



NiDCOM
NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION

DIASPORA

NEWSLETTER

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NIGERIA/ITALY RELATIONS, A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

By Gabriel Odu



Relations between Nigeria and Italy is not only very warm but also cordial and robust spanning over three decades. When two brotherly countries have such valued ties, there is definitely going to be trade relations between them. What then is the trade balance between Nigeria and Italy? It is believed that the trade balance is in favour of Italy. Nigeria's export commodity to Italy is only crude oil. Meanwhile, Italy's main exports include: heavy machinery, clothing, foot wears, among others. We hope with the renewed bilateral ties between Nigeria and Italy, trade balance will be truly balanced.

It is a fact that Italy is the gateway to Europe from Africa providing leeway for migrants especially from Africa crossing the Mediterranean and arriving first in Italy due to its proximity to Libya. It is estimated that there are about Two Hundred Thousand Nigerians living legally in Italy. There are also about Fifty Thousand Nigerians living in that Country without requisite permits.

Why is Italy such an attractive bride to Africans and indeed Nigerians? The main attraction is believed to be the favourable Immigration Policy making the integration process for migrants very seamless with little or no incombrances. It is also believed that Italy throws out mouth watering offers and opportunities for Nigerinas to acquire skills in various fields of endeavours, including high quality education and dual citizenship.

It is also a fact that Nigerians living and working in Italy send home Remittances channelled into Investments and other socio-economic safety nets. Although, many Nigerians will confess that working and living abroad has its own challenges. Many risk their lives, lose money and property in search of greener pastures.

According to statistics, 50% of Nigerians in the Diaspora suffer endlessly, and in most cases, their ordeals mostly emanate from stereotyping, harassments, false accusations, racism and many more. It is distressing that many Nigerians are imprisoned for offences they may not have committed or in most cases, not judged fairly or appropriately.

This is the plight of the about 300 Nigerians said to be Languishing in dehumanizing conditions in various Italian Prisons though some Italian Nigerians disagree with the number. In a press briefing by a Former Edo State Commissioner for Arts, Culture and Diaspora Affairs, Hon. Osaze Osemwegie-Ero, lamented that over 300 Nigerians are wasting away in Italian prisons for alleged crimes with no evidence of proof of guilt. The Former Edo State Commissioner disclosed this during a courtesy visit to Hon Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, (NiDCOM), in her office in Abuja. Osaze who spent 18 months in an Italian prison for an offence he claimed not to have committed, went further to say that his case was as a result of racial discrimination and manipulation of the Italian judicial system. "I was alleged a Mafia kingpin and on that course was detained, upon demand for an evidence, a manual called the 'Green Bible' was presented which was obviously forged", he said.

He also added that some Nigerians have been sentenced to 140 years imprisonment for the same Nigerian mafia accusation citing article 416b of Italian Mafia law. The Former Commissioner, said he has structured out plans to lead a peaceful protest for the release of other innocent Nigerians illegally detained in Italian prisons, seeking the Federal Government intervention. Hon Abike Dabiri-Erewa empathized with Mr Osemwegie-Ero



on his ordeal and assured that justice will be served for others who have been wrongly accused. The NiDCOM BOSS further gave assurances that no Nigerian will be punished for an unjust cause. The Chairman also stated that the Commission will take the case up to the office of the Attorney General,

as the numbers are alarming, adding that the Attorney General had handled several cases of such with Nigerians in the Diaspora. She urged Nigerians in the Diaspora to always obey the laws of their host countries, be good Ambassadors of Nigeria and should never forget home.

CULTURAL FUSION PROJECT WITH DELAWARE UNIVERSITY, GOOD FOR DIASPORA- DABIRI-EREWA

■ By Juliannah Erin

Music is universally adored by all kinds of people throughout the world. Every culture has rich musical traditions that continue to expand and adapt in order to reflect the times and history of said culture. Music brings people together. The jazz era gave rise to professional collaborations between black and white musicians in the United States. Fusion music blends the practices of different cultures allowing people around the globe to realize the power of collaboration, rather than division. It synthesizes the best aspects of different cultures into an art form that helps create an organic process of learning, sharing and creation.

Professor James Allen Anderson is the Director of Orchestral Activities and Music Director of the University of Delaware's Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra and Opera Theatre. Also an award-winning maestro who is always keen in advocating a diverse range of musics to be included into the formal space of the school curriculum of Delaware University, USA. Anderson is the brain behind outstanding programs such as the Delaware International Music Exchange (D.I.M.E.) project, the Creative Fusion Initiative (C.F.I.) project.

Anderson who took interest in the African culture was advised in 2016 to explore Nigeria by Mr Wale Adedun, Commissioner African and Caribbean Affairs Commission to build partnership with relevant organization. Although plans were underway to kick off the event in 2020 but was halted by COVID-19 pandemic. "The delay has made for proper expansion of the event, thereby including prominent musicians and artist such as Femi Kuti, Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson and much more", he said.

Anderson visited the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission in Abuja with delegates from ALAROYE Group to share his ideas with Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM), Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, expressing plans of including her as a guest speaker in the two years Cultural Fusion Initiative Project alongside other iconic speakers such as Aliko Dangote on topics transcending cultural arts and politics.

Anderson explained that the program will be divided into 5 phases, merging and pairing students from Nigeria with students from the University of Delaware, USA. Thereby creating eclectic sounds with a proposed concert tour in view displaying such performances.

"Musicians like to work with other musicians of different genres to dialogue, jam, and come up with eclectic performances that blend and interweave their mutual musical specializations and interests. There were composers that dabbled in a range of world music genres, jazz and/or Western classical music genres, putting various musical elements and concepts into their compositions. (Chee Hoo Lum)"

The NiDCOM Boss Hon Abike expressed optimism that if the event is properly synthesized, it will be a monumental program of engagement with Nigerians in the Diaspora and those at home with special focus on 2nd and 3rd Generations of Diaspora.

TANZANIA COMMENDS NIGERIA FOR STRONG DIASPORA TIES

By Doosughun Abughidyer



It is heart-warming to know that another country admires the way the Nigerian government treats and responds to her Diaspora.

The Tanzanian High Commissioner to Nigeria, Ambassador Benson Alfred Bana has commended Nigeria's frontline strides in her engagement with her Diaspora for nation-building. The Ambassador had a positive meeting with Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, (NiDCOM) in Abuja.

The envoy said that nothing will dampen the good relationship both countries have enjoyed since 1972 but rather it will grow in leaps and bounds.

Dr. Bana was impressed with the role the NiDCOM Boss has played all through the years, right from the days as a member of the House of Representatives championing Diaspora matters. Bana added that, "Nigeria is really blessed and that is why I have come to tap from the wealth of knowledge and experiences of the NiDCOM team and understand how the Federal Government is able to engage her Diaspora to contribute meaningfully to their country, stressing that all Nigerians are excelling in their endeavours, worldwide.

He commended President Muhammadu Buhari for showing interest in Nigerians in the Diaspora. Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa delighted to receive the envoy to her office, remarked that the Nigerian President is the number one Diaspora champion.

In addition, Dabiri-Erewa stressed that any country the President visits, he meets with the Nigerians living there and encourages them to be the best in whatever they do, be good Ambassadors and never to forget home.

The NiDCOM Boss commended President Muhammadu Buhari for ratifying and adopting the National Diaspora policy.

She therefore urged the Tanzanian government to create an agency that deals strictly with their Diaspora, stating that "it is not about the numbers but what they are able to do." The NiDCOM Chairman said despite a few unscrupulous activities of some Nigerians which dent the image of the country abroad, the Commission will always celebrate Nigerians doing well in various countries. She also highlighted that NiDCOM is creating ways of engaging the younger generation of Nigerian Diaspora to get involved in the country.

DABIRI-EREWA COMMENDS ANGLO-NIGERIAN RUGBY STAR, ITOJE.

By Violet Nwosu



Rugby is one of the sports that is not common in Nigeria. In Africa, it is played more at professional level in countries like South Africa but not so popular in Nigeria.

That notwithstanding, some Nigerians in the Diaspora are excelling on Rugby. A case in point is a British- Nigerian Maro Itoje, already making waves in the game across the globe. In her desire to engage more robustly with Nigerians in the Diaspora, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) recently hosted the young Nigerian rugby star, Maro Itoje and his parents in the NIDCOM Zonal Office in Lagos. She commended him for being a good ambassador of Nigeria. The NIDCOM boss was particularly thrilled by the art exhibition which Maro Itoje staged in London. "With the History Untold exhibition, he tried to tell Nigerians and Africans generally about their history and for the younger ones to know their roots," she said.

She added that NIDCOM would team up with Itoje in his future programmes. "For us at the Commission, we would like to work with you, in every sense of the word. We have programmes like the Door of Return, which takes place in Badagry every year, the Diaspora Day, which is on July 25, among other numerous programmes.

"Feeling elated by the accolades from Hon. Dabiri-Erewa, the England international rugby star, Maro Itoje pledged to commit his time, resources and expertise to better the lives of the under privileged in Africa and Nigeria, in particular.

He said he had never lost touch with Nigeria as he has been to the country on numerous occasions. "My last visit to Nigeria was in 2018 and I am championing the African cause in England with my art. I organised an art exhibition tagged 'History Untold' recently and it was a huge success." he said. Explaining further, Itoje said History Untold was a deliberate attempt at telling the story of Africa from the African perspective.

"All we have been told by Europeans about Africa has been negative. They tell you about slave trade, coups, diseases and so forth. So, the whole essence of History Untold is to celebrate the power of Black history, African history that has not been told to us.

It is an attempt to tell that untold story, to tell the other side of the coin." Itoje pledged to commit his resources to the development of the country and was prepared to team up with the commission to add to the progress that had already been made. On making rugby popular in Nigeria, the England and Irish Lions player, who was accompanied to the occasion by his parents said the sport in Nigeria was still very small but there was a lot of potential. "Judging by the amount of Nigerians in the diaspora who play rugby, it goes to show how we are naturally built for the game.

We have the natural talent and ability for the game, so back home there is a lot of potential and possibilities abound. "So I will be happy to lend a helping hand to see the game grow in Nigeria." he said.

FHA, FCT, NIDCOM TO DELIVER DIASPORA MEGA CITY

By Rosemary Moribirin

Engaging her Diasporans is one of the most important consideration of the President Buhari-led Administration, this was exemplified in the recent commitment of the Federal Housing Authority (FHA) and the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) to deliver a Mega City in the hub of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT)

This was made known when the Managing Director, Federal Housing Authority (FHA), Senator Gbenga Ashafa, visited Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO, NiDCOM recently in Abuja.

He said the Diaspora Mega City when completed will create about three million jobs for Nigerians. Ashafa explained that the Diaspora Mega City Project is expected to have a multiplier effects with over 17,000 housing units of different models that will create limitless the value chain and opportunities.

He commended President Muhammadu Buhari for his thoughtfulness and wisdom in creating a conducive environment for Nigerians in the Diaspora to have a roof over their heads, accentuated by the push and drive of the NiDCOM boss.

Responding, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/ CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission said, " today is a historic day as we begin the process of having a Diaspora City within the Federal Capital Territory that Nigerians in the Diaspora wherever they are can be proud to own a home in their own country" adding that the mega city project will make the Diaspora to invest wisely, get results and prevent them from the excessive loss and agony they usually experience through third party transactions.

The NiDCOM Boss was optimistic that the younger Diaspora generations will be happy to key into the project. The high point of the visit was the inauguration of a tripartite committee. The committee is expected to submit their report within four weeks.

The Diaspora City Project, a tripartite agency collaboration comprising the Federal Housing Authority (FHA), The Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).The Project is situated in Maitama 2, with over 675 hectares of land in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

DID YOU KNOW?

■ By: Maryam Kehinde Abdulazeez.

1. That Abeokuta is the only City in Africa with its name in more than two countries?

Some of them are:

- a) Abeokuta in Ogun State, Nigeria which is the main City.
- b) Abeokuta in Central River region of Gambia.
- c) Abeokuta, a tourist town in Jamaica with beautiful waterfalls and spring water.
- d) Abeokuta (correct spelling there) in Benin Republic. All these places are founded by Nigerians.

2. According to World Health Organization (WHO) that Nigeria is the 4th best in COVID-19 response.

3. Mrs. Abiola Akinbiyi is the first Nigerian Community Representative Commissioner of the Victorian Multicultural Commission in Australia.

4. The cat's sense of smell is its primary source for identifying the individuals and objects in its environment. They have 200 million odor-sensitive cells in their noses compared to only 5 million for humans. Cats live in a sensory world completely apart from ours. A cat's sense of smell plays a very significant role in their relationships with humans and their responses to the environment, which sometimes may result in some puzzling and disturbing behaviours.

Source:- Facebook, funtrivia.com, Google, @Egba Omo Lisabi

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“This country belongs to all of us and we must work together to ensure its growth and peace as we all have a role to play.”

- **Amb. Zubairu Dada**

NO OFFICIAL BAN ON VISAS , WORK PERMIT TO NIGERIANS IN UAE

■ By Olufunke Oloye



For decades, Nigeria and the United Arab Emirate (UAE) have continued to explore strong bilateral relations especially in the areas of trade and investment.

It is against this back drop that the Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa paid a courtesy visit on the UAE Ambassador to Nigeria, Dr Fahad Obaid Al Taffaq on the alleged ban on visas and work permit to Nigerians living in UAE following several calls and inquiries by Nigerians within and outside the UAE on the alleged official stoppage of issuance of visas and work permit to Nigerians in the UAE.

The Ambassador while receiving the Chairman/CEO at the UAE embassy in Abuja said there is no official communication placed on issuance of visas and work permit to Nigerians living in the UAE. He said UAE has no restrictions against any nationality, adding that visas and work permits are handled one-on-one basis. He said there may be possibility of isolated cases of individuals whose visas or work permits were not renewed for one reason or the other.

The Envoy stressed that he is aware that over 50 visas were recently issued to Nigerians with thousands of Nigerians working and living legally in the UAE.

Responding, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa said the clarification is really reassuring, urging Nigerians in the UAE to always obey the laws of their host country, be good ambassadors and excel in whatever they do. She added that any Nigerian with consular issues should approach the Nigerian mission in the UAE for advice and clarification as each case would be treated based on its merit.

Diaspora: NiDCOM, IOM holds workshop on Investment, Policy Engagement, Advocacy

By Deborah Anaelechi



In a bid to have an amplified, robust, but effective engagement with the Diaspora, the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) in conjunction with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) organised a two-day capacity-training workshop.

The IOM National Programmes Officer, Ukamaka Osigwe, representing the Chief of Mission, IOM Nigeria, Mr. Franz Celestin, said that the training on: "Introduction to Diaspora Investment, Policy Engagement and Advocacy", is directed to equip staff to better understand the Diaspora, learn the strategies and skills to relate with major stakeholders, as well as, to understand the structural Diaspora communities abroad.

Osigwe raised that with the high recognition given to Diaspora remittances in Nigeria, and the National Diaspora Policy, the training will aid and stimulate staff for better engagement for harnessing investments in the areas of Portfolio, Direct Investment and Philanthropy.

Also in her address, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, the Chairman/CEO NiDCOM, appreciated the continuous support and cooperation of the IOM to the Commission in providing holistic

intellectual materials on Diaspora and Migration-related matters, via capacity trainings. Dabiri-Erewa added that the purpose of the workshop is to introduce the staff to the Migration of African Talents through Capacity and Hiring (MATCH) project of the IOM.

The Chairman said that the project will help Individuals migrate legitimately to areas where their talents are needed, utilised and find means of knowledge-sharing back home. She is optimistic that the project will curb irregular migration and harassment of some Nigerians abroad. In addition, the NiDCOM boss pointed that the capacity-training will support the staff to deal with the Diaspora community for investment and engagement. At this juncture, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, announced the in-house National Policy Implementation Team will soon take shape.

She charged the staff to make optimum use of training which will equip them to know the appropriate techniques, knowledge and other methods for an enhanced engagement.

The MATCH project is a pilot project funded by the IOM aimed at creating labour mobility. The purpose is designed to give legal pathways to citizens from Nigeria and Senegal with skills and talents, needed in four European countries-Italy, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Belgium, to work, acquire more knowledge and transfer skills in their respective countries.

NATIONAL PEACE SUMMIT, TIMELY FOR NIGERIA- NIDCOM BOSS

■ By Violet Nwosu

Chairman: Peace, as the saying goes, is priceless. No country can survive or develop when there is no peace especially in a country like Nigeria, characterised by different ethnic and Religious inclinations. Peace, therefore is a sine- qua- non for maximum growth and development.

In view of this, members of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), a professional body saddled with the responsibility to foster understanding and promote cordial relationship in the society, is organising a national summit with the theme Citizens' Summit for National Integration, Peace and Security. The NIPR members disclosed this during a courtesy visit to the Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa in Abuja.

Hon. Dabiri-Erewa, while receiving the members of NIPR to the Commission, commended them adding that Citizens' Summit for National Integration, Peace and Security is not only timely but also a well thought out programme. She urged NIPR to use the opportunity provided by the proposed Peace Summit to focus on the Diaspora components, particularly the Second and Third Generations Diaspora for nation building.

Malam Mukhtar Zubair Sirajo, President and Chairman of Governing Council, the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) says a citizens' summit for National Integration, Peace and Security would douse the mounting tension across the country supposedly caused by banditry, violence, terrorism, secessionist agenda and many others.

The NIPR President Sirajo stated that Nigerian relationships have cracked, working and living together in love, peace and harmony are becoming increasingly difficult. This no doubt is considered a huge challenge to the profession.

He added that " there is need to take innovative, creative, timely and well thought out actions that will provide credible and sustainable solutions to these challenges across the nation".

The Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) was established in 1963 and chartered in 1990 to regulate the practice and profession of Public Relations in Nigeria. The core essence of the profession is to foster understanding, promote mutual respect, build goodwill, facilitate reconciliation, create friendship and strengthen relationships amongst different stakeholders in the society.

ALL ABOUT NATIONAL DIASPORA MERIT AWARD

By Violet Nwosu

INTRODUCTION

The Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) was established for the purpose of encouraging the contribution and engagement of the Nigerians in Diaspora towards the development of Nigeria.

The Nigerians in Diaspora are doing great things wherever they are and at home (Nigeria). This must not go unnoticed so the Commission has come up with the National Diaspora Merit Award to recognise and appreciate the efforts of the Nigerians in the Diaspora in National development so as to inspire others. This is pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph 2.3.24 of the National Diaspora Policy entitled: "Recognition and National Award" as adopted and approved by the Federal Executive Council on 28th April, 2021.

These success stories of the Diaspora must be told and celebrated. The National Diaspora Merit Award Ceremony is scheduled to take place in 2022.

OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL DIASPORA MERIT AWARD

- To recognise and celebrate the Nigerians in Diaspora who have made contributions and impacted the development of Nigeria
- To project them as Diaspora Champions and Role Models for others to emulate
- To change the narratives of the image of Nigeria and Nigerians in the Diaspora
- To identify skilled Nigerians in the Diaspora who are actively engaged with different sectors of the Nigerian economy

CATEGORIES OF THE AWARDS

The categories of the National Diaspora Merit Award includes those who have excelled or contributed in the following development areas and others:

- Agriculture
- Information Communication Technology (ICT)
- Science Technology and Innovation
- Water Resources
- Finance and Economics
- Youths and Sports
- Oil & Gas/ Energy
- Education ' Medicine/ Healthcare
- Entertainment, Arts and Tourism
- Hotel and Catering Management
- Housing and Real Estate
- Transportation
- Fashion and Aesthetics
- Philanthropy
- Leadership development

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The National Diaspora Merit Award is opened to all Nigerians in the Diaspora who have traceable and trackable records proving continuous and consistent impact in development of Nigeria for at least five (5) years in service to National development. These efforts could be in form of skills, technology transfer, cash and kind donations, philanthropic work, etc all aimed at development. These contributions by Diaspora groups or individuals who must be of good character would be recognized.

MODALITIES

A committee has been set up and is calling for nominations of candidates to screen, to select and recommend to NiDCOM Management for recognition.



The following are to be considered:

- Nominees must be Nigerians living in the Diaspora
- Nominees must be of good character
- Project and Programmes must be traceable and trackable
- Contributions of nominees must be consistent for at least five years

NOMINATION PROCESS

Submission of qualified candidates should be done at nidcom.gov.ng/nomination

Call for nomination starts 25th July, 2021.

Closing date for submission of nominations is 25th October, 2021

The National Diaspora Merit Award Committee will collate the submitted nominees after closure of the portal on 25th October, 2021.

The committee would screen nominees and selection of awards within the time frame of three months (25th October, 2021 - 25th January, 2022). Thereafter, it will submit recommendations to the management of NiDCOM for final confirmation and approval in January 2022.

AWARD CEREMONY

The first National Diaspora Merit Award would be conferred to awardees in 2022. It would consist of a certificate of Merit and a plaque which should be collected in person at the award dinner.

The National Diaspora Merit Award would be an annual event.

MEDIA TEAM

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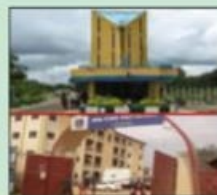
Abia State also known as God's Own State is in South-Eastern Nigeria with Umuahia as the capital. Created in 1991 from part of Imo State, it occupies about 6,320 km square. It has crude oil as one of its natural resources. The industrial centre of the state is Aba. It has textile, manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, soap, plastics, cement, footwear and cosmetics. In terms of education, Abia State has Michael Okpara University of Agriculture at Umudike, Abia State University in Uturu, Abia State Polytechnic, Aba and Gregory University. Abia has 17 Local Government Areas mainly peopled by the Igbo ethnic group.

Tourist and Investment Attraction:

Azumini Blue River, Azumini, National War Museum Umuahia, National Museum of Colonial History, Aba, Mbonu Emerem Museum of Arts, Aba, the Long Juju Shrine of Arochukwu, Arochukwu, Arochukwu Cave, Arochukwu.



Crude Oil



Education



Tourism



Textile Industry



Agriculture

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MEET A DIASPORAN

By: Bridget Temtsen



Edo State indigene, Destiny Austine Omon is a Nigerian film producer and the producer of the award winning movie titled; OGBOZO, which broke Ghana Movie Awards records in 2020 with 19 Nominations. He has received awards for his consistent commitment in projecting Nigeria positively through Movies and for his passion for credible leadership and also his efforts in making Nigeria proud in the Diaspora.

The award winning producer is set to release a short film titled ACROSS THE BORDER. A film that tackles Human trafficking and prostitution. This film will be a project produced for NiDCOM.



CONGRATULATIONS



The entire Management and Staff of the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission

(NiDCOM) say a very big congratulations to Mejai. B. M. Avoseh, Ph.D, a professor in the Division of Adult and Higher Education in the University of South Dakota School of Education, who has been named to the prestigious International Adult and Continuing Education (IACE) Hall of Fame, to be inducted on October 6, 2021.



ABACHA (AFRICAN SALAD)

FOOD CORNER

■ By Doosughun Abughidyer

Abacha is a popular delicacy of the homely people of Enugu state. Abacha contains a lot of nutrients that help build body immune system. The main component of Abacha is the thinly-shredded cassava flakes.

Abacha is very easy to make, which makes it a meal of choice for my Diaspora people with very busy schedules. Also, it is a good comfort food, which you can relax and eat. The amazing thing is that these ingredients are available in any local market around you especially in Nigeria. The ingredients are:

1. 600g Abacha
2. 2 cups of Ugba or Ukpaka
3. 1 cup of Palm oil
4. 2 table spoons of Powdered potash
5. 2 sizeable dry Fish
6. 1 large Ponmo
7. 1 large Onion, chopped
8. 1 medium Onion, sliced (to serve)
9. 6 Garden eggs, diced
10. Garden egg leaves, chopped
11. Salt and dry pepper (to taste)
12. 4 table spoons Ground crayfish
13. 2 Seasoning cubes
14. 1 table spoon ground Ehu seeds (Calabash nutmeg)

15. 1 table spoon Ogiri or Iru (optional)
16. Fresh utazi leaves

Method of preparation:

1. Soak the Abacha in hot water and ensure it is submerged inside the water for 3-5 minutes until it softens and afterwards drain with a sieve and set aside.
2. Rinse the Ugba with warm water and set aside.
3. Dissolve the potash in water and sieve out the water and set aside.
4. In a clean pot, stir the potash water with the palm oil until it forms a yellowish paste. (N.B off the heat)
5. Place the pot on a very low heat and add the ground Ehu, pepper, crayfish, seasoning cubes and salt to taste.
6. Stir, then add diced onions and Ugba. Don forget to take off the heat.
7. Add the Ogiri and mix, then add the fish.
8. Add the Abacha and mix, allowing the ingredients to blend.
9. Add sliced Utazi.
10. Garnish with chopped Garden egg leaves and sliced Onions. Abacha is ready. It is served with a smile. Enjoy.

LET'S TALK FASHION : YORUBA STYLE

by Omolabake Omoniyi

Nigeria is very rich in culture and diversity which is one of her major strength as a nation.

The Yorubas are extremely glamorous in dressing, and they takes pride in their traditional attires which are gender sensitive. The Yoruba men usually wear a Sokoto which can be styled differently.

They have the Sooro which is a streamlined pants while the Kembe is a 3-quarter baggy pants, they are usually worn on a Buba or an Agbada which is and oversized cloth which worn over a lace or plain material along with Fila a traditional cap.

These caps comes in varieties (Gobi, Oribi, Alagbaa, Onide, Labankada, and Tinko) Yoruba women wear Iro and Buba along with a Gele on their heads and Ipele over the shoulder or sometime on the waist. Usually, the Ipele and Gele are made out of matching fabrics. The Iro is a large wrapper tied around the waist. The Buba is a loose-fitted blouse. The Gele is a headwrap and the Ipele is a shorter fabric tied around the waist on top of the Iro or over the shoulder.

The Yoruba community believe that the type of attire they put on portrays their social status and personality.





TOUR NIGERIA: BAYELSA STATE

By Bridget Temtsen



HIS EXCELLENCY
Douye Diri
Governor, of Bayelsa State

Welcome to Bayelsa State. One of Nigeria's largest crude oil and gas resources is located in this state. When oil was discovered in Nigeria in 1956, the first crude oil well was drilled in Bayelsa state. The oil well was around 12,008 feet deep, and it marked the start of Nigeria's shift away from agriculture towards oil and gas.

Bayelsa state is located in South geo-political zone of Nigeria and was carved out of Rivers state during the regime of Late Gen. Sani Abacha on 1st October 1996. The state's name, Bayelsa, is derived from the first few letters of the state's three principal local government areas: Brass LGA (BALGA), Yenagoa LGA (YELGA), and Sagbama LGA (SALGA). Fishing, farming, palm oil processing, palm wine tapping, local gin production, trading, carving, and weaving are the main occupations in the state.



Apart from their rich culture, the Ijaw people of Bayelsa are known for their stunning landscapes, climate, lifestyle, arts, tourism attractions, and has some of the best delectable cuisine in the region. The state also has a lot of beautiful and natural places for tourists to visit and have fun.

Akassa Forest: This forest is one of the major forest reserves of the Niger Delta region for bird watching with over 69 species of birds recorded.

Apoi Creek Forest :The forest is said to be a tidal freshwater lowland swamp forest in the central Niger Delta, with marshes, mangrove forest, and freshwater swamps as its key features. The red colobus monkey, manatee, sclater guenon, royal python, and chimpanzee are just a few of the ecologically and commercially important flora and fauna species found in this forest.

Okpoama Beach: This is a natural sand beach on the Atlantic Ocean's shore. The gentle flowing waves wash the shoreline clean and clear. You will not be disappointed when you visit this beach.

Mungo Park Residence: This edifice was once the divisional headquarters of the colonial rulers of Brass division, and was named after explorer Mungo Park, who discovered the River's source. As a historical tourism monument, the old structure has been conserved and renovated. The wood and brick structure has withstood many storms throughout the years.

The Akassa Slave Transit Camp and Tunnel: This is located in Ogbokiri, Brass near Akassa in Brass LGA, where slaves were camped before being transported to the new world (America and the Caribbean) over the Atlantic Ocean. The grim-looking iron and brick huts where slaves were shackled while they awaited shipment to the Americas still survive to this day as a reminder of the brutal slave trade era. Other places that are worth visiting in the state include :-Mangrove Creeks-The Agricultural Palm Beach- The Ossiama Fish Lake- The Ancient Nembe War Canoe Regatta-The Odi Holiday Resort amongst others.



DIARY OF EVENTS

By Khadija Shehu Bamalli



NIPR National Integration Summit Delegation on partnership courtesy call to the Chairman Nigeria in Diaspora Commission, NIDCOM, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, in Abuja.



From left: Mr. Edmund Achu (Spokes person for the high council for the Togo lese abroad), Mr Mali Achu Abuka (Delegate Coordinator), Mr Isu koku. (Snr. Delegate Coordinator), Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa (chairman / CEO NIDCOM), Mr Asman isaka (Delegate Coordinator), Mr Alogun (Security Officer for the Togolese abroad).



Presentation of Letter of Credence by Nigerian Ambasssfor to Italy, Amb. Abam Mfawa to President Sergio Mattarella of Italy.



DG NOA, Dr. Garba Abari receives copies of Diaspora Newsletter from Abdur-Rahman Balogun, Editor-in-chief, Diaspora Newsletter.

DIARY OF EVENTS

■ By Khadija Shehu Bamalli



Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO NIDCOM receives Nigerian born Oghenemaro Miles, 'Mari' Itoje, an award winning UK pro Rugby Union player at her Office in Lagos.



A group photo of NIDCOM staff during a training on Introduction to Diaspora Investment, Policy Engagement and Advocacy, organised by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Abuja.



From left: Mr. Edmund Achu (Spokes person for the high council for the Togolese abroad), Mr Mali Achu Abuka (Delegate Coordinator), Mr Isu koku. (Snr. Delegate Coordinator), Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa (chairman/CEO NIDCOM), Mr Asman isaka (Delegate Coordinator), Mr Alogun (Security Officer for the Togo ese abroad).



The Nigerian community in Georgia, Atlanta, warmly welcomes the new Consul General of Nigeria, Amb. (Dr.) Amina Smaila as she humbly kneels and receives the special blessings of NIDOA founder and elder statesman, Professor Emeritus Augustine O Esogbue NNOM.

DIARY OF EVENTS

■ By Khadija Shehu Bamalli



HE Geoffrey Onyeama, Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs receives Letter of Commission of the Consul General of the Republic of Ghana in Lagos, Ms. Samata Gifty Bukari.



NiDCOM Staff in Lagos office at the end of three day workshop on Global Nigeria Online Radio on News Production & On Air Performance Improvement Training facilitated by First Course Nigeria Limited in conjunction with Yellow Bloom Consulting, in Lagos.



Amb. Nfawa Abam, Nigerian Ambassador to Italy, during the 2021 Edo Carnival organized by Edo United Union in Rome, Italy.



The Football Agent Association of Nigeria on a courtesy call to Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, (NiDCOM) Headquarters, Abuja, received by the Secretary to the Commission, Engr. Dr. Sule Yakubu Bassi on behalf of the Chairman/ CEO.

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The Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) has repackaged its Monthly Diaspora Newsletter with juicy and far reaching news for and from our Nigerians in Diaspora. The Newsletter when produced is distributed far and wide to all our stakeholders both within and outside the country through the E-Copy and in colour printed version.

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Yours Sincerely,



Abdur-Rahman Balogun
Head, Media, Public Relations
and Protocols Unit (NIDCOM) Abuja.

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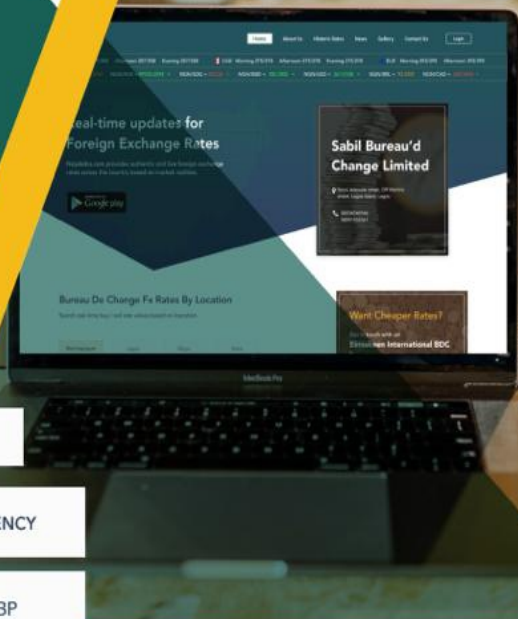
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17 June 2020	465 /468	466 /468.5	467 /469	EURO



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