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## The Media, ANA Stakeholders Tours Mamman Vatsa **Writers Village Project**

he Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October,2019 held a Project Media Tour/ Press Conference at the ANA Mamman Vatsa Writers' Village, Mpape, Abuja. Present were about 12 media persons, print and electronic from Lagos and Abuja, 3 past ANA presidents, members of ANA National Advisory Council, members of the ANA Land Development Committee, host project developer of the ANA land, KMVL and its crew, some ANA members who were there when Vatsa gave the land to ANA in 1985 such as Dr Mrs Adewunmi Oluwadiya, Fellow and pioneer

member of ANA, Prof Idris Amali, friends of ANA such as Senator Shehu Sani and Professor Udenta Udenta, the family of Late Mamman Vatsa, Aisha Vatsa( Daughter), Daughter-in-Law( Hadiza Haruna Vatsa), members of the National Executive Council of ANA and members of ANA Abuja. The tour and press conference was to keep all stakeholders and the general abreast with the current state of development on the ANA Land, which effectively commenced in August, 2017 as the Denja Abdullahi-led National Executive Council of ANA quits office in November, 2019. The first phase of the project on a 5 hectares land space when completed will have a 1,500 seating capacity Chinua Achebe International Conference Centre, housing ANA National Headquarter Complex, Libraries, Archives and depositories, ANA State Chapters Liaison Offices, Shopping Malls, events function rooms and multi-media rooms; 50 one-bedroom apartments,6 twobedrooms writers residency chalets, swimming pool and other facilities befitting a writers'resort. The project when fully completed will redefine the creative and tourism landscape of Abuja as intoned by many persons who were present at the media tour.



## **National Library of Nigeria**

### FACTS ABOUT LEGAL DEPOSIT

The Legal Deposit law in Nigeria has its origin in the 1950 Publications Ordinance which gave the University College Ibadan Library and the Secretariat Library in Lagos the right to collect two copies each of every book published in the country.

#### National Library Act: The Authority to Collect Legal Deposit Materials

The National Library Act was passed in 1964 and later reviewed in 1970 with emphasis on deposit obligations and bibliographical functions. The Act No. 29 of 1970 applies throughout the country and has supremacy over any library laws of state governments in the event of jurisdictional conflicts.

#### WHO IS TO DEPOSIT and the NUMBER COPIES TO BE DEPOSITED

There are categories of publishers specified in the Act and the copies they are required to deposit;

**Category 1:** Private Publishers/Individuals – 3

**Category 2:** Federal Government Ministries, Parastatals and Agencies – 25 **Category 3:** State Government Ministries, Parastatals and Agencies – 10

#### What is to be Deposited?

All information sources published in Nigeria. The Act in section 4 sub-section (7) defines "BOOK" thus:

- a. All literary works such as books, pamphlets, sheets of music, maps, charts, plans, tables and compilations.
- b. Dramatic works.
- c. Collective works such as encyclopedias, dictionaries, year books, newspapers, magazines and periodicals.
- d. All forms in which documentary or oral records are published. This means legal deposit is also for non-book materials, home videos, films, cassettes etc. and even electronic publications.
- e. The best copies of each publications should be deposited.

#### **BENEFITS OF LEGAL DEPOSIT**

- i. Preservation of the intellectual output on future generation.
- ii. Bibliographic control of the Nation's publications
- iii. Listing in the National Bibliography of Nigeria, which is circulated throughout the world
- iv. The publisher's name will be listed in the publishers directory section of the National Bibliography of Nigeria which many authors and organizations including Libraries consult.
- v. The legal deposit copy is the only authentic copy accepted by the law court in case of litigation.

#### Prof. Lenrie Olatokunbo Aina

National Librarian/CEO

Tel: 09-29 00 475





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#### The Media, ANA Stakeholders Tours Mamman Vatsa **Writers Village Project**









Senator Shehu Sani,writer and politician with Dr Wale Okediran,Former President and Chairman ANA Land Development Committee





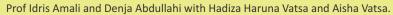
President ,ANA,Mallam Denja Abdullahi delivering his address at the Press Conference

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#### The Media, ANA Stakeholders Tours Mamman Vatsa **Writers Village Project**















Aisha Vatsa, Late General Mammna Vatsa's Daughter addressing the press conference



Prof Idris Amali, ANA Fellow, Emeritus Prof Femi Osofisan, Former ANA President, Prof Jerry Agada, Former ANA President, Denja Abdullahi, President, ANA in front of the temporary ANA National Headquarters on the land.

#### MODEL OF THE FIRST PHASE OF ANA MAMMAN VATSA WRITERS'VILLAGE ,MPAPE ,ABUJA













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## 8<sup>™</sup> MEETING OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WITH CHAIRMEN AND SECRETARIES OF STATES 'CHAPTERS

n 13th April 2019, the 8th Meeting of the National Executive Council Members with State Chapters' Chairmen and Secretaries held in Ilorin Kwara, State at the Knowledge Platform of the Justice Mustapha Akanbi Foundation Resource Centre with 12 chapters given sub-grant to carry out innovative literary outreach programmes under the ANA/Yusuf Ali Literary Awareness Project 2019. The meeting attended by about 16 chapters of the Association also received reports on literary activities from the chapters and briefings about preparations and procedure of the 2019 ANA international Convention. Earlier on, a day before, the members of the National Executive Council and some states chapter chairmen paid a valedictory courtesy call to ANA's benefactor Yusuf Ali(SAN)at his chambers in Ilorin where he hosted ANA to a cocktail party and he was also presented with some gifts by ANA.



8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ANA National Executive Council with Chairmen and secretaries of States Chapters



Yusuf Ali (SAN) addressing ANA members during the courtesy call.

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#### Association of Nigerian Authors(ANA)

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There was once a time when literary criticism occupied public space in Nigerian newspapers with popular pullouts like Guardian Literary Series and Post Express Literary Supplement. They are no more. Worse still, upcoming writers are oftentimes denied access to relevant theories that could enhance their creative effort if they don't belong in the academia. At a recent literary conference in Abakaliki, the Association of Nigerian Authors, in partnership with Alex Ekwueme Federal University, has taken a bold step in bringing literary criticism to the public domain. Michael Jimoh was there...

President ANA , Denja Abdullahi , presenting a

President ANA ,Denja Abdullahi ,presenting a book to the VC,AE-FUNAI, Prof. Chinedum Nwajiuba,during a courtesy call to his office before the opening ceremony of the conference/workshop

iterary conferences mean different things to different people. If you don't much care for the hundred and one theories professors, writers and critics swear and live by, it isn't such a bad place to nod off inbetween yawns while talk on postcolonial this and post-colonial that sail overhead. But if you are a professional student of Literature or English with a bias for writing hoping to be taken seriously as a writer, you are sure to pay attention for much of the time the conference will last.

So it was with students of Department of English and Literary Studies, Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu Alike, for two days starting from Tuesday, July 2 to Wednesday, July 3 in the main auditorium of the campus. Home to Nkwagu Military Cantonment, Ndufu Alike is the host community of one of the newest universities in the entire South-east. It is about half an hour drive by car from Abakaliki, capital of Ebonyi state. Majority of the students reside off campus, which means they commute to and from school every lecture day.

A month before the literary conference cum workshop

commenced, students and teachers had publicized the event through campaigns, word of mouth, level by level in related departments. Add those who must have done that through several platform on the social media and you will understand why the hall was impressively filled when it began on Tuesday morning. It also helped they were exempted from classes for those two days.

It helped even more that, instead of listening to lecturers droning on about routine topics that could become soporific, there were half a dozen or so professors around they'd heard of and read their works but never seen in person. There were many more writers from across Nigeria to update them on the latest literary trends, the importance of criticism to creative writing, how to or not become a creative writer and the role of digital media in all of that.

One professor came in from America. Another flew in from Lagos. As with the students and lecturers of the school, all of them would have looked forward to be part of a conference themed: "Nigeria's Literary Criticism in an Expanding Space of Creative Writing and Digital Production in the 21st Century."

Above all, it was dedicated to Professor Pius Adebola Adesanmi whose tragic death occurred aboard an Ethiopian Airline on March 9 this year.

Adesanmi was professor of African Studies at Carleton University, Canada, and an intellectual superstar following the footsteps of pioneer African writers and academics such as Achebe, Clark, Kane, Okpewor, Senghor, Soyinka, Wa thiong o, etc.

More important, Adesanmi was, in the words of one writer and admirer, "a public intellectual who transcended the formal academic space and used the digital platform to reach a wider audience of fellow scholars, students and the general public."

The theme could not have been more fitting, considering the late scholar's versatility as a writer and critic who used all that modern technology could offer to broaden his intellectual base and followership. It was thus appropriate that before the end of the opening day of the Conference, a special panel was held on the works of Pius Adesanmi as a public intellectual, moderated by Dr Ezechi Onyieronwu and which featured Dr Amanze Akpuda of

Abia State University and Dr Onyebuchi Nwosu of Federal University, Ndufu-Alike Ikwo.

But why another literary conference so close to the annual convention hosted and organized by the Association of Nigerian Authors which will hold this October?

As the president of ANA, Mallam Denja Abdullahi himself put it, "the conference is to bridge the gap in the criticism of contemporary Nigerian literature, where critics would be encouraged to give rigorous attention to contemporary literature, make young scholars acquire some critical tools they can use in their lifelong career and to make criticism more popular in the public space."

Begun only last year, the conference is his brain child. Soon after Abdullahi was elected president of the writers' body, he promised to "unbundle the annual convention" by having such meetings at least once a year in relatively young federal universities willing to partner with the association.

Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu Alike (AE-FUNAI) readily welcomed Abdullahi's idea, pitched, first of all, to Professor GMT Emezue, Dean Faculty of Humanities last year who, in turn, told the Vice Chancellor, Professor Chinedum Nwajiuba. This is the second of such conference in the school since last June. The way it is, it should be a continuous programme as long as ANA is willing, post-Abdullahi's tenure as president.

"This programme has taken its own life and anybody that comes will have to continue with it," Mallam Abdullahi told me. "It is also good that in a non-profit making association, when you change the departing leadership, always link it to the incoming one because they should be able to



Drama Performance "When Women Go Naked" by Nwagbo Pat Obi at the Conference

Moreover, there is a N3m grant for ANA against such contingencies outside its annual convention. In fact, it has been there for eight years.

continue with the good thing that your predecessor has left for you." Very well said, for the association itself will meet this October in Enugu to elect new executive officers to run its affairs for the next two years. Having such readymade projects is a plus for those in a profession other people praise less for their administrative savvy than their writerly skills. Moreover, there is a N3m grant for ANA against such contingencies outside its annual convention. In fact, it has been there for eight years.

"That means the grant will be there for whoever becomes president of ANA," Adullahi said confidently, insisting that "the way to institutionalize this one we are doing now is to get a regular grant."

Apart from continuity, the conference, as Abdullahi also said, "was conceived to focus on new works and young scholars within and outside the academia and one of the major objectives is to divert critical engagement to authors and works that may not be receiving the critical attention." In his reckoning, most critical attention on literature in the country today "is within the academic circle. So, we want to bring that into the public sphere as an activity just the way Pius Adesanmi in his lifetime was able to move some critical thoughts into the public space."

If he were alive, it is impossible to imagine the late professor turning down invitations from ANA and FUNAI were he invited to the conference. Indeed, in 2012 in Uyo during the annual convention of ANA, Adesanmi delivered the keynote speech presciently predicting the influence of the social media on Nigerian literature in the coming years, leaving behind his unique imprimatur "Cyberia" in social media lexicon. It is also impossible to have a conference on literary criticism



Students of AE-FUNAI at the conference

anywhere in Nigeria, especially east of the Niger, without expecting to see one of the granduncles of the genre, Professor Ernest Emenyonu, a dynamo of a man with a corresponding formidable academic credential.

He has been professor of English focusing on African Literature for 40 years, privileged to have been thought by some of the greatest Nigerian scholars, Emmanuel Obiechina, and has had contact with many others, MJC Echeruo, Isidore Okpewor. Alone, Emenyonu started a conference called International Conference on African Literature and English Language (ICALEL) where he was Deputy VC in University of Calabar.

He has also been Provost of Alvan Ikoku College of Education, editor, since 2000, of the oldest journal on African Literature, *African Literature Today*, begun by Professor Eldred Durosimi Jones, published every year on November 18 with simultaneous appearances in London, New York and Nigeria. Emenyonu is currently at University of Michigan, Flint, a professor of African Literature since 2002. As

recently as 2017, he was chairman of the panel of judges of the Nigeria Prize for Literature in the poetry category sponsored and awarded by Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas.

The renowned professor's fascination with African literature is less because of his provenance and more because of the courses he studied while in the university. Back in the sixties at Nsukka as students under Professor Donatus Nwoga, Emenyonu recalled that all they read as English majors were British literature, American literature, "everything except African literature."

He graduated with a first class. Anyone would be quite delighted to have made such grade. Emenyonu was, but less so because it was in foreign literature. Though he did a graduate programme on Victorian Literature in London, Emenyonu returned to the U.S. and did his PhD on African Languages and Literature. Since then, it has been, in his own words, "my second wife, my second love."

The professor amply demonstrated that love at the conference. Like a paean, he told both students and lecturers to

"embrace African literature," since it is only Africans who can better tell their stories. As erroneously believed, Emenyonu said, "African literature didn't start with European languages. We have oral literature, literature in Nigerian languages which they (Western scholars) cannot access." To prove his point that Europeans didn't bring literature to Africa, the professor himself embarked on years of research – what else do scholars like him do? What did he unearth? He discovered and translated what he calls the first Igbo novel, Omenuko by Peter Nwapa. It is remarkable to note that the novel itself was first printed in 1933. Making a case for the entire continent, Emenyonu insists that Chaka Zulu by Daniel Kunene, a South African author. had a head start after it was published in 1925. Also, Soyinka translated DO Fagunwa's A Forest of a Thousand Demons in 1938.

As for the conference, Emenyonu maintained that both students and their minders would benefit tremendously from it."It is going to help them because nobody can succeed in literature anywhere in the world without a sense of history. It is even more so in the African situation. That was why the keynote speaker enjoined the younger ones to read the critical literature before now. Achebe was not only a novelist. He was also a critic, a literary philosopher, Soyinka the same thing, JP Clark, all of these African writers and they were gifted. What ANA is doing is unique, what the VC of the university is doing is also unique because what they have done is to create a partnership whereby ANA can now come here every year. Nigerians are looking for international conferences elsewhere. Why can't we create international conferences and let people come here? This is a wonderful beginning and, honestly, with the kind of



Professor Ernest Emenyonu speaking at the opening ceremony

momentum I am seeing, they will do a wonderful work. What ANA is trying to do now is to be the literary umbrella that covers all of these, learning of African Literature and talk about African Literature from the African perspective, from the African point of view. These children will now know that there is something called African Literature."

As such conferences go, it wouldn't be complete without a panel of discussion on anything literature, as well as a keynote speaker, which was for this conference Prof Olu Obafemi represented by Prof Abubakar Abdullahi of the University of Ilorin. The trio of Amanze Akpuda, Obari Gomba and Greg Mbajiorgu had the floor during a session on writers/ critics forum. Akpuda is of the Department of English in Abia State University, Uturu while Gomba is in a related department in the University of Port Harcourt. Mbajiorgu is of the University of Nigeria Nsukka.

Gomba ruffled literary feathers when he accused Emenyonu of contributing to the brain drain syndrome in Nigeria. In other words, rather than remain in the country and let young scholars sip from his pool of knowledge, the professor has spent much of his time teaching in American schools. Emenyonu rose stoutly to his own defence, insisting that though he currently teaches in an American university, he has spent much time here in the country as a teacher.

One of the speakers is also a teacher in a foreign country. Dauda Bivan Amos is of the Department of English Studies University of the Western Cape, South Africa. In his presentation titled "The Nigerian Novel in the 21st Century, he noted that "literature springs directly from life...it is in life that we have to seek the sources of literature, the impulses which have birthed the various forms of literal production."

Amos also let it be known that the Nigerian novel in this century is "irrepressible" despite "the several challenges confronting it. It is a novel born and garbed on the cradle of discontent (ment) and wears many faces in confronting its tremendous challenges."

One of such challenges was what the second speaker touched on. Onyekachi Peter Onuoha teaches in the Department of English and Literary Studies, University of Calabar. At more than 20 pages, his paper would, no doubt, have sent many heads nodding on desks. Mercifully, he didn't have to read all in a presentation titled "Creative Writing and Digital Production: Constraining and Expanding Nigeria's Literary Criticism in the 21st Century."

For him, criticism of literature is forever changing, especially in the digital age. "The expanding nature of creative literature in the cyber space also challenges traditional critics perception of what literature represents, predetermined participation in it own space...the failure of the patronizing prevailing criticism on the digital space and how it makes its own impact on the art of criticism."

For sure, it was not all talk at the conference. There was drama, on stage and real life drama to keep things moving. The first was spontaneous when Ms Ofoma Mma, Public Relations



Special panel on Late Prof Pius Adesanmi at the Conference



Dr Obari Gomba of UNIPORT, Conducting the poetry workshop for students

Personality of the institution who also doubled as MC all through the event, announced that the invited guests would have their lunch somewhere else while the students would be served in the hall. Shouts of discrimination almost brought the roof down.

But they were soon pacified when Mma declared in the same breadth that a drama presentation would be staged during lunch for them. Title of play: "When Women Go Naked," by Nwagbo Pat Obi.

More drama was to come by way of a solo performance by Ifunaya Idinedo, a teacher of Igbo language in the school. Urged on by a flutist, she praise-chanted the guests one after the other as she danced around the hall, rendering several songs as best she could.

One of Nigeria's foremost female writers, Professor Akachi-Adimora Ezeigbo, danced with her and gave the vote of thanks as the conference wound to an end. She thanked the VC "for empowering people" through such conferences. (The VC was, at that very moment, chairing a meeting of VCs in the South east so, he was unavoidably absent.)

One of the persons already empowered was a 200-level student of the Department of English and Literary Studies, Gerald Ede. He followed avidly the workshop from day one. Though Ede has a first degree from Calabar, he is now reading English as a second degree and hoping

seriously to become a writer. For him, the conference is "to help students who aspire to be writers and lecturers to hone their writing skills, know what is going on in the literary landscape." This literary empowerment for students was achieved at the conference via literary workshops on prose, poetry and drama facilitated by Dr Wale Okediran, Dr Obari Gombe and Greg Mbajiorgu respectively. But do such literary conferences really help, considering that the founding fathers of Nigerian literature never relied on such meetings to establish themselves. True, responded Ede when asked on the conference's relevance to making good writers. The older generation, he declared, had no such conferences but they had people who inspired and encouraged them to write, insisting, for example, that when Achebe was at Government College, Umuahia, "they made reading some novels compulsory some days of the week. That was the foundation. It is true that that culture no longer exists in most secondary schools in Nigeria today, the culture of trying to indoctrinate people into reading creative works that could motivate them into writing. If that culture has been lost, this conference is filing that gap. The Achebes had a way of being inspired then, the kind of way their studies were programmed, the kind of teachers they had; times change even though."

It is apparent from the joys on the faces of the students, the enthusiastic involvement of the management and staff of the host university and the high spirit exhibited by the visiting writers and scholars that the partnership forged by the Association of Nigerian Authors with the Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike Ikwo for the cause of literature and its criticism, is going to endure.

# ANA IINDUCTS THREE NEW FELLOWS AND A PATRON

Prof. Remi Raji, Prof JOJ Nwachukwu Agbada and Prof Zaynab Alkali have been named as new ANA fellows and Governor John Kayode Fayemi of Ekiti State by the Advisory Council and the National Executive Council of the Association of Nigerian Authors under the leadership of Mallam Denja Abdulahi.

This was contained in a press statement issued and signed by Mallam Denja Abdulahi, the President of the Association.Mallam Denja Abdulahi said that the nominations of Prof. Remi Raji, Prof JOJ Nwachukwu Agbada and Prof Zaynab Alkali into the prestigious circle of distinguished elders of the Association is in recognition of their literary and scholarly excellence and their devoted service to the progress of the Association over the decades. According to him "The ANA fellow designation reflects achievement at the highest level of writing practice and excellence; we look forward to honoring these 3 great wordsmiths and thanking them for their contributions to ANA and creative writing in Nigeria".

The announcement of the appointment of Governor John Kayode Fayemi of Ekiti State was made by the President of ANA, Mallam Denja Abdullahi, at the opening ceremony of the ANA Ekiti State Convention which held in August, 2019, where the State chapter of the Association inducted the Governor as their Grand Patron. According to the President of ANA in a letter of appointment conveyed to the Governor, "this appointment is in recognition of your sterling support to the Association at the Chapter and National Levels over the years. We are enamored by your generosity to the members of the Association, your advocacy towards good governance in our country, your numerous and qualitative intellectual outputs in the discourse towards a greater nationhood." It should be noted that through the agency of the Wife of the Governor, Erelu Bisi Fayemi, who was the Special Guest of Honour at the 37<sup>th</sup> International Annual Convention of ANA which held in Lagos in 2018, the State Government has agreed to host the year 2021, 40<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Association.

The induction into the fellowship and patronship take place at the Opening ceremony of the 38th International Annual Convention of the Association scheduled for 1st November 2019 in Enugu, Enugu State.

Remi Raji is the pen name of Aderemi Raji-Oyelade, author of six volumes of poetry including A harvest of Laughters(1997), Lovesong for my Wasteland(2005), Gather My Blood Rivers of Song (2009) and Sea of My Mind (2013). His poetry has been translated into French, German, Catalan, Swedish, Ukrainian, Latvian, Croatian and Hungarian. Raji has been visiting professor and poet to Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, Universities of California at Riverside and Irvine, University of Cape Town, South Africa, Stockholm University, Sweden, Cambridge University, UK, and Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany. He was African editor of Drumvoices Revue - Journal of Contemporary Arts and Literature (1999-2010). His seminal publication in cultural theory and practice is entitled Playful Blasphemies: Postproverbials as Archetypes of Modernity in Yoruba Culture(2012). Remi Raji is the former President of the Association of Nigerian Authors, the largest body of writers on the African continent (2011-2015). He teaches Literature and Creative Writing in the Department of English, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Prof. JOJ Nwachukwu-Agbada earned two degrees apiece from Universities of Jos & Ibadan. Before then he had started his tertiary teaching career at Federal Advance









#### ANA IINDUCTS THREE NEW FELLOWS AND A PATRON

Teachers' College, Abeokuta(NYSC) & the defunct Anambra College of Education, Awka, Anambra State. In 1988, he transferred to the former Imo State Uniersity, Okigwe now Abia State University, Uturu. In each of these institutions he taught English, African Literature & Creative Writing. He has written & published over 140 essays, books & book chapters in African Literatures in Africa, the Americas, UK, Germany, France, India, Canada & Australia. He has attended many conferences at home & abroad, including the six-week summer programme at the famous School of Criticism & Theory, Cornell University, Ithaca in New York in 2013. Nwachukwu-Agbada has published modestly as a creative writer, both as a novelist and poet. His 2017 poetry volume published in New York by African Heritage Press won the 2018 ANA Poetry Prize. He became a full Professor in 1996 & has supervised many PhD & MA dissertations at his university, examined higher degree in many Nigerian universitie He has participated in making colleagues Readers & Professors in other universities, where he had at varous times in his institution served as Coordinator(Head), HOD, Director & had been Dean for more than

Zaynab Alkali was born into the Tura-Mazila family of Borno and Adamawa States. For secondary education, she attended Queen Elizabeth Secondary School, Ilorin. Zaynab Alkali went on to obtain both her first and second degrees from ABU/ABC, Zaria. At Bayero University Kano, she studied English to a doctorate level.

The Stillborn, perhaps Zaynab Alkali's best-known work was published to critical acclaim in 1984. This coming-of-age novel depicts the physical and spiritual journey of a Nigerian woman who learns to survive, in the face of harsh traditions. The novel was quickly followed by The Virtuous Woman which was published by Longman,

Zaynab Alkali was honoured with the title of Icon of Hope (2000) by President Olusegun Obasanjo's government.

Nigeria in 1987. Like many talented writers of prose, Zaynab Alkali decided to try her hands on short prose form. Cobwebs & Other Stories was published by the famous Malthouse Press in Lagos in 1997. The Descendants was published by Spectrum Lagos 2007 and followed by The Initiates in 2007, and Invisible Borders 2016, Zaynab Alkali's books have been translated into many languages such as German, French, Arabic and Spanish. To date, Zaynab Alkali has won over 40 awards.

With literary success came professional development. Zaynab Alkali took up an appointment at the University of Maiduguri which she held for twenty-two years before joining the Civil Service as a Deputy Director at NPHCDA, Abuja in 2000. Four years later, she moved to Nasarawa State University, Keffi, as a full Professor of English. She would later become Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and Dean of the School of Post-Graduate Studies. Between 2005 and 2009 Zaynab Alkali served as Deputy Vice Chancellor (Admin), briefly acting as a Vice Chancellor in 2006. Between 2015 and 2016, she occupied the post of Director, Gender Studies.

Zaynab Alkali was honoured with the title of Icon of Hope (2000) by President Olusegun Obasanjo's government. She received the Nigerian Woman of Distinction award on the occasion of Nigeria's golden jubilee, presented by President Goodluck Jonathan. The Adamawa State Governor Murtala Nyako bestowed on her the Woman of Substance Merit Award, most recently, she received A Lifetime Achievement Award 2018, for her outstanding contributions to the Nigeria Literary Canon by His Excellency Nasir El-Rufai at the Kaduna Book and Arts Festival (KABAFEST) in September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018, a proud Fellow of both the British Council, UK, and Stiftung Kulfursfond, Germany, (1998).

Zaynab Alkali serves as the Board Chairman of the following; Zyba Educational Resources Development, Keffi, Capital Science Academy, Abuja, and the National Library of Nigeria (NLN) Abuja. She also serves as Vice Chairman, Planning and Implementation Committee of Midlands University. Ever the Educator, Zaynab is the proprietress of Zyba Model Nursery and Primary School, Keffi.Zaynab Alkali currently lives in Keffi. When she is not busy with public commitments, she can be found supervising the affairs of her school and managing Zyba farms, Zaynab Alkali is a shining example of what can be achieved with dedication and hard work. She has not only honed her talent, she continues to give the world excellent works that capture the complexities of ordinary human beings. Zaynab Alkali has authored the following books, The Stillborn, The Virtuous Woman, Cobwebs and Others Stories, The Initiates, The Descendants and most recently Invisible Borders. Three of the six books have won prizes, The Stillborn – ANA prize for the Best novel of the year, The Virtuous Woman - Spectrum Award (1978-2002), Cobwebs and Other Stories -ANA Award.

It should be recalled that the previous fellows that have been inducted in the life of the present administration of ANA includes: Dr Wale Okediran, Prof Jerry Agada, Late Captain Elechi Amadi, Prof Idris Amali, Prof Akachi Ezeigbo and Prof Sam Ukala

#### ANA NATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN PICTURES



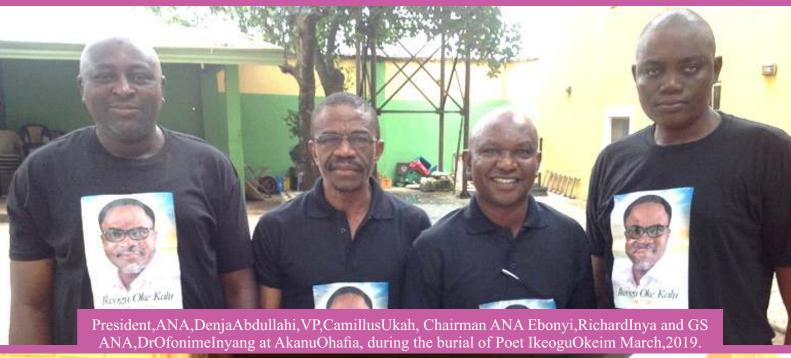






#### ANA NATIONAL **ACTIVITIES** IN PICTURES









#### SHORTLISTS OF ANA LITERARY PRIZES 2019 ANA PROSE FICTION PRIZE 1. Black River- Myles Ojabo Makwala- E.E Sule 2. Deafening Silence-Stephanie C.Odili 3. 4. Impostor Alert-Usual A. Umoren 5. Native Foreigners-Sasi M. Jaja **ANA DRAMA PRIZE** The Victims-TosinJobi-Tume 1. Jesus of Naijaret-Omowumi O. Ekundayo 2. 3. The Curse of IgweEnendu-AmechiChieduObumse 4. Eno, The Queen of Eniong - Uvie Ann-Marie Giwewhegbe **ANA POETRY PRIZE** Mixed Legacies - AkachiAdimoraEzeigbo 1. 2. White Masks - EbiYeibo 3. Places: A Poetic Geography-Yusuf Adamu Yawns and Belches - Joe Ushie ANA/ABUBAKAR GIMBA PRIZE FOR SHORT STORIES 1. The Room at the Top - Emmanuel Osemeka El-Fransis 2. Tales of the Abroad by a Confam Africana - S. Su'eddie Vershima Agema 3. Colour of a Thing Believed-Bura-Bari Nwilo THE ANA PRIZE FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE Mafoya and the Finish Line - Ayo Oyeku 1. 2. Dalu's Diary - OgechiEzeji Timi and the stranger - Vincent Ikedinachi Ojedi- AmechiChieduObumse ANA/MARIA AJIMA PRIZE FOR LITERARY CRITICISM Birth, Death and Re-birth: The Trope of Eternal Rejuvenation in IsidoreDiala'sThe Lure of Ash.- Abba A. Abba-winner ANA LITERARY PRIZES PANEL OF JUDGES Prof Nelson Fashina - University of Ibadan WINNER 2. Prof. Effiong Johnson - University of Uyo 3. Ismaila Bala Garba- Bayero University, Kano Dr Owojecho Omoha- University of Abuja Prof. G.M.T. Emezue- Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike Ikwo

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- 13. Aliyu Usman Kaoje...Ex.officio 3.



# ANA 37<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN LAGOS IN PICTURES



The High Table at the Opening Ceremony





Special Guest of Honour at the Opening Ceremony, Erelu Bisi Fayemi, Wife of Ekiti State Governor addressing the house with Emeritus Prof Femi Osofisan and Mamma Mabel Segun, ANA Trustee, looking on.



Wife of the Ekiti State Governor, Erelu Bisi Fayemi ,encouraging children authors from Benue and Lagos States



ANA Female delegates to the convention in a snapshot with ANA Trustee and Children's Literature exponent, Mama Mabel Segun



Jerry Adesewo, Denja Abdullahi, Prof Remi Raji and Chike Ofili with Mama Mabel Segun



Convention Play, Hard Ground by Ahmed Yerima on stage



Audience watching the convention play



President ANA, Denja Abdullahi, welcoming guests to the awards dinner



Mr Akin Adeoya,Chairman LOC and President, ANA , Denja Abdullahi addressing the Teen Authors prize winners at the awards dinner



President ANA, Denja Abdullahi, Erelu Bisi Fayemi, Wife of Ekiti State Governor and Chairman ANA Ekiti, Akogun Tai Oguntayo



ANA members at the AGM



ANA National Executive Council Members at the AGM



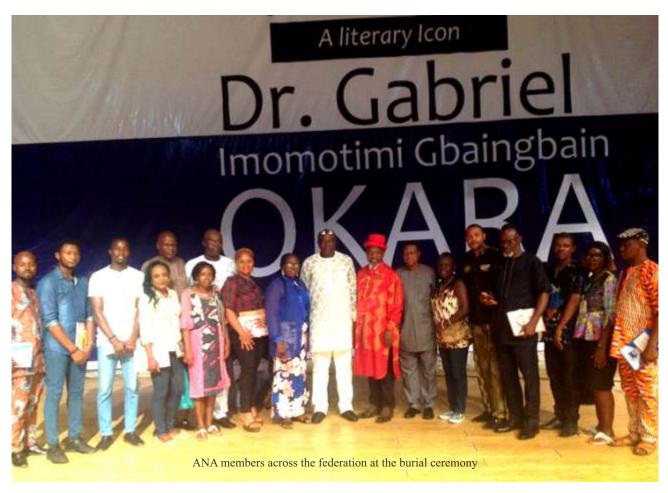
BOLDSCHOLAR MD/CEO ANA'S WEBSITE DEVELOPER AND MANAGER Presenting an award to the Association



Book fair and exhibition

## Dr **Gabriel Imomotimi Gbaingbain Okara** Bows Out

The pioneer of modern African poetry and the oldest living African poet of recent; writer of totemic poems such as "Piano and Drums" and "Call of the River Nun," and the highly experimental novel *The Voice* ,Dr Gabriel Okara, passed away on 25th March, 2019 and was given a befitting burial in June by the Government and People of Bayelsa State in a multi-days burial ceremony which began at The Gabriel Okara Cultural Centre, Yenagoa and terminated with the internment in Boumondi, the hometown of the poet on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2019.





The family of Dr Gabriel Okara



President, ANA, Denja Abdullahi, Editor Gabriel Okara's Collection of Poems, Former President Goodluck Jonathan, Governor of Bayelsa State, Seriake Dickson,the wife and Prof Ernest Emenyonu at the launching of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition of *The Voice* by Gabriel Okara



Denja Abdullahi, Prof Ernest Emenyonu and Prof Alagoa at the Burial Ceremony



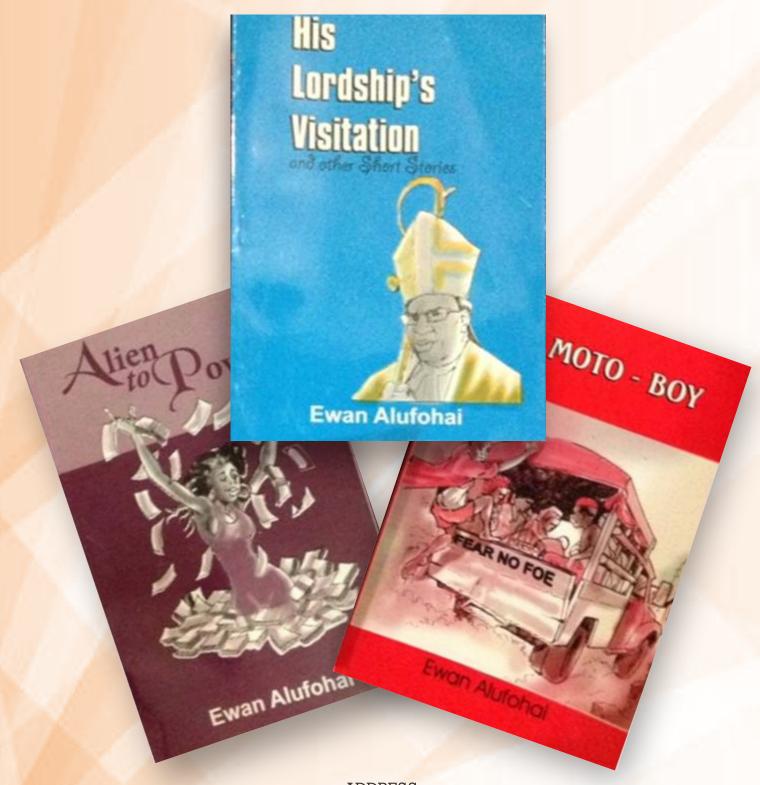
Writers at the bank of the Okara-made-famous River Nun after a crossing into Boumoundi

Cross Section of writers at the burial ceremony in Boumoundi



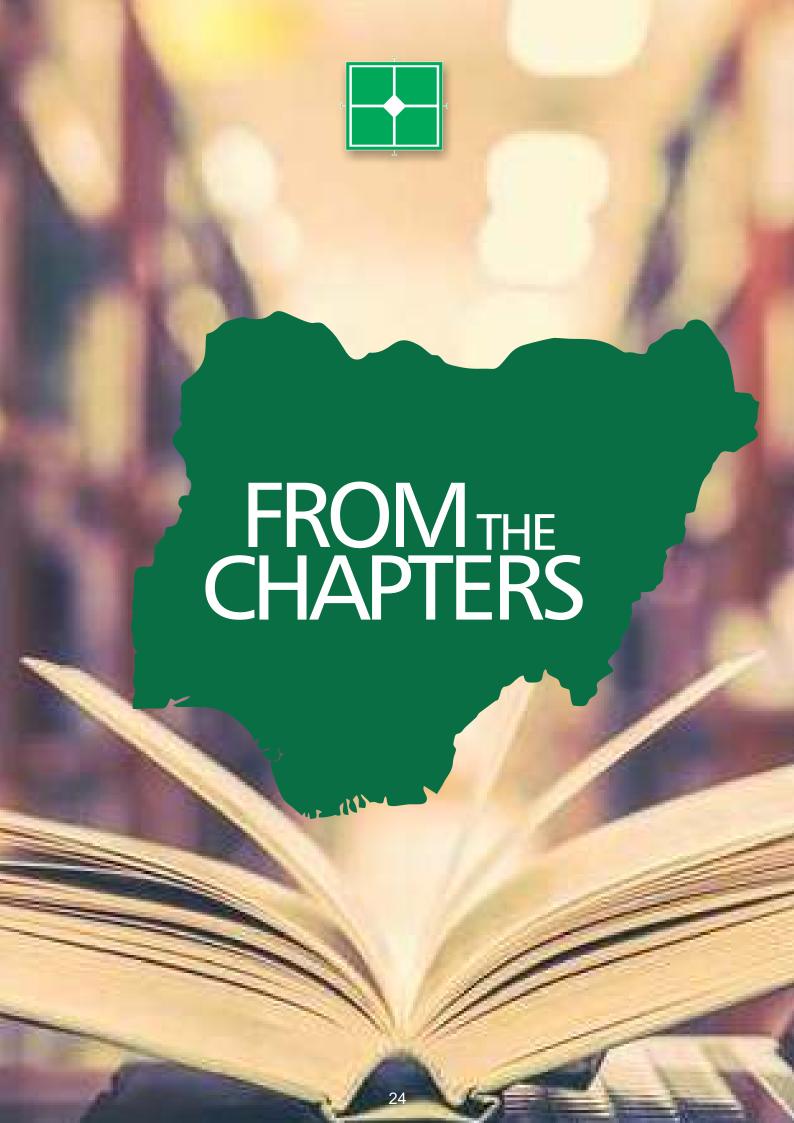
Gabriel Okara's grand daughters keeping vigil over him at Boumoundi

# SURGEON IN THE ARTS!



#### ADDRESS:

Prof Ewan Alufohai, 1, Alufohai Close, Box 123, Sabongida-Ora Edo State Phone: 08035857247 e-mails: ewanprof@yahoo.com, ewan.alufohai@hotmail.com





## ABIA CHAPTER



oon after the international convention held in Lagos last year, the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA), Abia State Chapter, swung into action by presenting a blueprint of the programmes that would be carried out by the Association in 2019. The issue of attendance to monthly meetings was made paramount and true to the presentation of the blueprint, the chapter has not felt reluctant in holding her monthly meetings. The point remains that many literary-minded individuals, both the old and the new have since then, dedicated themselves to ANA Abia cause. Each of the monthly meetings provides aesthetically and critically assessed poems that would will be published as ANA Abia anthology in the shortest possible time. All these have been made possible through the relentless, selfless and determined efforts of the young, vibrant, dynamic and resourceful ANA Abia leader, Elder NwokomaNwaigwe.

Undoubtedly, all road led to Abia Hotels, Aba on Thursday, 20th June, 2019, where the chapter organized a resounding poetry reading in honour of late Gabriel Okara, the giant poet. ANA Abia benefitted immensely from the programme as a handful of members have redirected their schedules towards attending ANA Abiaprogrammes/activities. The programme was given a boost through radio adverts and the social media platforms.

Furthermore, Friday, the 5th of July 2019 will remain an unforgettable day by secondary students in Abia State. This is because the Association organized a State-wide Dr. Yusuf Ali poetry competition following the grant given to the state chapter in April, 2019. In attendance to the programme were the highly-profiled patron of the Association, Elder N.C. Nwosu Ph.D., Rtn Hon Ernest Onuoha, one of the members of the National Executive Council







and many others. Through a painstaking effort, the judges came up with acceptable results. The following schools emerged victorious: Intellectual Giant Christian School Academy Renascent Educational School and Victory Model Schools, Aba. Handsome awards and prizes were given out to the deserving schools and students. ANA Abia is very grateful to Dr. Yusuf Ali whose literary philanthropic gestures have a national face and therefore, the chapter calls on other well-meaning Nigerians to take a cue from this magnanimity. The chapter is also

grateful to ANA National for making proper distribution and appropriate use of the grant. Basically, the programme fished out many young poets who stand the chance of writing their names in gold in the near future.

Lastly, this report cannot be complete if we fail to bring to your notice that the third edition of the annual calendar of ANA- Abia has been produced. We look forward to having a better time after this year's convention to be hosted by ANA Enugu.



## ABUJA CHAPTER



## Nation building:

NTA, NAPTIP to partner ANA Abuja



op agencies of government, Nigeria Television Authority (NTA) Abuja and National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) have indicated interest to partner the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) Abuja chapter in enhancing social transformation and creating awareness on the ills affecting the youths and the society in general.

Welcoming a delegation of ANA Abuja members led by the vice chairman, John Freeman Ondoma who came to pay her a courtesy visit on Tuesday, August 20, 2019 the General Manager NTA Abuja, Hajia Fatima Abbas Hassan expressed happiness over the visit by the authors, saying NTA is open to partnership with any group that will foster their cardinal responsibility of informing, educating and entertaining their teeming viewers in Abuja and environs especially through creative writings, drama

and stage performance.

Hajia Hassan applauded efforts of ANA Abuja towards enhancing national development and curbing social ills through public enlightenment using creative means.

"We have over the years partnered ANA. There is an existing partnership. NTA Abuja under my leadership will solidify that partnership. We both are in the business giving information which overall interest is for the good of the Nigerian people" she added.

The veteran broadcaster stated that at this jet age, the importance of information cannot be overemphasized, insisting that NTA is keen to discharging its duties without fear or favour.

She expressed readiness to provide a medium for the association to

showcase its programs and policies to the larger society through publicity in line with it primary duty.

Earlier, ANA Abuja vice chairman John Freeman Ondoma thanked Hajia Hassan for receiving the delegation of writers.

He enumerated some of the activities the association embark upon in line with adding value to national development to include school outreach programs where younger ones are mentored, guest and celebrity authors' reading session, roundtable discussion on critical issues and critique of members' works to ensure quality among others.

Similarly, the Director Research & Programs, National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) Godwin Mouka while welcoming the delegation of Abuja authors on behalf of the Director

#### **ABUJA** CHAPTER



General said literature plays a pivotal role in fighting trafficking and sexual harassment.

He extolled ANA's efforts towards stemming the tide of trafficking through creative writing and visual arts.

Mr. Godwin expressed the readiness of the agency to partner ANA Abuja in the publication of materials that will enhance the campaign against human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

As part of activities marking this year's international day of the African child, the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) Abuja chapter on Tuesday, June 18, 2019 took its campaign for inclusiveness in education to the School for the Blind Jabi, Abuja.

Speaking at the event, the chairman of the chapter, Halima Usman said the Association thought it necessary to identify with the people she described as special ability people.

She added that the Association has embarked on campaign for promotion and development of education in other public and private schools within the FCT, saying in the spirit of inclusiveness and fairness the authors deemed it worthy to identify with the school.

"I don't call them blind people. I call them special ability people. We came here to see these children, relate with them and encourage them that anything they can imagine in their lives, they can be.

"We want to show them love and care especially today that the world is marking the International day of the African





child. We say this is the right place to celebrate. We say these are all African children, talented and gifted. They have every other thing any other child has. So they should not be forgotten or neglected.

"We also want to bring them to the fore so that every other person interested in visiting them but do not know they exist, will know that there is a school like this and that the school needs their love. A little love goes a long way" she stated.

She also expressed gratitude to the sponsor of the outreach, Yusuf Ali (SAN) for his philanthropic gesture in making available resources to the national body of the Association for such project.

Usman called on other well meaning Nigerians who have what it takes to help people with special needs and indeed other Nigerians especially in their academic pursuit.

"If we have more people giving grants to the Association like this, we will be able to do a lot. There are lots of other people that need help. The school for the blind is one of them. Even government schools, there are lots of children with great abilities but the school facilities





are not enough.

"So if we have more people coming up like Yusuf Ali (SAN), coming to sponsor, it will go a long way in encouraging reading, writing and education generally. It will also encourage writers, including young authors. We have talented children here than can become young authors" she revealed.

Also speaking, the Executive Director, Research Innovation and Development, Prof. Emeka Aniagolu charged the students not to be limited by their physical challenge.

He said their brain is an instrument to make them actualise their goals and be what they want to be in life.

"Sightlessness is not the only form of handicap. Some people are handicapped by their ignorance. If you don't know something, don't find out about something, you don't read about Sightlessness is not the only form of handicap. Some people are handicapped by their ignorance.

it, you don't inform yourself, you are blinded by your ignorance and that is handicap" he stated.

Prof. Aniagolu urged the students to invest in their minds by learning, reading and finding out about things, saying it will not matter they don't have physical sight.

In his reaction, the head teacher of the school, Mallam AbdulrazakSuraju expressed gratitude to the Association for the visit.

He said the visit will instill a

sense of love in the minds of the visually impaired children, whom he said are usually forgotten by the society.

He extolled the efforts of the government in establishing the institution but decried the lack of learning materials for the students.

MallamSuraju revealed that the learning equipment for the visually impaired children are not locally produced, calling on philanthropists, associations and groups to complement the efforts of the government in improving the academic activities in the school.

Highlights of the event were the presentation of relief materials from ANA Abuja, reading by members of the chapter Chinyere Obi-Obasi and Salamatu Sule, storytelling by Oluwaseun Odukoya, popularly known as Aunty Shine Shine and presentation by the students.



## AKWA IBOM CHAPTER



ssociation of Nigerian A u t h o r s (A N A) Akwalbom state chapter celebration World Poetry day with readings that was held at St. Athanasius Hospital's conference hall. The event was attended by dignitaries such as Prof. KaluUka, Dr. Martin Akpan and Dr. BasseyUbong who made great contributions to the poetic pieces that were delivered by members. A N A/Yu s u f Ali R e a d in g Campaign for 2019 was held on the 31st day of July 2019 at The

Centre for Arts and Culture Abak road Uyo. Twelve schools across the three senatorialdistricts were invited and eleven schools made it for the event. At the end of the ceremony, St. Colambanus Secondary school Ikwen in IkotEkpene Senatorial District came first, followed by Cornelia Connelly College and Air Force Secondary School all in Uyo Senatorial District who came second and third respectively. The occasion was chaired by Dr. Martin Akpan while Prof. Luke

Eyohof the Department of English UniUyoserved as the chief judge. Book a Child a national project of ANA Nigeria was carried out by ANA Akwalbom chapter and this was co- ordinated by Monsieur Nselsong and the pilot school was Salvation Army school at Akai Ubium. The book that was used is written by Dr. ChinyereObasi . The principal and students of the school were elated to receive the copies of the book.











## YOBE CHAPTER



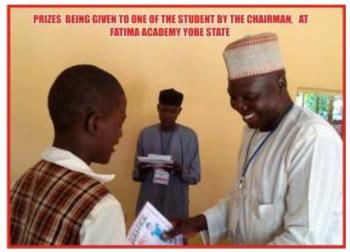






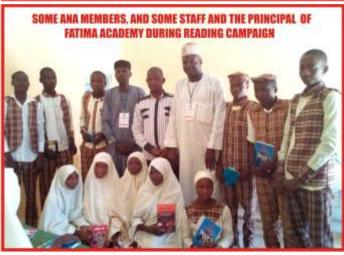






#### **YOBE CHAPTER**



















## BAYELSA CHAPTER



s a way of marking the end of the 2017/2019 administration of the Association of Nigerian Authors, Bayelsa State Chapter, the Executive under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Bina Nengi-Ilagha hosted a State Convention.

To see to the successful hosting of the convention, a committee was constituted which was headed by the immediate past General-Secretary of the State Chapter, **Barr. Ebi Robert**. With the necessary energy and synergy well channeled, the convention was successfully held at the Prof. Steve Azaiki Public library in Yenagoa, on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August, 2019.

The theme of the Convention was "Niger Delta Writers in Contemporary African **Literature**". The Keynote address was delivered by Prof. Ogaga Okuvade, of the Department of English and Literary Studies, Niger Delta University. The convention also featured a panel session with a sub-theme, "The Role of Creative Writers In Fostering Peace and Development in Nigeria", which was moderated by Ebidenyefa **Tarila Nikade**. The panelists were Prof. Barclays Ayakoroma, Head of Department, Theatre Arts, University of Africa, Toru Orua; Nengi Josef Ilagha, Pioneer Chairman, ANA BAYELSA STATE; Uzor Nwamara, Chairman, ANA RIVERS STATE; Dr. Helen Opigo, Senior lecturer, Federal University Otuoke/Former Vice Chairman, ANA BAYELSA STATE; and High Chief Seiyefa Korove, Chairman, Bayelsa State Library Board/retired lecturer of literature in the School of Humanities, University of Port Harcort.

Also included in the Convention programme was the unveiling of the 8<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Mariner, which is the Journal of the Chapter. The Edition, which was published in 2018 featured contributions from





many countries of the world such as, the United States of America, England, Romania, Canada, Australia, China, South Korea, Ghana, etc. Apart from the Antarctica, there was hardly any continent of the world that the Mariner did not visit, thereby making the publication completely an international piece.

There was also a ceremony whereby members of the Chapter who had distinguished themselves in many ways were awarded for their services.

#### THE ANA BAYELSA STATE YUSUFALI POETRY PRIZE

One of the programmes of the ANA BAYELSA STATE Convention was the ANA/Yusuf Ali Reading promotion's poetry prize. Following the Association's qualification for the grant, and subsequent receipt of same, ANA BAYELSA organized a poetry competition of Secondary Schools. A sub-committee headed by Ete Opusam was constituted for that purpose. A call for submission was made to Secondary Schools in

#### **BAYELSA** CHAPTER



Bayelsa. ? Schools participated. The competition was divided into two parts. Viz: The written aspect and the spoken word slam. Students were encouraged to write poems on the theme "Corruption Has Paralyzed My Country: But Here Are My Solutions". The shortlisted poems were to be performed on stage by the poets.

After the adjudication of the submitted entries, a shortlist of eleven poems and poets were selected. The poets were invited to the ANA Convention for the grand finale and were assessed by three judges led by Dr. Sophia Obi.

The first three Poets were:

\*First Position: Favour Alagba --- Poem: Stand Up Nigeria, Stand Up, Stand Up and Explain (National Epie Secondary School, Kpansia)

\*\*Second Position: Ojuemi favour --- Poem: How Corruption Has Paralyzed My Country, But These Are My Solutions (School: Central Epie Secondary School Opolo)

\*\*\*Third Position: Dickson Timiadi – Poem: Crippled Land (School: Potter's Touch High School)
Breakdown of designated amounts for items:

First Prize: N20,000.00 Second Prize: 15,000.00 Third Prize: 10,000.00

N105,000.00 covered items such as (a) Refreshments (b) Stationery, Production of Letters, Photocopying (c) Dispatch of letters to Schools before and after the release of shortlisted poets (d) Creation of Concepts for the programme (e)

Programme announcement (f) Designing and printing of certificates for Students (g) Logistics etc.

The convention was rounded off with the elections, which had Dr. Akpos Adesi emerging as the new Chairman of the State Chapter.

















he 2019 ANA/Yusuf Ali Literary Awareness and Reading Campaigns in Benue state was indeed unique and groundbreaking. This year, ANA Benue Chapter took its literary awareness and reading campaigns to some of the most vulnerable and neglected segments of society who are most often almost forgotten, namely, Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs, who have been forced out of their ancestral homes as a result of incessant attacks on communities by herdsmen and are now living in IDP Camps across the state as well as Nigerian Prison inmates serving various terms in prisons across the state.

This move was in line with the directive from ANA National Secretariat to state chapters to be innovative in carrying out the 2019 ANA/Yusuf Ali Literary Awareness and Reading Campaigns. After securing the approval as well as the grant from the ANA National Executive Council, ANA Benue kick started the process with putting

together a planning and organising committee headed by the ANA Benue Vice Chairman, Mr. Paul Ugah to handle this year's exercise. Other members of the committee were, Dr. Charles Iornumbe, Terseer Sam Baki, Regina Achie Nege, Fater Vanger and Hope Idani.

First, the committee paid official courtesy visits to the State Controller of the Nigerian Prisons Service, ACG Pevigo Igba Peter on 9th April and to the Executive Secretary, Benue State Emergency Management Agency, SEMA, Mr. Emmanuel Shior on 25th April. These visits were necessary in order to seek not only the approval and cooperation but also the partnership of the two organisations in charge of the targeted beneficiaries for this year's campaign.

Thereafter, appeals soliciting members of the public to donate relief materials to ANA Benue State Secretariat for onward distribution to prison inmates and Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs, were made through radio announcements

and social media. In return, the committee received various items such as used clothes, shoes, food stuff and cash donations from public spirited individuals and donors.

Hallmark of the 2019 ANA/Yusuf Ali Literary Awareness and Reading Campaign in Benue was the essay writing contest organised for both the prison inmates and the Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs. Prison inmates were given the topic, "My Life as a Nigerian Prison Inmate" to write on while the IDPs were asked to write on the topic, "My Life as an Internally Displaced Person."

On 3rd May, the organising committee was at the Makurdi Medium Prison facility to sensitise inmates on the importance of reading and writing as well as the competition. Writing materials as well as flyers containing guidelines for the writing competition were also distributed to the inmates. At the end, twelve (12) inmates submitted entries for the essay competition.

#### **BENUE** CHAPTER



The official Opening Ceremony of the 2019 ANA/Yusuf Ali Literary Awareness and Reading Campaign was held at the Daudu IDP Camp I on 27th June. Because of the overwhelming population of the Camp, only those who could read and write among the IDPs were allowed to participate in the exercise. Talks on reading and writing were given to the participants; there was a reading and critiquing session whereby ANA members and some of the IDPs read from their works. Relief items made up of clothes, shoes, beverages and assorted food items were presented to them through the Camp officials.

After sensitising them on the essay writing contest, writing materials and flyers containing guidelines on the contest were handed over to the Camp officials for distribution to all contestants. Twenty-six (26) entries were received from the IDPs who participated in the contest.

Shortlisted entrants were announced on 22nd July while on 31st July, the 2019 ANA/Yusuf Ali Literary Awareness and Reading Campaign Closing Ceremony and Awards presentation was held at NUJ House, Makurdi. The event which was under the chairmanship of a former Chairman of Guma Local Government Council, Mr.

Frank Usa-Adi also had the Benue State Commissioner for Lands, Survey and Solid Minerals, Mr. Bernard Unenge and Caretaker Chairman of Makurdi Local Government Council, Mrs. Cecelia Agbe as distinguished guests of honour.

Others were the priest in charge of St. Augustine's Catholic Mission, Demekpe-Makurdi, Reve rend Father Solomon Mfa who presented the keynote speech while the Executive Secretary, State Emergency Management Agency SEMA, Emmanuel Shior and ANA Benue chapter served as hosts.









## EBONYI CHAPTER

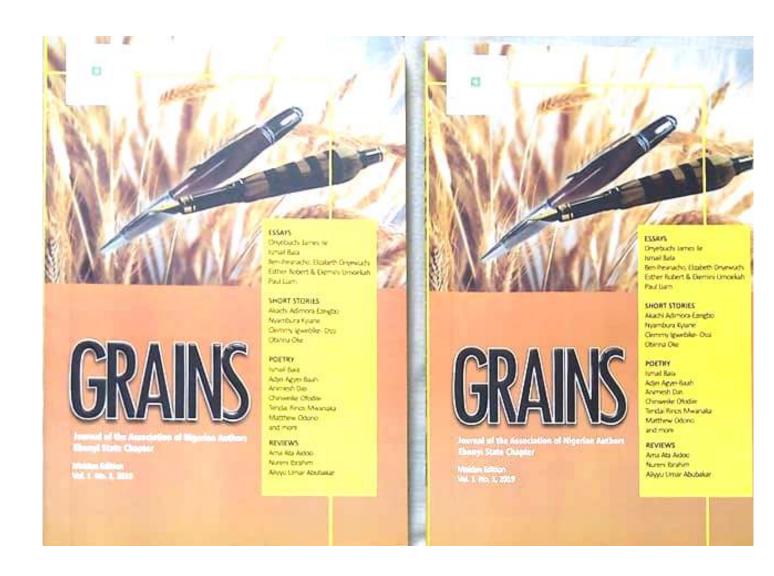


In line with the directive from the national secretariat regarding the submission of reports by state chapters, may you find below our submission.

ANA EBONYI has been a beehive of activities so far this year. Beyond its Monthly Reading sessions, which have remained consistent, hosting guest readers from other chapters, the chapter played a key role in seeing to the success of the Expanding Frontiers International Conference held at the Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike Ikwo - from planning to execution.

Recently, the chapter released the Maiden Edition of its journal, *Grains*. The mission of *Grains* is

straightforward: to be a journal of literary criticism and creative writing that ranks among the best of its kind in Africa. The essays featured here came from outstanding academics in different universities; their varied ideas and thematic concerns would interest the scholar and general reader with great appetite for good literary critical broths. The contemporariness and freshness of the topics, the comprehensiveness, incisiveness, and sublimity of the critical engagements of studied texts redefine literary scholarship and point to our showcase of a crop of determined and result-orientated literary critics. There are also quality reviews, short stories and poems.











From Left: Alh Bashir Othman Tofa, His Highness Muhammad Sanusi II (Emir of Kano) and Prof. Mustapha A. Isa (VC Yusuf MaitamaSule University)

ano Literary Week:
The Association of
Nigerian Authors
(ANA), Kano State Branch
celebrated its annual Kano
Literary Week from 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>
December, 2019 at Murtala
Muhammad Library Complex,
Kano. The event which had its
theme as Creative Writing as a
Tool for Enhancing Democracy
came in a period when the nation
was preparing for the national
elections.

The program commenced with an impressive grand opening under the chairmanship of Professor Mustapha Ahmad Isa, the Vice Chancellor of Yusuf Maitama Sule University, Kano. The programme was graced with the presence of the Emir of Kano,

His Highness Muhammadu Sanusi II and ten of his high ranked district heads. Other prominent people at the occasion were the keynote speaker, Professor Habu Mohammed, Alhaji Bashir Othman Tofa, the National Republican Convention (NRC) candidate in the annulled Nigeria's June 12, 1993 presidential election, Bala Muhammad and many Professor and established writers.

In his remark, His Highness MuhammaduSanusi II stressed the importance of education as the only measure through which Nigerians can embrace to pull out from the present socio-economic and political bind. The Emir also stressed the need for the

government to adopt the use of our indigenous languages as a medium of instruction in our conventional institutions of learning especially in science, technical and medical related courses.

He stressed that writers have a gargantuan role to play in the process of reforming the social life and affairs of our people. He therefore beseeched the writers to expand their writing horizons so as to cover and create a positive influence in our day-to-day life.

Part of the activities that were celebrated during the week include, reading through role model, writers' talk, literary quiz competition for secondary schools, writers' parley and



presentations of award.

#### **Elections of New EXCO**

The new EXCO of ANA Kano came on board on 7th April, 2019. The elections of the new Executives were presided by Professor Yusuf M. Adamu. At the end of the day, Zaharaddeen Ibrahim Kallah emerged the new Chairman of the Branch and MaimunaSaniBeli and his Vice Chairperson. Others includedTijjaniMuhamad Musa (Secretary), Bilkisu Yusuf Ali (Treasurer), Sani Abba Sa'idu (Assistant Secretary), DanladiHaruna (Treasurer). The elections were monitored by Ismail Bala, who represented the national body.

# ANA Kano EXCO Swearing-in Ceremony

The Swearing-in of the new EXCO was held at Murtala Muhammad Library Complex, Kano on 9thJune, 2019. The event was so eventful with special readings and Hausa



From Left: ANA Kano Chairman Zaharaddeen I. Kallah, DrNu'uman M. Habib, Prof. Habu Mohammed, Prof. Ismail M. Zango and Secretary Tijjani Muhammad Musa

Writers Parley, where established writers and the new budding online writers that are seeking for recognition were invited for interaction with the general public. The Writers that were engaged for the parley were Umma Sulaiman 'Yanawaki, Rufaida Umar and Salma Atiku

(Khadija Sidi). The new EXCO were inaugurated after the parley by Professor Abdulkadir Dangambo, a patron of the Association for over two decades

#### ANA Kano Honours Prof. Abdulkadir Dangambo

The Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA), Kano State Branch has organized a special reading in honour of its patron Professor Abdulkadir Dangambo who was conferred with Emeritus Professorship by Bayero University, Kano. The event took place on 14th July, 2019 at the Murtala Muhammed Library Complex, Kano.

While welcoming dignitaries and other guests, the Chairman of ANA Kano, Zaharaddeen Ibrahim Kallah appreciated Emeritus Professor Dangambo, for the role he play as a patron of the Association over two decades ago. The Association presented a







From left: ANA Kano Secretary, Tijjani M. Musa; Sheikh Ibrahim Khalil; Emeritus Professor Abdulkadir Dangambo and Dr. Halima Abdulkadir Dangambo

merit award to the celebrant for his standing and meritorious contribution to the Association, Hausa language and literary activities.

# Creative Writers' Forum / Dandalin Marubuta

ANA Kano Creative Writers' Forum for English Writers takes place every last Saturday of the month, while its Hausa version DandalinMarubuta takes place every first Sunday of the month. The fora continue to be training grounds for young writers and

also platforms for established writers to share their works with the general public.

## **Courtesy Visits to Patrons of the Association**

With the coming on board of the new elected EXCO of ANA Kano, they have paid courtesy visits to its patrons and other relevant stakeholders to intimate them on the Associations' activities, their next manifesto and seek for their blessings. Some of the patrons and stakeholders visited included

Professor Abdulkadir Dangambo, Sheikh Ibrahim Khalil, The Director Kano State History and Culture Bureau, the Executive Secretary Kano State Library Board and Ambassador Ahmad Umar (Danmalikin Kano).

#### NCC-ANA Kano Conference on Copyright and Marketing of Books

The National Copyright Commission (NCC) Kano in collaboration with the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) Kano State has organized a one-day conference on copyright and marketing of books. The event gathered all the relevant stakeholders across writers' bodies, publishers, books marketers and library board to discuss the best practices for promoting creative works, managing copyright and intellectual properties. The event which was part of the World Book Day celebration was held on 23rd April, 2019 at the Murtala Muhammad Library Complex, Kano.

#### **National Poetry Month**

ANA Kano in collaboration with American Space, Kano celebrated National Poetry Month on 27th April, 2019. At the event, both Hausa and English poets had excellent presentations of poems. The event was chaired by ANA Kano Chairman, Zaharaddeen Ibrahim Kallah. While welcoming writers to the programme, the Coordinator of American Space Kano, Mal. AbdulrahmanMagaji, assured American Space continuous support to writers and intellectuals to harness their talents.



### **KANO** CHAPTER





Some EXCO members with the Executive Secretary, Kano State Library Board

#### Special Reading in Honour of Mujahyd Ameen Lilo

The Kano State Branch of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA), has organized a special reading in honour of its member, a young and promising writer MujahydAmeenLilo who won Soyinka essay writing. The event was held on 27th July, 2019 at the American Space, Kano. Members of the Association presented poems and short stories in honour of the celebrant. On his part, the celebrant presented some of his works including a travelogue, sharing his experience at the competition and marvelous encounter with Prof. Soyinka.



Prof. Wale Soyinka presenting an award to Mujahyd Ameen Lilo



Members of ANA Kano listening to a presentation



# KOGI CHAPTER





The Kogi State Chapter of the Association of Nigerian Authors successfully executed the 2019 ANA/YUSUF ALI SHORT STORY COMPETITION FOR TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS.

Participants were required to submit a short story using one of the following themes:

- 1. Climate change
- 2. Domestic violence
- 3. Substance abuse/Depression/Suicide
- 4. Insecurity

As part of the requirements, entries were to be written in English Language, be original and creative, and fall within word count limit of 750-1500 words. Plagiarised materials were disqualified!

Deadline for submission was 17th August, 2019.

Entries were received in MS Word or PDF via the official e-mail of ANA-KOGI (anakogistate@gmail.com) or forwarded to Mamenoka Awodi of the School of General Studies,

Kogi State Polytechnic, Lokoja.

More than 500 entries were received from schools across the country.

The top 30 writers were invited for a Creative Writers Workshop on September 6th, 2019.

Cash prizes were presented to top winners during the Grand Finale which held on Saturday, September 7th, 2019 at Hall A, Kogi State Polytechnic, Lokoja.

As part of the prizes, the top 3 writers were offered sponsorship to ANA's 38th International Annual Convention coming up October 31st to Nov 1st, 2019. The event was graced by the National President, Denja

Abdullahi, among other dignitaries.

The Patron of ANA-KOGI, Mr. Simbabi Ogbeha was ably represented.

Representatives from the Ministry of Education were in attendance, as well as the crew from Confluence TV and Grace FM 95.5.

It was a highly successful event!



#### Introduction

The Kwara State Chapter of the Association of Nigerian Authors (Kwara ANA) by the special grace of the Almighty, and without any iota of doubt, has been harmoniously growing from strength to strength and bounds to bounds. All praises and thanks are to the Almighty!

Aside the fact that the Monthly Reading Session of the Chapter has remained regular and consistently witnessing an inthrust of new & old members, youthful, dynamic and very versatile writers; the Chapter has also experienced a robust and very prolific season of publishing where many new works of members got published. The Chapter has also been serving as a Faculty in the State for a number of functions and Agencies such as: Kwara State Branch of the National Library of Nigeria (NLN) and MMGIVIT Charity Poetry Competition.

The Chapter is also currently working on fostering Partnership to bring about synergy among the State Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture & Youths Development, Kwara State Branch of the National Library of Nigeria (NLN) as well as the Kwara State Library, with a view towards further strengthening reading culture in the Society; and this has really advanced greatly with commitments from most of the Agencies.

This was also further advanced a round the period of inauguration of the new administration in the State where the Chapter was able to submit a position paper on Promoting Reading Culture in the State to the Transition Committee.

# 2019 Activities and Pictures

At this juncture, it is pertinent to highlight some of the engagements of Kwara ANA during the year under consideration:

# 1. Public Presentation of Harmonious Chronicles (Kwara ANA Anthology) and Commemoration of World Poetry Day:

The World Poetry Day Commemoration and the Public Presentation of Harmonious Chronicles, a debut Publication (Anthology) from the stables of

Kwara ANA held on 21st March, 2019 at Mustapha Akanbi Library and Resource Centre premises was indeed a huge success. The event chaired by ANA National President, MallamAbdullahiDenja, ably represented by ANA Ekiti Chairman, Barrister Tai OguntayoAkogun, witnessed great representation from various academic institutions. media and non-governmental organisations. The event which evolved as a result of the collaboration with the Kwara State Branch of National Library of Nigeria also had meaningful representations from some secondary schools in the State, Mustapha Akanbi Foundation (MAF) as well as the Akanbi family itself.

Highlights of the event include the welcome address by Kwara ANA Chairman, Mal. Aderinoye, A.R.A; opening speech by Chairman of the Day,



Barrister T.O Akogun (ANA National President Representative); "Why We are Here" by Mrs. KafayatOlani of the Kwara State branch of the National Library of Nigeria (NLN); the Book Review by Dr. Mahfouz Adedimeji, taken by Dr. FahmAbdulgafar of the University of Ilorin; Tribute to late Hon. Justice M.M.A.Akanbi by Prof. Abdullahi Abubakar, Immediate Past Vice Chairman of Kwara ANA; Poetry and Spoken Word Presentations from Junior & Senior Secondary School Students present, members of the Public and some Kwara ANA members; while the event climaxed with the Public Presentation/Launching of Harmonious Chronicles.

# 2. Chapter Convention/Election:

The Chapter held its Convention on 5th May, this year where it dissolved old executive members to elect new ones that shall oversee its affairs for the next two (2) years. The election was successfully conducted under the supervision and by a National Officer of the Association, in the person of Col. OladeleBabajamu (rtd), PRO North.

# 3. Celebration of Diamond Jubilee Of Former Chairman:

The Chapter at its reading of July also organized a special reading session in honour of its former Chairman and the current National PRO (North), Col. OladeleBabajamu (rtd) who recently clocked sixty. The event held at Knowledge Platform, Agba dam link road, GRA, Ilorin featured reading of works/poems from the celebrant's literary publications as well as reading from the avalanche of well wishing thoughts and poems on his 60th birthday already marked by him on the 19th of May with the release of a poetry collection entitled "Time-out With The Bard". The event had his wife, Mrs 'Nike Babajamu and some of his childhood friends as well as all Kwara ANA members in attendance, who cheered and showered him encomiums. The Chapter in recognition of his contribution, advice and mentorship also presented him with a plaque.









#### 4. Courtesy visit to Olofa of Offa on ANA/Yusuf Ali Literary Awareness Programme:

To further spread the message of literary awareness across the state, the Chapter representatives led by the Chairman, MalamAbdur-Rahman Adebayo ADERINOYE on Monday, 5th August, 2019 embarked on a courtesy visit to the Olofa of Offa for the purpose of intimating him (Olofa) on the Chapter's resolve to ensure the hosting of this year's ANA/Yusuf Ali Literary Awareness Campaign programme at Offa axis, ahead of the programme scheduled to hold on 3rd October, 2019 at Offa Grammar School, Offa, Kwara State.







#### 5. 2019 ANA/Yusuf Ali Literary Awareness Programme:

The Annual Yusuf Ali Literary Campaign is a campaign to create and promote literary awareness in the society. In other to fulfill this vision, the Kwara State chapter of the Association of Nigeria Authors, took the 2019 edition of the Yusuf Ali Literary Campaign to Offa and its environs, changing the tradition of always hosting it in Ilorin the Kwara State capital.

The Campaign was held at Offa Grammar School, Offa, Kwara State on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2019 and the occasion was well attended. Those that graced the program include the Principal, Teachers and Students of Offa Grammar School, Oyun Baptist High School, Ijagbo, the Commandant, Nigeria Navy Secondary School, Offa, Representative of St. Clare

Secondary School, Offa. Also in attendance were some Executive and members of Kwara ANA led by the Chairman, Mallam Aderinoye, A.R.A, the National P.R.O (North), Col. Oladele Babajamu who had dual role of being a national officer as well as the representative of the National Vice President, Mr. Camilus Ukah, an aspirant for the much coveted office of President of the Association.

At the end of the Programme, BalogunOyindamola of Oyun Baptist High School, Ijagbo came 1<sup>st</sup> in the Poetry category, Mustapha Abdulsabur of Offa Grammar School, Offa took the 2 <sup>n d</sup> position while AjibolaMosimiloluwa of St ClaresAnglican Girls Grammar School, Offa took the 3 <sup>rd</sup> position.

In the Essay writing category,

Mustapha Abdulsabur of Offa Grammar School, Offa emerged as winner of the 1<sup>st</sup>position, AbdulFataiZainab also of Offa Grammar School came 2<sup>nd</sup> and AbdullateefRukayat from same school emerged 3<sup>rd</sup>.

At the climax of the Programme was the presentation of different books, certificates and book shelves to winners, participants and the four (4) Schools. The presentations of bookshelves were geared toward encouraging the use of library in the schools and consequently promoting reading culture in the Society at large. At the end of the program, members of the Chapter paid another courtesy visit to the palace of the Olofa of Offaand presented him with an Award for his support to literary development which was received on his behalf by the Deputy Chief of Staff to the Olofa. Below are some of the pictures of the event:















































# PLATEAU CHAPTER



Association of Nigerian Authors Jos, Plateau State, has been instrumental towards the development and sustenance of literary cum creative activities on the Plateau. From creating of readers clubs in secondary schools, providing platforms for the sale of creative abilities/products to addressing social issues and pressurizing government on the importance of education and the nurturing of creativity.

#### **PUBLICATION**

We have had an exciting 2019. We witnessed and celebrated a new prose fiction publication titled "Scarlet" by Alexander Emmanuel. A thrilling epic story of Africa, "Scarlet" has been recognised by the Kenyan educational authorities, and has enjoyed international reviews and sales, including an expository cocktail party with the author, held in Jos.







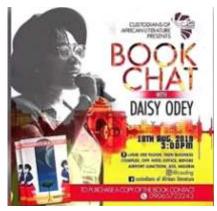


#### **PLATEAU** CHAPTER

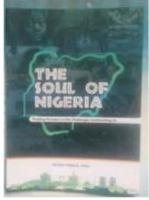


#### **BOOK READINGS**

Ana Plateau enjoyed a number of book readings and one on one chats with some of her prolific writers and authors, where ideas on writing, storytelling, performance, publishing and general creativity were espoused upon to consolidate creativity and encourage budding Creatives. Amongst the titles celebrated at the book readings are "The Man With the White Hat" BY Uvie Ann Marie Giwewhegbe. "The Mason's Daughter" by Eric Ganan Pam, Ancestral Farewell by Dickson Salami Adama, "The Soul of Nigeria" by Victor MeshackJatau, and "Fragments in a Closet" by Daisy Odeh.













#### **WORLD LITERACY DAY**

8<sup>th</sup> September 2019 saw the International Literacy Day well celebrated on the Plateau, as members of the Association of Nigerian Authors took part in a one week celebration which included a "Jos Walk for Literacy" to sensitize the general public on the need for increased literary activities to curb the menace of social vices.







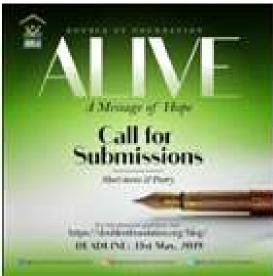
#### **PLATEAU** CHAPTER



#### **ANTHOLOGY**

In support of the Double ST Foundation, a foundation with the primary aim of combating the menace of suicide through providing health support and assistance to depressed and mentally challenged persons, members of the Association of Nigerian Authors Plateau threw in their support and contributions in a literary anthology soon to be published.





#### **INAUGURATION CEREMONY**

**The Inauguration of newly elected Exco** members of the student chapter of ANA NTA Television College, was also a highlight of the year 2019. In the presence of the Rector (represented), the elected officials were tasked with keeping the activities of the association within the college alive and active.



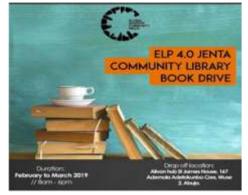




#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Book donation campaign**

The Association of Nigerian Authors Plateau recognises the immense role played by a books and literary materials in the development of societies, and so seeks your support in its book donation campaign to needy libraries and community centres within select communities in the city of Jos. Your donation of old and new books/literary materials will go a long way in sharpening the creative skills of people across the state, and keep our young people away from crime.





# THINK NIGERIA

### THINK LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS...

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Nigeria LNG is proud to be a Nigerian Company, operating in a global market and helping to build a better nation. We are powered by integrity, team work, respect, excellence and caring - the qualities essential to being a global leader and a model company in a country that is growing in many ways. Supplying natural gas since 1999, NLNG has remained focused on values - and the challenges and commitment have never been stronger than today. Few achievements speak louder than the more than 4,000 LNG cargoes so far delivered to customers all around the world.

As the arrowhead of Nigeria's ambition to eliminate gas flaring from the country's oil and gas producing fields, NLNG has been globally recognized for its safety and reliability record in meeting the energy demands of our global customers in the Far East, Europe, the Middle East, and the Americas as well as those in our local environment.

Beyond NLNG's concerns for the environment, our progressive Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) portfolio has increasingly been anchored on sustainability, stake-holding and partnership, spanning education, health, enterprise development and infrastructure.

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- Stable electricity and pipe-borne water to thousands of homes and businesses in our primary host community on Bonny Island.
- \$12m of engineering infrastructure donated to six leading Nigerian universities.
- \$1b in our Local Vendors Financing Scheme, established in conjunction with five Nigerian Banks to provide easy access to venture capital for indigenous contractors.
- Sponsorship of the annual Nigeria Prizes for Literature and Science, Africa's most prestigious prizes, enabling scholarship and research in Science and the Arts, to the tune of \$100,000 each.
- Thousands of NLNG Scholarships in primary, secondary, graduate and post-graduate studies for talented young Nigerians.
- An integrated Train-7 growth programme which will boost annual LNG output from 22 to 30 million tonnes and increase income for Government and other partners.



