CEO Shabaka Thompson. Cocktails and canapés set out by our pretty ushers were eagerly consumed by guests as they chatted and answered questions thrown by our camera crew

made up of Ishmahil and Richard. At 7.30pm prompt as advertised, guests trooped eagerly into the hall.

Michael Dada executive director of ZMC welcomed the guests and the fun filled night was opened with the National anthem. The opening remarks were given by the producer Lillian Amah-Aluko after which Music veteran Tunji Oyelana took the crowd by storm with renditions of several favorites such as "I love my country" which had the capacity crowd on their feet. After several encores, the grand old man of music left to rousing applause from appreciative guests. The Peter Badejo-Choreographed-Dance

drama was on next; energetic dancers took the stage amid body-twisting drum-beats. The courting dance had the crowd roaring with laughter whenever another male dancer hit the floor in the face of energetic wriggling by the females. After the dance, the advocacy speaker for the evening,

Mr. Akin Olukiran, CEO of Disability in London and the two panelists Mr. John Martin, Founder/Artist Director Pan Project UK and Mr. Shabaka Thompson, CEO Carnival Village took to the stage.

They all gave good accounts of themselves and did justice to the lecture: Culture and Humanity. The panel discussion was moderated by Professor Segun Ojewuyi of Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. Series of humorous yet cerebral questions from audience kept the vivacious discussion stretching a few minutes beyond the originally allocated 30 minutes for the segment. Finally after Prof. Ojewuyi stemmed the flow of guestions, the anchors took to the stage again and invited Mr. Akin Oyateru and Mr. Simon Ogah from the High Commission to present the gifts and flight tickets donated by Arik Air International to the essay finalists. That done next began the Segun- Ojewuyi directed Dance of Liberation, an

he Second edition of the Open Door Series came to an end on Sunday 17th July 2011 with the presentation of Wole Soyinka's "The strong breed" as directed and produced by Wole Oguntokun. On the whole, Project WS 7728086

was a huge success. As with any event of such proportion, there were a few hitches here and there but none of these took the shine off the occasion. Judging from telephone calls and sms received from participants, teachers and parents, the project was a worthwhile venture as all unanimously agreed that they gained a whole lot from the experience.

excerpt from Wole Soyinka's Kongi's Harvest. The audience was breathless as Wale Ojo in the role of superintendent marched on stage. Sir Peter Badejo played Sarumi, Kunle Bamtefa was Oba Danlola, Moji Bamtefa; Golda John, Abiola Dosumu and Yomi Oyekanmi all gave good accounts of themselves. As the actors took the curtain call, cheers and applause filled the theater.

### LAGOS

The Lagos event took off on the 13th of July with the finals of the "I love my country" essay competition. 74 Nigerian born students from all the states in Nigeria and 3 from the Diaspora in their well ironed school uniforms sat around the foyer of the Agip hall in Muson center. After a lengthy chat between the adjudicators, executive producer and the teachers/parents present, they got down to the business of the day. By 12.30pm, the essay writing was over and the kids were served lunch. Thereafter, they were driven off to join their parents who had earlier been

taken to Freedom Park (the next venue) so as not to distract the kids.

The judges retired to their temporary office to start marking while the students joined 500 other students drawn from neighboring Lagos schools to do their own thing. This consisted of poetry recitation, dancing competitions, fashion parade and reading contests all co-ordinated by Pamela Udoka who was the event's compeer. The competitors roundly and vocally supported by their school mates competed ferociously for the available prizes. The judges made up of Nollywood celebrities Ngozi crown troupe and the dance Nwosu and Florence Onuma were joined by Yemi Olamide and Bola Adebisi of Zmirage. The students thoroughly enjoyed themselves participating in the various events and eating the lunch that was served to them. After the prizes were given out, the 77 essay finalists changed to their traditional costumes ready to walk the red carpet. They were eventually driven back to Muson with their parents/teachers for the

advocacy night. On arrival, they were met by a huge crowd who filed out of the foyer where they were having cocktails. To cries of Urhobo wa doh, Igbo kwenu, and other such native rallying calls, the children strode into the Agip hall singing Wole Soyinka's "I love my country" again under the direction of Pamela Udoka. In the hall, the capacity crowd was welcomed by Patrick Doyle. The opening remarks were made by Lillian Amah-Aluko and then the show started. Ricee directed by Tunde Awosanmi, Dance of Liberation directed by Ayo Oluwasanmi were on the bill as well as the group choreographed by Sir Peter Badejo who performed a dance "my culture, my pride". Advocacy lectures were by Odia Ofeimun and Dr. Charles Aluede and moderated by Prof. Segun Ojewuyi. A brief question and answer segment followed this and then music by Uncle Tunji Oyelana. The evening ended with a cake cutting session on behalf of the absent Prof. Soyinka. Dr. Mrs. Doyin Abiola, Princess Teni

Aofiyebi, Makin Soyinka, Prof. Sophie Oluwole, Alhaja Adeola Kareem, the 77 students and other dignitaries joined Teju Wasee Kareem on stage to cut the cake.

### **OGUN**

Bright and early on the 14th of July 2011, the 77 students, their parents and teachers as well as the project officials and security men were all ready for the trip to Abeokuta.

The rain poured down relentlessly and we all wondered what the roads would be like. Finally, the rain ebbed to a drizzle and the buses arrived. We had ordered four 30 seater coaster buses and as people piled it, it became obvious we would need more. space than these afforded. Quickly, Alhaji Kareem made arrangements for one saloon car and a 14 seater bus. Comfortably seated at last, the buses made their way to the tollgate enroute Abeokuta. We were all conscious of the fact that the executive governor of Ogun State was expecting us in his office at 9am.

After a relatively uneventful journey, we arrived at the governor's office. Officials and chaperones quickly changed into the project T-shirts and we were directed into the conference room where Ogun State government officials waited to receive us. The Governor joined us and without much ado, the event started. As the students waited with bated breath, Mr. Ropo Ewenla the head of the jury made a brief speech about how they arrived at the winning essays. Finally for the very first time, officials, students and parents learnt that the keenly contested 2011 "I Love my Country" essay competition had been won convincingly by Aaliyah Ibrahim. She and the other 5 runners up were called out and the governor himself presented the trophy to the elated winner. More speeches were made and photographs were taken both inside and outside the executive chambers where all the students got the opportunity to have a group photograph with his Excellency.

Buses loaded again, His Excellency got into one of the buses for better interaction with the students and the convoy moved off to the Nobel Laureate's house. Perched at the wooded end of a picturesque estate, the quaint redbrick house was serene and welcoming. As the students walked up the path, Kongi stood beside the governor and shook hands with each and every one of them.

Inside, the students were treated to lunch and then had as many of their questions answered as could possibly be crammed into 3hours. Outside, the rains were still threatening but that did not prevent the eager students from making the most of the once in a life time opportunity. The Cultural center was next on the bill. Joined by over 600 other students from Ogun state, our lucky 77 were hosted by the first lady of Ogun State who gave the cultural etiquette lecture. Joined again by the Nobel Laureate and his wife, the first lady Mrs. Olufunsho Amosun had a great time with the kids. Lecture done and all

questions answered, the kids were treated to the drama "Ajantala Pinocchio" by Prof. Bode Sowande. The last event for the day was a visit to Olumo Rock. The students though unable to climb the rock because it was closed for the day, nonetheless took photos at the base. Back at the hotel, the kids checked into their rooms, had dinner and finally ended the night with a disco session in Continental Suites rooftop nightclub.

15th of July 2011 and the cultural exchange program was slowly coming to an end. As early as 6.30am, buses started departing the Continental Suites Abeokuta where students and officials were lodged to catch early flights out of Lagos. Tearful embraces and long drawn farewells were exchanged as the drivers and chaperones hustled our kids into the buses to ensure that pre-booked flights were not missed. Departures continued till the 16th and our Diaspora group finally left Nigeria on the 17th of July 2011. With their departure, Project WS7728086 officially came to an

end. It has been an entertaining, educating, morally and spiritually uplifting experience. As we thank Almighty God for his mercies, our partners and sponsors for their generosity, our kids, their parents and teachers for trusting us, we look forward to WS2012 with open hands and eager hearts.

Lillian Amah-Aluko PRODUCER











For whole heartedly supporting our project and contributing very generously to its ultimate success, we the organizers of the Open Door Series Project WS7728086 say a heartfelt thank you to their Excellencies
Senator Ibikunle Amosun of Ogun State & Dr. Olusegun Mimiko of Ondo State.

A dupe lopolopo lowo awon Gomino



...unlock your imagination.

