

Minister hails “enthusiasm” of Somalis in Ireland



Somalia community in Ireland

By Ian Callagy

The Minister for Trade & Development, Joe Costello TD, has praised the Somali community in Ireland for their “enthusiasm and dynamism”. Mr. Costello was speaking at an event in central Dublin to mark Somali Independence Day. He said it was “tremendous achievement” that Somalia had overcome so much turmoil in its past.

To repeated applause, from an audience made up largely of Somalis, the minister outlined EU and Irish policy towards improving the lives of many in the Horn of Africa region. Ireland has contributed considerably towards humanitarian needs in Somalia. However Mr. Costello said there were still “huge problems” in trying to alleviate suffering in the east African nation. Somalis have had to carry a “terrible burden” the minister said, adding that peace will lessen this load.

Mr. Adam Haji Dahir said his country has a troubled back story and this has led

to Somalis migrating all over the world. Mr Dahir was fulsome in his praise for Ireland, his adopted home. He hopes to return to his native land once good governance is restored there. Somalia, he said, has been “overtaken by warlords over the last 20 years”.

However great efforts have been made to pacify Somalia and the Turkish government has played a central part in this. The ambassador of Turkey, Necip Egüz, said his country wanted Somalia to be “a stable” nation and praised Ireland’s role in the rehabilitation of that part of Africa. He pointed out that Turkish Airlines are the only international carrier currently flying into Mogadishu.

In addition, the ambassador said, Turkey “strongly supported” the recent conference in London which was held to show international solidarity with Somalia in overcoming terrorism. Mr Egüz spoke of a number of initiatives, put in place by Turkey, to assist Somalia. He warmly congratulated Ireland’s Somali community on the 53rd anniversary of their independence.

‘Ireland new mission frontier’ - African Jesuit



Fr Agbonkhianmeghe Orobator SJ

By Mags Gargan

The Irish Church can be re-energised by welcoming missionaries from the developing world, an African Church leader has told a conference in Dublin.

Fr Agbonkhianmeghe Orobator SJ, Jesuit Provincial of the East African Province, warned that unless the Church in Ireland is willing to learn from the rapid spread of Catholicism in the global south, Irish Catholicism will inevitably drift into “resentment and nostalgia”.

Giving the opening address at the ‘Mission Today & Tomorrow’ conference on Wednesday, Fr Orobator urged the Church

here to embrace partnership with countries once evangelised by Irish missionaries.

“For such former mission territories, Ireland, as well as the rest of Europe, now represents a new mission frontier in the world Church,” he said.

Fr Orobator told the hundreds of Irish missionaries attending the event that in Ireland “the irresistible tsunami of secularisation erodes the capacity of traditional Catholic culture hitherto considered as the primary transmitter of faith”.

“The dwindling missionary capital of the Church in Ireland lies beyond doubt. The question is: Is Ireland ready to harvest the fruits of its missionary labours on its

Continued page 9

An Account of the visit of HRM Oba Kehinde Gbadewole Olugbenle, Olu of Ilaro, the paramount ruler of Yewaland to Ireland



page 6

Lola Oyediran & Jesus Palomo's wedding in London



page 11

Nigerian Deputy Head of Mission honoured in Cork



page 14

Racist and sectarian incidents must be reported



page 15

Gambian Farmers lauded PIWAMP's interventions

By Mamadou Edrisa Njie,
Banjul, The Gambia

Farmers across the length and breadth of The Gambia a small tiny West African state have hailed the activities of the Participatory Integrated Watershed Management Project (PIWAMP) in their regions. PIWAMP is International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) ongoing project in The Gambia.

PIWAMP in the recent years has improved our livelihood, especially we, (the women) of Jarumeh Koto village 220 kilometers away from the capital city, remarked Mrs. Lisa Ceesay, a rice grower in the village.

Madam Ceesay vouched that PIWAMP, since it started operations in the village in the rice fields, has constructed a multiple span bridge (2 bridge) for the women farmers at Jarumeh Koto rice fields. She added that the construction of the two bridges, have facilitated quick access to their rice fields, and also opened up new areas for rice cultivation for the women of Jarumeh Koto in Sami District, Central River North.

According to Madam Ceesay, the bridges also serve them (the women) and their young ones as a cushion against traumatic and unfriendly encounters with aquatic wildlife. She also noted that the construction of these bridges has minimized the risks of serious accidents that occur at the rice fields.

PIWAMP has also posted two extension workers in the villages- Mr. Ousman Bajinka and Mr. Sang Bass, whom Ceesay described as hard-working extension workers. Hear her: "The two gentlemen are very hard working

and they respond to our calls at anytime.

"We the women, are proud of their work and in fact anytime we need their service with regards to our rice fields or any problem we notice in our farming, they always respond to us positively and give us good advices and educate us on our activities in the rice fields."

In the village of Jarumeh Koto, Ceesay said that very few young people are engaging in rice cultivation and, she therefore called on the Jarumeh youths to go back to the land.

She reminded them that there are vast areas of land that they can cultivate for rice production, cereal, and even for gardening.

Madam Ceesay, while noting that PIWAMP's operations in the area had boosted rice production in the villages, was quick to point to the 2010-2011 failed crop season. She attributed it to low rainfall in the country.

Sarjo Dampha of Kachang Village in North Bank Region is also appreciative of PIWAMP's intervention in their area, noting that PIWAMP, since has, since the commencement of it operations in their area, "been working with women groups, and has constructed bridges, causeways, dikes and spillways".

These developments, Dampha held, have eased lots of burden on farmers in his area. Having observed that that the women dominate rice cultivation, Dampha used the opportunity to call on the men folk to follow suit.

Rice cultivation, Dampah noted, is very important as one would eat what he or she has grown and could also have income for the family. He also called on the youth to see agriculture as a point of business and not as a sector for illiterates or school drop-outs.



African Union Suspends Egypt

The African Union announced Friday that Egypt's membership has been suspended due to the military action in Cairo that deposed President Mohamed Morsi and suspended the nation's constitution.

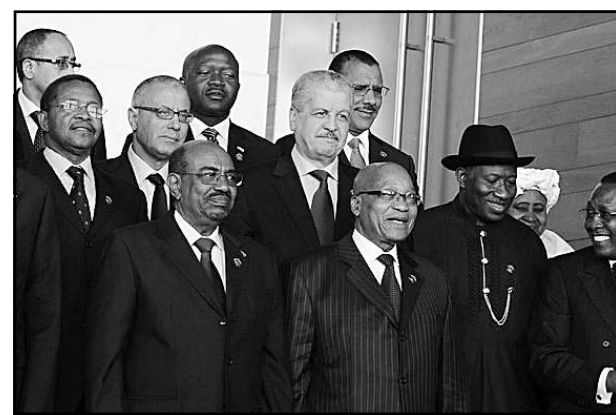
The secretary of the African Union Peace and Security Council, Admore Kambudzi, says Egypt is barred from participating in any AU activity.

"The overthrow of the democratic elected president does not conform to the relevant provisions of the Egyptian constitution and is therefore false under the definition of an unconstitutional change of government. The council decides to suspend the participation of Egypt in AU activities until the restoration of constitutional order," Kambudzi said.

The military toppled the Morsi government and declared the constitution suspended on Wednesday, saying the president had failed to meet demands of the Egyptian people. Egypt's top judge was sworn in as the country's temporary leader on Thursday.

Egypt's ambassador to the African Union, Mohamed Edrees, defended the military's actions. He told the AU Peace and Security Council Friday there has not been a military coup.

"The military role in this is to support the



A handout photo provided by the South African Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) on 27 January 2013 shows South African President Jacob Zuma (3-R)

people. The military did not instigate a coup or impose its own agenda against the will of the Egyptian people, on the contrary. The military supported the agenda of the people [and] the roadmap which was endorsed by the whole broad spectrum of the Egyptian society," Edrees said.

The African Union says it is planning to send a high-level delegation to Egypt to consult with the ruling authorities and others.

The African Union currently has three other member states on suspended status, all as a result of what are considered ACTIONS CONTRARY TO THEIR NATIONAL CONSTITUTIONS: Madagascar, Central African Republic and Guinea-Bissau.

Press freedom dropping ahead of Zimbabwe vote

With journalists attacked before the historic election a watchdog has urged reporters to "exercise caution".

By Haru Mutasa

I am back in Zimbabwe's capital Harare after a long absence, and am looking forward to reporting. The last time Al Jazeera was here, the team was briefly detained.

It's going to be an interesting week ahead of general elections planned for July 31, with a hearing due on Wednesday which will decide whether the constitutional court will grant an extension, so that the vote can be pushed back until August 14.

These elections will be the first held under a constitution. My Monday morning started by reading the papers to get up to speed with the main issues of the day.

One headline in NewsDay grabbed my attention: "Journos urged to exercise caution".

A press freedom watchdog, the Media Institute of Southern Africa Zimbabwe (MISA), has urged journalists "to avoid risky assignments and exposing themselves to volatile political gatherings ahead of harmonised elections this year". So far this month, at least four reporters have been attacked in the run up to the election.

"After the advent of the inclusive government, there were a few cases of attacks on journalists, but since the announcement of election dates, the attacks are beginning to increase," said Nyasha Nyakunu from MISA.

"We are now worried because of the cas-



es, including the attack on journalists Herbert Moyo of the Zimbabwe Independent newspaper and Mashudu Netsianda from the Chronicle newspaper."

Moyo was said to have been attacked while reporting on protests by members of Zimbabwe's main opposition party - the MDC - who were demonstrating against the choice of candidate for their constituency.

Netsianda had been briefly detained.

"It is the severity of cases that is worrying, like the incident where a journalist in Chinhoyi was severely beaten up," said MISA's Nyakunu. "Let's stay safe. There is no story worth dying for and there is no politician worth dying for." Most journalists know the best way to stay out of trouble in Zimbabwe is the same rule which applies everywhere; to try and tell all sides of the story.

If you interview someone from Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's MDC, it is only fair to give someone from President Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front party (ZANU-PF) the right to reply.

Now with even better exchange rates!



More Naira for your loved ones in Nigeria



Freephone: 00800 66639472
moneygram.ie



MoneyGram[®]
 money transfer

Send at:



Receive at:



And anywhere you see the MoneyGram sign

Fexco, International Currency Exchange, Joe Walsh Tours and UAE Exchange are agents of MoneyGram International Limited in the provision of money transfer services. MoneyGram and the Globe are trademarks of MoneyGram. All other marks are the property of their respective owners. MoneyGram International Limited is authorised and regulated in the United Kingdom by the Financial Services Authority. © 2012 MoneyGram. All rights reserved.

Remittances Create Safety Net for African Households

An estimated 30 million African migrants sent \$60 billion in remittances to support more than 120 million family members back home. The link between migration and remittances is significant. Initially, the migration of African professionals was seen as a “brain drain”, but has now given rise to various gains, including technical expertise, remittances and other development skills that Africa needs, and which the Diaspora is willing to impart.

Based on the importance of remittances, in 2012 the Global African Diaspora Summit adopted the African Institute for Remittances (AIR) as one of five flagship/legacy projects of the African Union (AU). One of the main objectives of the project is to facilitate the establishment of the Institute. The second is to provide technical assistance and capacity building to AU Member States in implementing concrete strategies to manage remittance flows as a develop-

ment tool for poverty reduction, thus benefiting senders, receivers and other stakeholders.

Since the Diaspora communities are the main remittance senders, several sensitization events shall be held to exchange views with them on how best AIR can meet their needs. The first of these was held in Brussels on May 16, 2013.

Chairing a panel during the AIR Forum in Brussels, Paul Noumba Um, Sector Manager of the World Bank's Finance and Private Sector Development, said “the link between migration and remittances, resulting in a \$60 billion safety net for African households, should not only finance consumption, but should be partially used for productive investment.”

“Remittances are no longer a stand-alone agenda, but are related to a broader development agenda built around technology, financial literacy and microenterprise,” he said.



Soheyla Mahmoudi, AIR TTL, and Paul Noumba Um, Sector Director, Finance and Private Sector Unit, AFR

THE AFRICAN VOICE

EDITORIAL TEAM

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief:

Malcolm O.Eremionkhale

Senior writer:

Ian Callagy

Columnist/Contributors

Prof. Shaheed Satardien

Kunle Animashaun

Dr. Thomas Cooney

Kirsi Hanifin

Eyum Ocheola-Oki

Ebun Akpoveta

Susu Olukemi Komolafe

Africa Columnist/

Contributors

Modou S.Joof

Saikou Jammeh

Mamadou Edrisa Njie

Contacts:

Tel.: 087-2618184

Email:

theafricanvoice@gmail.com

editortheafricanvoice@gmail.com

www.africanvoice.ie

Correspondence:

African Voice News paper

18 Stephen's Lane, Dublin 2

Rep of Ireland

FOLLOW US ON



LinkedIn

Raising the Profile of Trade in Services in Africa

African countries are seeing successes in exporting, not just goods to neighboring countries and overseas, but also services. In Uganda, universities are welcoming students from across the region. Kenyan accountants, doctors, and other professionals are working across borders in East Africa and beyond to provide consumers in those countries with more options and, in some cases, more competitive rates. In South Africa, transport services companies are working hand-in-hand with regulators to facili-

tate the transit of goods through essential ports along the supply chain.

“The World Bank sees services as a critical part of the development agenda in Africa and other regions of the world,” said Paul Brenton, Africa Trade Practice Leader for the World Bank. “We see this because services are a very important input to all other economic activities, so the competitive provision of services is crucial to the competitiveness of other products and services.

According to Brenton, important activities stem from the export of services: transportation services, professional services, education services, for instance

“Countries also need to look at how they treat the import of services, which serves as a mechanism for increasing competition by getting access to the types of services

that are not provided in the local market,” says Brenton.

Trade in Services in Africa was the focus on June 5 and 6 of a World Bank-sponsored learning event that brought together policy makers, trade negotiators, members of civil society, academics, the private sector, World Bank colleagues from the Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, Financial and Private Sector Development, Human Development and Public Sector Management networks, as well as others to encourage dialogue and reform in trade in services.

Trade in Services is key to growth, development and job creation in Africa, said Guang Chen, World Bank Country Director for Ethiopia. Using Ethiopia as an example, Chen said that services in Ethiopia represent the largest portion of the country's economy and have great potential to create jobs. Striking, Chen said, is the sector's significant role in Ethiopian exports. Foreign exchange generated by Ethiopia Airlines between 2007 and 2010, for example, was on average twice as much as that brought in by coffee.



Mali state of emergency lifted ahead of election

By Tiemoko Diallo

Mali has lifted its state of emergency to allow campaigning for a presidential election being held on July 28 after a French-led offensive to drive Islamist militants from the West African country.

But attacks on U.N. peacekeepers in a former rebel stronghold on Saturday underlined the continuing insecurity in the Sahara Desert north.

The state of emergency, imposed when the French offensive began in January, was lifted at midnight (0000 GMT), army spokesman Captain Modibo Naman Traore said.

The emergency measure had given sweeping powers to the army and banned gatherings of more than 50 people.

“The military situation has now stabi-

lised. Lifting the state of emergency will allow the candidates in the presidential election to campaign,” Traore said.

Some 28 candidates, including four former prime ministers, are standing in the election.

Experts and some Malian officials have expressed concern about holding the ballot so soon, saying the administration has been badly damaged, particularly in northern regions that were occupied by Islamists for 10 months. There are also concerns that hundreds of thousands of people displaced by the fighting might be unable to vote.

But diplomats say Western nations led by former colonial ruler France and the United States are pushing for the election date to be maintained because the interim administration is unable to tackle Mali's problems.



Malian interim President Dioncounda Traore (centre, in white scarf) watches a graduation ceremony for gendarmes in Bamako

30 South African men killed in ritual circumcision

Botched circumcisions killed 30 young men and landed almost 300 more in hospital during traditional initiation rites in a South African province, the health department said Sunday.

The 30 deaths in rural Eastern Cape Province occurred during the annual season when young males undergo a rite of passage into manhood. Ten other youths were hospitalized after being rescued from a forest on Sunday, said provincial health department spokesman Sizwe Kupelo in a statement.

"The ten initiates' private parts are rotten. They are badly damaged. Their condition is scary," he said. A further 293 young men were undergoing hospital treatment for dehydration, gangrene and septic wounds, Kupelo added.

Teenagers from ethnic Xhosa, Sotho and Ndebele groups typically spend around a month in secluded bush or mountains areas for their initiation to manhood. This includes a circumcision as well as lessons on masculine courage and discipline. Traditional surgeons perform the procedure in the bush, sometimes with unsterilized in-



Boys from the Xhosa tribe who have undergone a circumcision ceremony are pictured near Qunu, South Africa; Botched circumcisions killed 30 young men and landed almost 300 more.

struments or lacking in technique.

Botched circumcisions leading to penis amputations and deaths are an annual tragedy.

In May around 34 deaths in two other provinces were reported. The ruling African National Congress said Sunday it was "distressed" over the latest deaths. It called for basic medical training of the traditional surgeons to render "an entrenched and necessary part of our cultural fabric" safer.

Uganda frets over rebel threat as Congo refugees reach 66,000

By Elias Biryabarema

Uganda is worried that a rising stream of refugees fleeing fighting in eastern Congo could give easy passage for rebels to launch attacks in the country, the military said on Sunday.

The Uganda Red Cross Society said 66,000 Congolese refugees have so far crossed into the east African country since the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) started attacking the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo town of Kamangu on Thursday.

Paddy Ankunda, Uganda's military spokesman, said the large Congolese influx had negative security implications in the country's western region should rebels sneak in as refugees.

"You can't be sure of the identity of each and every individual refugee and also the increasing volatility of the security situation right across the border worries us. Kamangu is only about 10 km (six miles) from the border," he said. "No doubt we've stepped up our security deployments along the border because we certainly can't pretend that everything is okay, but for now we're only monitoring events across the border. We haven't sent a single soldier into Congo."

The Ugandan military said Congo troops

had retaken Kamangu since it was attacked by the ADF, and that there had been no fighting since Saturday but the situation remained volatile. Uganda has said the build-up of the ADF, which was active against Kampala in the 1990s, could threaten its Lake Albert region, where oil reserves estimated at 3.5 billion barrels have been discovered, with production expected to commence soon. The military is concerned that the al Qaeda-linked ADF could have gained guerrilla skills from al Shabaab, the al Qaeda-linked militant group operating in Somalia, which could be used in Uganda. For this reason, Ugandan troops are screening the refugees to flush out any possible ADF militia.

The ADF waged an insurgency against Kampala in the late 1990s from its bases in the Ruwenzori Mountains and across the frontier in the eastern Congo jungle. A government offensive that ended in 2001 quelled the uprising and pushed its remnants deeper into eastern Congo. The group had since kept largely silent since. Catherine Ntabadde, spokeswoman for the Uganda Red Cross, said the number of refugees was still growing.

"They're camped at four primary schools and WFP (the United Nations World Food Programme) has provided some food and (we) have also provided household items," she said.



Uganda frets over rebel threat as Congo refugees reach 66,000

Feature MOTIVATION IS KEY OF SUCCESS/NEVER GIVE UP



By Juliette Schlegl Fotsing

Part II

Some main big motivation's sources

Anger-humiliation-bullying

Why should you give up or stop doing because someone makes you angry or humiliates you?

Why are you so angry? What is wrong in your neighbourhood, in your school, in your workplace, in your family? What is wrong in the world? What are you going to do? Will you just sit there and pretend, for another week, another year, like those others do? Are you going to use your feelings of frustration as fuel for doing something that brings something positive to you and to the world? For sure, you can convert rage into wonder by recycling negative energy to positive one. You can go deep inside you're your own heart and bring something that can help you make a difference. Nothing is impossible. Humiliation and bullying are also ingredients of motivation and use them positively in order to look forward.

Repetition-sweating

Accept to have to get your hands dirty by working your own tasks. Sometimes the only way to learn, to grow, to make something great is through learning the basic and the trivial things. Sufficient repetition grants mastery of anything. Learning to draw, sing, or dance grows slowly from tiny or trivial seeds of skill. Boring task A might be required to attempt fresh challenge B. If you do not try at least you won't have anything. Just try until you get there you too. It can take time but for sure you will get there.

Pride

Why don't you prove the entire world that people are wrong? They say you can't do that or that it can't be done. Do it. Just do it. They tell you it's a waste of time?

They even insist that it is waste way. Do not let anyone define for you how to be. Never let people tell you how to use your time or what you or anyone else is capable of. Of course take into account their judgment, add it to your willingness in order to rise over the mountains, and towards your dream. Set your goal, follow up and make sure you achieve it.

Fun

You must know what you really like or what bring you more pleasure and make you laugh the way you have to hold your ribs to breathe. This is important because if you know how to have fun you will always be motivated to do something.

Friends

You should have friend that understand you and who can support you anytime you need them. Friends that say yes to discuss about your project. Cultivate friends best likely to get what you're talking about. Good friends who encourage you and rally behind you because they understand the reason why you care so much about things or something. Their support will increase the odds you will get your task done as well.

The discipline

Discipline is a main key of success. Without discipline your dreams will never come true. You must consistently and definitively take the first step by making a decision that you will follow your words until you achieve your goal. Think about an athlete and put on your running shoes and simply move on! After that never give up, take another step, and another.

Whenever you find yourself unmotivated, run then the list of feelings and frustrations of motivations and point out which ones you still need to improve. Then focus on them and it will be alright.

I hope that you this help you to control your mind and your own destiny. Although some tasks are difficult, nothing is impossible. Never give up, never and never. One who can discipline his mind can rule the world. Be always on your way back to whatever great thing you need to do.

Juliette Schlegl Fotsing, is an Author a publisher of TIMSHALL/A SAW-TOOTHED CAREER International Business Management diploma of International Business School BerlinPart certified Accountant Business Management degree of University of Sunderland, London, Last employee: UPS LTD IRELAND

An Account of the visit of HRM Oba Kehinde Gbadewole Olugbenle, Olu of Ilaro, the paramount ruler of Yewaland to Ireland



HRM K.G. Olugbenle



HRM AT THE ROYAL DINNER

By Kunle Animashaun

One of the most interesting events that took place recently within the African community in Ireland is none other than the cultural/economic official visit of a first class king from Nigeria. From the 10th to the 17th May 2013, His Royal Majesty, Oba Kehinde Gbadewole Olugbenle, Olu of Ilaro, the paramount ruler of Yewaland, Ogun State of Nigeria, came to Ireland on a visit that was lauded as a wonderful opportunity for intercultural dialogue between Nigerians living in Ireland and other nationalities, especially the way the King's visit encouraged and strengthened the bond of friendship, love and harmony with the many people he made contact with while in Ireland.

When the dates for the Kings visit were announced a couple of weeks earlier, a committee was specifically set up with the sole aim of making his visit a memorable one, therefore, upon his arrival, the grand reception that was given to the King at the airport is a pointer to

the fact that the members of the Association of Ogun State indigenes in Ireland ably led by Mr. Adedotun Adegbesan had left no stone unturned to honour the kabiyesi. Many members of the association were joined by Nigerians from all walks of life including eminent sons and daughters of Yewa who came out in large numbers to receive the Oba.

To add class to the occasion, the internationally acclaimed ultra-modern hospitality outfit, 'Vicky Robert Hospitality' was contracted to add colour, pomp and pageantry to the reception. The VRH hospitality team led by its CEO Mrs Victoria Okere were at the Arrival Wing of the Dublin Airport to usher in the king in a graceful way. What with their colourful display of traditional costumes and cultural artefacts with which they gave the King a wonderful welcome performance of songs and greetings imbued with Royal and cultural flavour. Without any doubt, to use the term 'reception befitting for kings' as an appraisal of the reception of Oba Kehinde Olugbenle at the Dublin airport will be very apt.

The first port of call was the Nigerian Embassy in Dublin where King Olugbenle and his entourage were warmly received by the Nigerian Ambassador to Ireland Mr Felix Y. Pwol who informed the King about the many great initiatives that he, through the Nigerian embassy has put in place and other ongoing ideas being generated so that Ireland could continue to be a conducive environment for Nigerians living here, for example, the idea of bringing the Nigerian community in Ireland together under an umbrella body with the aim of having a common voice while exploring other areas of collaboration on issues affecting the Diaspora.

The second day, the King undertook a tour of the many businesses and companies owned and managed by Nigerians in Ireland. Accompanied by the AOSI President Mr. Dotun Adegbesan, King Olugbenle visited Kimex Super-

store, Wollydee Associate, Onsite Refuelling and Heritage foods and confectioneries etc. At the Kimex Superstore, Kabiyesi was warmly received by the CEO Mr. Akeem Sanusi who took the King and his entourage round the company. According to Mr. Sanusi, "Kimex Superstores in Ireland was established about twelve years ago", he also added that "most of our supplies come directly from Nigeria".

The next port of call was a Nigerian business enterprise that provides Accountancy and Consultancy services not only to Nigerians in Ireland but all other nationalities as well. Impressed by his achievements and contributions to the Irish society, the King congratulated the CEO, Mr. Oluwale Idowu who thanked the Kabiyesi for kind words. Mr. Idowu however used the opportunity to inform the King

Continued page 7



Welcoming HRM at DUBLIN AIRPORT



HRM with The MAYOR of Dublin

An Account of the visit of HRM Oba Kehinde Gbadewole Olugbenle, Olu of Ilaro, the paramount ruler of Yewaland to Ireland

Continued from page 6

that “Nigerian professionals here are ready to extend these qualitative professional services back home if given the opportunity”.

Then the King and his entourage moved on to another part of Dublin where they were received by the impressive Mr. Adeola Ogunsina, the CEO of Onsite-Fuelling Ltd, a mobile diesel company supplying value for money fuel on request to individuals and companies with fleet of cars. In fact, King Kehinde Olugbenle’s car tank was filled up as a mark of honour. One would hope that there can be collaboration between Onsite Refuelling and Nigerian business in the oil industry, especially with Nigeria being the seventh petroleum producing economy in the world.

The tour of businesses by His Royal Majesty, King Olugbenle thereafter moved on to a Nigerian owned food, beverage and confectionaries company in Lucan. Heritage Foods is where Africans in Dublin flock to for lovely Nigerian Foods. Their array of edibles includes Egusi and Ewuro, Edikaikon soup, Ewa Aganyin, Jollof Rice, Fresh pounded yam, Wrapped fish with Iru (Locust Bean) source, Suya alata sue sue, freshly baked Agege bread, etc. The King was delighted with, and actually congratulated the CEO of Heritage, Mr Sesan Arowolo for preserving and sustaining our heritage in Irish community.

The next day, the King was the special guest to the Mayor of Fingal county council, Mr. Cian O’Callaghan who welcomed him to the Fingal County Council chamber where the King addressed his host and other people present about the importance of the preservation of culture and heritage of Irish and Nigerian community, albeit, not forgetting to mention how the people and government of Ogun State can collaborate with their Irish counterparts in areas of mutual interest.

From one county council office to another, next stop was Dublin city council where King Kehinde Olugbenle was also quick to point out

the many business/investment opportunities available in Ogun state and Nigeria in general. The office of Economy and International Relations in Dublin city was the main host on this occasion. King Olugbenle and the director of International Relations & Research, Mr Peter Finnegan discussed and identified area of businesses that will facilitate development of cities and communities in Ogun State, and according to the Kabiyesi, “this is a great idea especially with the ongoing developmental projects being undertaking in various parts of the state by the Senator Ibikunle Amosun administration”.

Mr. Finnegan on the other hand mentioned that, in recent years, “there has been genuine interest shown by Irish companies to establish branches in Nigeria”, but was quick to add that, “bureaucratic bottle necks has always been a major source of concern”. He however con-



HRM TOUR OF DUBLIN CITY

cluded by saying that with this important visit and assurances by Oba Kehinde Olugbenle, his office is now more than ready to facilitate a productive business network with Ogun state communities.

As a Redeem church Pastor himself before ascending the kingship thrown, the king showed leadership by example by proving that upholding progressive traditional or cultural practices of our people should not prevent anyone from worshipping the Almighty or “KING OF KINGS” as he puts it. On Sunday, the 12th of May 2013, HRM, King Kehinde Gbadewole Olugbenle was at the Redeem Church Headquarter in Ireland where he worshipped. He was accompanied by Mr and Mrs George Alabi (Deputy Nigerian Ambassador in Ireland), Emeka Ezeani (Eze Ndigbo of Ireland) and other well-wishers. The host, Pastor Tunde Oke thanked God for “making a Prince from the kingdom of Yahweh-Land to become a King in Yewaland”. Thereafter, the King also attended the Kingdom Connection church where he worshipped and also celebrated with the congregation on the occasion of their 10th anniversary as a church.

On Wednesday, 15th May, 2013, a grand reception was organised for His Royal Majesty, King Kehinde Olugbenle at the prestigious Carlton Hotel, Tyrrelstown, Dublin 15. Special guests include HRH Emeka Ezeani, Pastor Tunde Oke, the national Pastor of the Redeemed Christian church of God in Ireland, Pastor Dare Adetuberu, Pastor in charge of the ‘Kingdom Connection Church Ireland’, Pastor Tunde Johnson from the United Kingdom and Mr Ahmed Abdulkadir of the Nigerian embassy. It was a well-attended function as the hall was jam packed with attendees from all over Europe. Everyone was seated when the king entered the banquet hall and they all stood up as a mark of total respect. The MC for the occasion was Kunle Animashaun who started off the programme by leading the gathering with a beautiful rendition of the Ogun State an-

them, “Ise ya, Omo Ogun Ise ya”. Then, two beautiful members of the Association of Ogun State Indigenes Ireland, Mrs Abosede Obe, the social director of AOSI, and Mrs Okanlawon came out to join the MC in a wonderful recital of the Oriki of the Oba who incidentally waved his Irukere as a mark of acknowledgment.

When the time for the king to speak came, everybody was enthralled as he proved himself a truly remarkable person especially with his very endearing speech that dwell on the attributes of our culture as Africans. The Oba proved that he has a deep knowledge of culture and tradition coupled with an innate inbuilt wisdom as he kept the audience spellbound for the almost fifteen minutes that he gave his address. Very eloquently delivered but laced with an intermittent addition of feel good jokes, King Olugbenle once again used the opportunity to mention the laudable infrastructural transformation being embarked upon by the government of Ogun State and why it is important for sons and daughters of Ogun state in the diaspora to come back to contribute their own quota.

In response, the AOSI president, Mr. Dotun Adegbesan reiterated the commitment of all the members of AOSI to the development of Ogun state. He mentioned some of the projects that the association has done so far in terms of giving back to the community. He also mentioned that even as he speak, a multipurpose room and library equipped with books and computers are being undertaking by the association in Imasai and Joga towns and are just about at ninety percent completion stage. Mr. Adegbesan finished on the note that he, like many members of AOSI are very glad on the visit of the Oba to Ireland because since “it is one of the aims of AOSI to encourage and strengthen the bond of friendship, love and harmony through social interaction, then it is a wonderful feeling that the visit to Ireland by HRM King Kehinde Olugbenle has helped AOSI in achieving that”.

Nigeria Islamists hit schools to destroy Western ideas

By Isaac Abrak

They crept up to the school under cover of darkness, armed with petrol and automatic weapons. Most of the teachers and pupils had fled, but some students, one teacher and headmaster Adanu Haruna were still in the compound, one of many rural boarding schools in Nigeria surrounded by forest and farmland.

“They made the students line up and strip naked, and then they made the ones with pubic hair lie face down on the ground,” Haruna said, eyes wide with horror at describing the attack on the iron-roofed school built by British colonisers in the 1950s.

“They shot them point blank then set the bodies on fire.”

The Mamudo government school, charred and smelling of scorched blood after 22 students and a teacher were killed there in the July 6 attack near Potiskum in Nigeria’s northeast,

was the fourth to be targeted by suspected Boko Haram militants in less than a month.

The attacks reveal much about the rebels who are fighting to revive a medieval Islamic caliphate in northern Nigeria, the type of state they are seeking to establish and the impact of their efforts to do so on the African economic powerhouse.

In a video uploaded to the Internet on Saturday, Boko Haram’s purported leader Abubakar Shekau denied ordering the latest killings, saying Boko Haram does not itself kill small children, but he praised attacks on Western schools.

“We fully support the attack on school in Mamudo, as well as on other schools,” he said. “Western education schools are against Islam ... We will kill their teachers.”

Boko Haram, a nickname which translates roughly as “Western education is sinful”, formed around a decade ago as a clerical movement opposed to Western influence, which the



A teacher conducts a lesson under a makeshift classroom at a relief centre for flood victims at St. Boniface primary school in Idah in Nigeria’s central state of Kogi.

sect’s founder, Mohammed Yusuf, said was poisoning young minds against Islam.

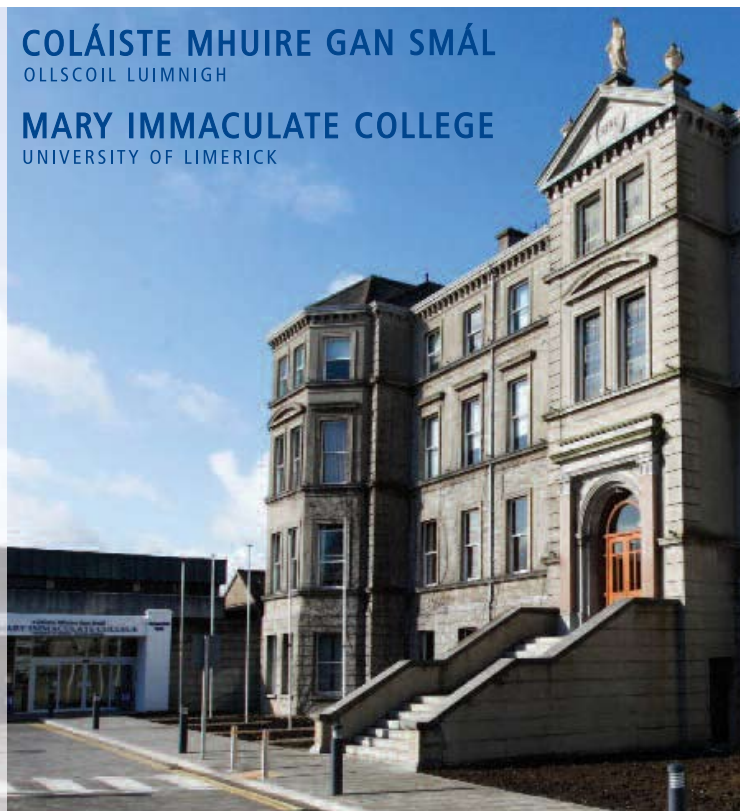
Yet security forces and politicians were the

main targets of the armed revolt it started after Yusuf’s killing in a 2009 military crackdown that left 800 people dead.



COLÁISTE MUIRE GAN SMÁL
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK



Graduate Diploma/Masters in International Development Practice (MIDP)

Applications are open for the Graduate Diploma/Masters in International Development Practice (MIDP) via blended learning programme at Mary Immaculate College (MIC), Limerick. This programme is offered this September on a full-time basis over 18 months, with part-time options also available for participants over an extended period.

The course is delivered on a blended learning basis, through a combination of residential summer and winter schools, online tuition, a 20,000-word dissertation, and an international placement programme that offers course participants the opportunity to obtain real-life experience of integrated approaches to international development practice. The programme will also provide participants with a strong inter-disciplinary foundation and continuing professional development expertise in the area of international development practice.

Core Modules of the MIDP programme:

- Project Management
- Development Theory and Practice
- Agriculture and Sustainable Development
- Research Field Methods & Logistics
- Financial Management
- The Political Economy of Sustainable Development
- Environmental Health
- Development Education

For further information please contact:

Dr Gerard Downes
Course Coordinator, MIDP,
Mary Immaculate College,
South Circular Road,
Limerick,
Ireland
T: 061 204540
E: gerard.downes@mic.ul.ie
W: www.mic.ul.ie/MIDP

Applications for this course are open until July 31st 2013.

www.mic.ul.ie/MIDP



Understanding Our Mental health



By Ejoro Ogbevoen

Considering the rate of suicide, broken marriages, distressed parents and children in the African community in Ireland, I think it is high time we begin to address our mental health.

When we come across the word mental health we conjure up images of confusion and lack of control. Unconsciously, we bless ourselves, then proceed to avoid any contact. We talk about it in fear while seeking reasons for such punishment from the gods and hoping we never suffer the same fate.

Understandably, no one wants to be associated with the filthy unhygienic conditions we have in our psychiatric hospitals back in home in Africa, talk less of the inhumane behaviours that accompany treatments.

If everyone can appreciate what mental health really entails, we may be more inclined to take personal responsibility and begin to effect the change we all long to see in our motherland Africa. Maybe someday soon we will have leaders who will find it unacceptable to watch our children go hungry, unacceptable to offer poor educational facilities, unacceptable to watch the sick die of treatable diseases in poorly equipped hospitals and so on.

But you see, research shows that seventy percent (70%) of African countries allocate less than 1% of their total health budgets to mental health sectors and programs. No wonder we lack basic understanding about mental health, but the truth is, even our leaders are not immune to the fears and challenges in this area.

Almost half of the world's population lives in a country where, on average, there is one psychiatrist or less to 200,000 people. Ignorance is ravaging our communities. Raising awareness and personal responsibility is the way forward.

W.H.O states that "Mental health is defined as a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his

community."

If we are not meeting the above criteria for any reason, our mental health may be at risk. Being aware of the contributing issues may allow us to see poor mental health as opposed to mental health disorders. Keeping our focus on disorders might not allow us to get the perspective we need to explore how we can take care of ourselves, to maximise our capacity to cope in times of distress.

Some issues associated with poor mental health include; Stressful work conditions, Gender discrimination, Social exclusion, Unhealthy lifestyle, Rapid social change, Risks of violence, Human rights violations.

Other causes for poor mental health include; Difficult family background, Stressful life events, Biochemistry, Genes, Physical health problems, Social problems and Difficult relationships.

In simple terms, mental health comprises of our thoughts (how we think), our emotions (what we feel) and our behaviour (how we relate to ourselves and others). When this whole internal structure enables us to strive for the life we want then we can say our health is sound. When there are significant challenges in any one or more areas, and we are finding it difficult to cope, then it's time to do something.

Like in physical illness, the ability to detect a pattern that could lead to illness helps us manage conditions through prevention. Taking care of one's mental health and understanding the issues around mental ill health could go a long way in helping us cope better with life. Maintaining good health requires that we be mindful of ourselves and our environment.

Some of the more familiar signs of poor mental health include:

- Sustained Stress
- Persistent Tiredness
- Anger And Frustration
- Not Eating Or Over Eating
- No Sleep Or Too Much Sleep
- No Desire To Do Anything
- Unexplained Pains In The Body
- Depression

When we bring it down to these familiar signs, we are more inclined to notice the changes within us and take appropriate steps to make things better. Most times we can on our own make things right and at other times when symptoms persist over a long period of time, professional help might be required. There will be more articles addressing issues around our mental health.

Ejoro Ogbevoen has a degree in counselling and Psychotherapy from Middlesex University, London. She works voluntarily with Living Life Counselling Centre Bray as a therapist and runs a private practice in Dublin. She is passionate about helping people stay grounded when faced with life's challenges. She is also fervently working to raise awareness on mental health issues within the African community.

XTrim Afro



**Caribbean Unisex
Barbering salon & Beauty products**

Low Cuts
Designer's Cuts
Dreadlocks, Curls
Eye Shadow Lining
Anita Baker Style
Brother Johnson Cut
Shaving, Sporting Waves

Symbol Design
Hair Colours
Beauty Products
Human Hair Extensions
BJ Cuts
Clipper Servicing
Calling Cards

6 Hanover Street, Waterford

Call Solomice 086 26 65 416



MoneyGram Joining Forces with Lebara to Offer International Money Transfers on Mobile Devices



By Mike Gutierrez

A leading global money transfer company, today announced an agreement with Lebara Mobile, one of Europe's leading mobile telecoms operators, to offer real-time MoneyGram transfer services over the Lebara Money mobile and web solutions.

MoneyGram's money transfer platform is now integrated within the Lebara Money iPhone and Android mobile payment platform solutions and the Lebara Money website, enabling customers in the United Kingdom -- and soon, in Spain, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Denmark and Switzerland -- to send international transfers from a mobile phone to more than 320,000 MoneyGram locations in 198 countries worldwide.

By downloading the Lebara Money iPhone or Android apps from the iTunes and Android stores, or visiting Lebara Money online, Lebara customers can directly connect to MoneyGram's convenient and secure mobile remittance services global network. The real-time transfer services can be used 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"We're excited about the opportunity to

provide our European customers with easily accessible transfer services through Lebara's smart phone apps," said Carl Scheible, executive vice president, Europe, Africa and Emerging Channels, MoneyGram. "Our agreement gets us yet another step closer to our goal of linking with fast and reliable mobile and web services that give our customers even more flexibility when sending money to loved ones nearby or overseas."

Lebara and MoneyGram signed a multi-year contract for the United Kingdom, Spain, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Denmark, and Switzerland.

Lebara Money services will help provide a global consumer audience with funds transfer options.

"The new Lebara Money cross-border mobile money transfer service, easily accessible with a smartphone, enables our customers to make reliable, peer-to-peer money transfers in the house, the workplace or while out and about" said Lebara CEO, David Moffatt. "MoneyGram is a trusted company for consumers and Lebara Mobile is excited to be joining forces to offer a compelling Mobile Money transfer service for our customers. It's a win-win."

'Ireland new mission frontier' - African Jesuit

Continued from page 1

own soil or will the Church simply opt to bear the burden of diminishment with resentment and nostalgia?"

He said that mission does not terminate with the departure of the missionary to a "vaguely remembered homeland recently fallen prey to marauding secularising forces and a Church besmirched by sex abuse scandals".

"On the contrary, mission progresses to a new stage with the coming of age of mission territories and assumption of responsibility for the mission of the Church by local personnel.

"In practical terms, this new partnership for mission in the world Church places on the Church in the global south the duty of offering suitably qualified personnel and human resources to the Church in Ireland as

well as the responsibility of learning to live in and adapt to an unfamiliar culture, just as Irish missionaries did in erstwhile foreign missions," Fr Orobator said.

"For several centuries successive generations of courageous women and men sailed from the shores of Ireland to various parts of the world as ambassadors of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As we speak, the Church in Ireland urgently needs the resuscitating breath of the Church in the south in order to survive and grow."

Mission Today & Tomorrow is a two-day international conference on the changing reality of mission and missionary development held in All Hallows College, Dublin in association with Misean Cara, the Irish Missionary Union and Kimmage Development Studies Centre.

(C) The Irish Catholic

Unforgettable woman Penalised for your skin colour!



By Eburn Akpoveta
Author, Equality activist & Motivational speaker

Should a person's skin colour determine the type of employment, income and career they can get? Should we as a society sentence a person to poverty or low end employment because of their skin colour or nationality? Based on an analysis of the 2010 census statistics, there are indications that the colour of a person's skin and where they are from is of primary importance to their labour market outcome--all things being equal that is.

In spite of the high educational qualifications migrants in Ireland are reputed to have, the highest unemployment rate of 38% was recorded for black Africans, with over 60% of those in employment working in low end jobs such as (i.e. care and security), Sales (10%) and General / machine operative (22%). Also, the statistics from the 2010 census showed that 62.5% female of the population are and 37.5 males. One can easily infer that a large number of black African families are parenting alone and living under the poverty threshold. This will probably account for over 31% of Black Africans from the sample surveyed who assessed themselves as home makers.

Some disparities between the indigenous population and migrants outcome in the labour market

- The length of residing in Ireland by migrants does not necessarily mean they have better chances at getting employment.

- Migrants in Ireland have very high levels of skills but majority are in less skilled roles.

- The possession of educational qualifications by immigrants does not appear to confer the same advantages as it does on the indigenous population.

- There is an occupational downgrading among non-Irish nationals as many are mainly able to get low end jobs.

- Ethnic Minority individuals have a lower likelihood of securing a more privileged job i.e. a managerial or professional occupation, compared with White Irish citizens while males are more likely to be in a high occupation job than females as are those individuals with a high level of educational attainment, specifically third-level qualifications.

- Migrant females earn 14 per cent less than indigenous.

Though there are a number of factors which account for disparity in the labour market outcome of different groups for example age, occupation and human capital i.e. education and experience, the analysis controlled for many of these factors and race and nationality was indicated in the different outcomes. Other employment related characteristics which the analysis agree can influence the employment outcome include motivation, reliability, interpersonal skills

and punctuality which they maintain is difficult to measure how much such factors impact directly on the labour market outcome.

The report interestingly draws attention to what sociologists call ethnic penalty. This is a situation where migrants experience economic and non-economic disadvantages in the labour market compared to non-ethnic minority groups of the same human and social capital.

Some people get hot under the collar at the mention of the R word-Race, Racism, Discrimination, Prejudice or Stereotypes. However, over 20 per cent of the Irish people said they were against immigrants from poor countries outside Europe coming in -- an increase from 6 per cent in 2002, while 51% believe widespread discrimination on the grounds of ethnic origin is rare. This demonstrates our continued desire to believe that we are a nation of very benevolent and welcoming people (provided you don't come from a poor country).

This results was from a survey of 2000 people by the ESRI. The question is how many of these 22% are HR Managers, TD's, recruiter, tutors, educators, primary school teachers or employer. How many carry this bias from just being an attitude to their practice in people's daily lives. As we appreciate the 41 per cent who said they would allow 'some' (immigrants) in, are black Africans among the 'some' they would allow in?

Help yourself because no one is in a hurry to help you!

One factor which greatly increases people's competitiveness is their educational attainment, yet the group with the lowest employment rate or the highest unemployment rate who should require the added support is the group who assessed themselves with the lowest participation in education as 5.7% of the sample said they were students. The report showed that the higher an individual's educational attainment the more likely they are to be employed compared with those who left school early. While individuals with a third-level qualification are 4.5 times more likely to be employed than those with a Junior Certificate qualification or less.

What can we do

Aim higher

All jobs are good and equally valuable but if people from one nationality or of the same skin tone are over represented at the bottom then more direct action is needed. According to the report, a whopping 61% of black Africans are in low paying jobs. Probably the starting point for black Africans is to aim higher. This can be accessed by completing college courses that reposition you in the job market, add a certificate or diploma to your qualification from your home country and that will help backup your qualification.

Education

Migrants who are parenting alone should be supported to find flexible courses that allows them to be in college between 10 and 2pm; course providers should develop parent friendly courses and employers should have flexible working hours and funding should be equally accessible to all.

Again I am out of space & time, to send your comments and thoughts I remain at unforgettablewoman.eb@gmail.com or 0894185169

Ireland pledges aid for Africa



L-R: Ambassador Mr. Felix Yusufu Pwof of Nigeria, Ambassador Mrs. Lela-alem Gebreyohannes of Ethiopia, Minister Joe Costello, Tánaiste Eamon Gilmore, Ambassador Catherine Muigai Mwangi of Kenya, Ambassador Mr. Anas Khales of Morocco & Ambassador Mr. Paramente Phamotse of Lesotho

The Government has pledged two million euro in funding to provide life-saving food, shelter, basic healthcare and water to some of the most vulnerable communities in Africa.

Minister for Trade and Development, Joe Costello, released the emergency assistance for people suffering in Sudan and South Sudan, where malnutrition rates have soared.

Some 8.5 million people need urgent humanitarian assistance in both countries, with ongoing conflict driving people to flee their homes, particularly in border areas between Sudan and South Sudan. Minister Costello said that July 9 marks the second anniversary of the independence of the Republic of South Sudan.

"It is the world's newest State," he said. "While we welcome the progress made since 2011, many communities remain extremely vulnerable to disease and food shortages as a result of decades of conflict

and chronic underdevelopment. More than four million people do not have access to enough nutritious food."

Mr. Costello said the UN estimates that 4.4 million people need assistance in Sudan, with 3.5 million people in Darfur in desperate need of emergency food assistance.

"While there has been progress, with 200,000 displaced people returning to their homes in Darfur, almost 1.5 million people continue to live in temporary camps," he added.

"The assistance I am announcing today will provide food, shelter, basic healthcare and education to the worst-affected communities in both countries and help to safeguard the gains made in recent years."

Ireland has pledged 5.5 million euro to the region so far this year through various organizations, including the United Nations' Common Humanitarian Funds for Sudan and South Sudan.

Religious Matter

ANointed FOR A PURPOSE



By: Idowu Henry

To function in any office and at any level, one need some form of authority. Authority is the right or power to require obedience. There are various kinds of authorities, these include but not restricted to; political, economic and spiritual. From the perspective of Christian faith, God has the supreme right and power to require obedience because he is the creator and lord of everyone.

God has been delegating some of his authority to his chosen servants, for the purpose of carrying out specific assignments in time past. He has not stop, but will continue to do so for as long as he tarry. In the garden of Eden, God gave man dominion over all creations, that was an authority to control. The dominion that was given to Adam, was a sovereign authority, it was power and right to govern and control the garden.

When a person is given authority to act on God's behalf, that person is set apart or consecrated for the service of God. This consecration is called anointing; anointing can also be the ceremony carried out to dedicate a person to the service of God. Anointing can be carried out physically as in the instances of Aaron and king David or divinely as in that of prophet Samuel or John the baptist.

For any one to be given an authority to act, there must be a mission to be accomplish. The purpose of a servant is to successfully carry out the duties and functions assigned to him/her and to be a worthy representative of the authority that sent him/her. In the present Christian settings, we are easily gulled, to accept anyone who can say he/she has been called to serve. Though people make themselves available for God to use, but with time, their reasons and purpose will be revealed.

Fellowship leaders may also set people aside for the service of God, just to fill some void in the available offices or in strict obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit. In what ever way anointing comes about, there is one mission to be achieved. The mission is to serve the body of Christ by obediently carrying out any assignment that comes directly from the thrown of grace of assisting to carry out the mandate given to the leader of the fellowship you are in.

What is the mission that God has set for those he has chosen and anointed? First we look at the life of Jesus Christ. In the sixty-first chapter of the book by prophet Isaiah, starting from verse 1, which was read by Jesus at the beginning of His ministry as recorded by Luke in the fourth chapter from verse 17 to 21 of his narration, the purpose of the mission of Jesus is clearly documented. It will be good to quote that scripture from Isaiah first, and continue with Luke's records.

Isaiah 61:1 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach the good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of prison to them that are bound;" After reading this portion of the book of Esaias in Luke 4:17-21, Jesus in verse 21 told the congregation "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears". The primary purpose of the mission of Christ on earth was read out by Jesus himself in Luke 4:17-21, leaving out the later part of what he will do on his second coming.

The man anointed for the service of God has the Spirit of God on him/her to function. The spirit bears witness in the life and works of the anointed and all he/she does is to glorify the father and not self. The spirit was upon Jesus Christ to do the following during his time on earth:

1. To preach the good tidings (the good news or gospel) to the meek (poor)
2. To bind up (heal) the brokenhearted,
3. To proclaim (preach) liberty (deliverance) to the captives
4. Recovering of sight to the blind, and
5. Opening of prison to them that are bound

As servants of God and believer of Jesus we are to do the works he has done and greater, John 14:12 "verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my father. The primary focus of the anointed of the Lord is to do the works that Jesus did and try as much to remain within the confines of the work if he/she cannot do greater works.

Before Jesus, everyone anointed were to act in pointing out the power of God and the mission of the messiah to earth their actions and acts, were a dressed rehearsals of the glorious mission of Jesus. When he was about to be born, John the baptist was anointed for the purpose of presenting Jesus to the nation of Israel, we read in John 1:29-31; 29 "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith. Behold the lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. 30, This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. 31, And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water".

We may not have seen Jesus Physically, but the Spirit of God lives within us and directs our affairs when we do yield our wills to Him. hear what John says in verses 33-34; "33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. 34, and I saw and bare record that this is the Son of God. In the case of Saul in Acts 9, neither Saul nor the men that were with him saw the Lord, they only heard a voice speaking. The Lord told Ananias what he wanted Saul for. Acts 9:15; "But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings and the children of Israel:"

What then can we say is the purpose of our anointing? why are we anointed by God and by men for God? As recorded above in John 1, and Acts 9, we are anointed to bear the name of Jesus Christ. We are anointed to carry the good news of Jesus to the ends of the earth, to make disciples for the Lord Jesus. Lets look at Matthew 28: 18-20 (NIV); "Then Jesus came to them. He said, "All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to me. So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end".

Anointing takes one from the ordinary to the extraordinary, it makes us a special people to God. 1 Peter 2:9; But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own; that you should show forth the praise of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Added to this, the Lord said in Isaiah 45:1; "Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates and the gates shall not be shut;

Apart from bearing the name of Jesus, we are also to be used to subdue nation, which comes with a price. Jeremiah 51:20 says "Thou art my battle axe and weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms. When Jesus confirmed the prophesy of Isaiah in Luke, his word drew instant hatred and was almost thrown off from a cliff. One must know that anointing attracts hatred and attacks. As a battle axe, we are subjected to physical and spiritual wear and tears, but the one who uses us we also mend us to be effective.

A servant who has another mission outside the one given to him/her by the master will attract the wrath of the master, and God help, if the enemy comes in to destroy his ministry. We must not be carried away by the success of other people, to forget the reason and purpose of an anointing. The Lord keep us till we meet here again. The peace of the Lord be upon all.

Would you like a photo of your event feature in The African Voice?
You could have a pictorial of your Wedding, birthday party Conferences,

**Seminars,
Fundraisers,**

or any other social gatherings etc

For more details contact:

fameaward@gmail.com

Tel: 087-2618184



African Voice Newspaper Community Watch

Lola Oyediran & Jesus Palomo's wedding in London



Supported by: African Voice Newspaper

THE AFRICAN VOICE

ASSOCIATION OF OGUN STATE INDIGENES IRELAND

YORUBA TALENT SHOW (ASA IBILE)

Date: Saturday, 7th, September 2013
Time: 6:00pm to 10:00pm

Venue: Draiocht Dublin 15 (Blanchardstown Centre)

INSTRUCTIONS
 The talent show is open to Yoruba speaking children of all ages in the community. It is a family oriented show. There will be 3 different age categories: 0-12 years; 13-16 years; 16+ years. Mixed age groups will be entered in the 13+ category. All participants must be able to perform in Yoruba language; all performance must exhibit Yoruba culture. This is all about Yoruba heritage. Finalist will perform on Ogun Day Gala Night at Carlton Hotel Dublin 15 where winner of each category will be awarded.

Applications are due by August 14th with €5 participation fee.
Talent try-outs date in last week of August (pm) and venue to be sent by text

For Official ENTRY FORM and more information visit www.aosireland.com or www.Ogun-daydublin.com or request by emailing info@aosireland.com

Supported by: African Voice Newspaper

THE AFRICAN VOICE

Dr. George O. Alabi
 The Deputy Head Of Mission, Nigerian Embassy, Ireland

Celebrating his life
His 59th BIRTHDAY

Date: 28th Of July, 2013
Venue: Noboring Junction, Duleek Industrial Business Park, Co Meath
Time: Starting 5:00p.m. Prompt

Chief Hosts:
CROWN Ventures
 • Susuana Entertainment
 • Training consultant

Event Organizer's Are Prominent Nigerian's Living Here in Ireland And Other Media Partner's

Guest: All Nigerian's living in Ireland and other African are all welcome to support us on the day by celebrating the life of a wonderful man.

NGO says Catholic Church standing in the way of integration



Killian Forde, CEO the Integration Centre

By Ian Callagy

The Catholic Church in Ireland is standing in the way of better integration according to a Dublin-based NGO. Killian Forde, the CEO of the Integration Centre, said the domination of national schools by the Catholic Church is not helpful in terms of improving integration.

Forde was speaking at the recent launch, in Dublin, of a report on immigration and integration. He said he found it “amazing” that the state’s immigration policy is so poor. We are “sleep walking our way into problems” he warned, adding that “a huge improvement” is needed in recognising the qualifications of immigrants.

He welcomed “the fact that the gap in unemployment rates between migrants and Irish has not increased.” However more work needed to be done in terms of integration: “The key to successful integration is proactive government policy and a tolerant, welcoming host population. On the former we have none, and the latter negative attitudes towards migrants are increasing. The government as a matter of urgency need to create a national policy on integration, and co-ordinate activities between government departments on integration.”

The Integration Centre is calling for a more liberalised work permit policy to protect the rights of migrant workers. The organisation was also critical of discrimination in education: Irish/white children going to one school while the children of immigrants attend a different school, often in the same locality.

Voter registration was another area where reform is needed, so as to take account of the changes to Irish society. “There has to be a way to challenge” politicians, Forde explained, who fail to understand racial diversity. Worryingly, he said, some local Councillors remain ignorant on the issue of immigration. Often the local population were uncritical of their public representatives on matters like this.

Forde expressed his disappointment at the decreasing amount of funding available

to his organisation. This, he said, will have a negative impact in terms of monitoring integration and immigration statistics and policy into the future.

A number of others spoke at the launch. Flora Okobi, an award-winning campaigner for better integration in Ireland, stressed that integration is a “two-way process”. She added that this is “not really cutting across” Irish society at the moment.

Karen McHugh (Doras Luimní) lamented the “poor leadership” in Ireland. Comments made, by some, in public are sometimes different when said in private. Much more data collection is needed in order to improve matters relating to integration, she said.

Declan Hayden (Dublin City Council) said that “nationally there is paralysis” in terms of integration and he queried the effectiveness of the authorities on issues like this. Better communication is needed. In some quarters there is a fear of bringing up the subject of racism and this isn’t helpful, he stated. He went on to highlight the issue of immigrants standing for election here: “a national conversation” is needed. The media should play a central role in this, he said.

Ken McCue of SARI (Sports Against Racism Ireland) said it was “a shame and a scandal” that there is so little being invested in Garda resources to challenge racism and improved integration. Greater acknowledgement of the harm done by racism in Ireland is needed, he emphasised.

Frances McGinnity from the ESRI (Economic and Social Research Institute) presented some of the chief findings from the report. A high proportion of young immigrants are achieving good educational qualifications. But the report also showed that attitudes towards immigrants had become less positive.

“The change in attitudes is modest, but of concern. It is also worth noting the fact that between 2005 and the end of 2011, 34,500 adults of non-EEA origin acquired Irish citizenship. This represents significant progress towards the integration of immigrants in Ireland”, Dr McGinnity said. In compiling the report, data was collected on employment, active citizenship, social inclusion, education and attitudes to immigrants.

Afro Caribbean Lifestyle and Achievers

LIFE IS A JOURNEY



By: Susu Olukemi Komolafe

Relationships last when two people make a decision or choice to fight, keep it or make it work. It’s a union of the forgiver’s. As Africans the journey of life is inevitable and we culturally believe that it’s a repeatable process. Life is worth exploring and as African that is what we do, by travelling around and with our journey to Ireland. According to African beliefs the dead were buried with their finest possessions, personal possessions and clothing for use in the next world. Because they believe that after death you begin another journey in life. Now I realise the journey of life does not end with death but begins with your creator.

Over time I have discovered there is no absolute finish line for everyone in the race of life. Our tracks are different and our durations are different. The only thing we have in common is the same empire. For instance, one person graduates at age 20 and struggles for another 5 years to get a job, another might graduate at 25 and gets a job immedi-

ately. One can marry a virgin and wait for the next decade to have the blessings of children, another lady probably after having series of abortions in her past, becomes a mother almost immediately after marriage.

A fellow becomes MD at 38 and dies at 56, another becomes MD at 55 and lives to 90. What a life! Life is full of twists, turns, ups and downs and many more surprises and disappointments. Life offers each one of us different opportunities and once an opportunity is lost, it’s gone forever except by the grace of God. It is up to each one of us to patiently prepare, wait, recognise and utilise every opportunity. We learn on the way. No one knows it all or has it better.

There is a reason why we all don’t fall at the same time. It’s so that when one is down, weak and discouraged, the other who is strong, can encourage and lift the other person. God never promise that the road would be easy but he promised never to leave nor forsake us. Although life is a competition, let us learn to go easy on ourselves and trust that God is working it all out for good (even if it doesn’t make sense now). I know that there is a time for everything but most importantly that “it will come to pass “. Whatever trials, challenges or down time, this too shall pass and in due course, you will rise up and strong again to lift up those who maybe down around you. NEVER LOSE HOPE. I don’t know where I fall into this, but I am hoping to discover. Most of all life is a journey and love is inevitable also part of it....

Happy African Day from me and the team here at the African Voice celebrating the joy and journey of life.



Africa Caribbean Forum members

Immigration and integration news

Increasing Active Citizenship



By: Billie Sparks
Women's and Equality Officer,
Labour Party

The third Annual Monitoring Report on Integration was published recently. This Report is the result of collaboration between the Integration Centre and the Economic and Social Research and it uses a range of indicators to measure different aspects of migrant inclusion in Ireland under four main areas: employment, education, social inclusion and active citizenship.

The Report is an important indicator of how integration in Ireland is advancing and how well Irish society is adapting to having people from many different cultures and backgrounds on our shores. One of the key areas examined in the Report is Active Citizenship. Active Citizenship is measured by three main indicators: the share of immigrants who have been granted citizenship, the share of immigrants holding permanent or long-term residence permits and the share of immigrants among elected local representatives.

According to the Report, over the past few years, more and more non-EU nationals have been granted citizenship in Ireland. In 2010, 4,969 non-EU nationals were granted citizenship, in 2011 that figure stood at 9,529 and was approximately 23,200 in 2012. This increase is mainly due to reduced waiting times but also down to a lower rejection rate.

Registering to Vote

In Ireland, citizenship gives people the right to vote in all referenda and elections. However there is concern that not everyone who is entitled to vote has put their name on the register. In order to register your right to vote, you must ensure that your name has been entered on the Electoral Register. You can check whether you are on the register via www.checktheregister.ie and access forms to register as a voter if you have not done so before.

If you are already registered to vote in local elections you must change your voting entitlements once you become a citizen of Ireland. In order to change your voting entitlements you must submit a letter outlining your change in circumstances with a Copy of your Naturalisation Documentation and/or copy of your Irish Passport to your local authority. A list of local authorities can be found here www.envirom.ie/en/LocalGovernment/LocalGovernmentAdministration/LocalAuthorities/

Recent analysis of the Dublin City Coun-

cil register of all eligible voters has shown that just 8,068 non-EU nationals in Dublin City were listed in the 2010/2011 Register of Electors. In contrast to this, the 2011 Census showed that there were 32,659 non-EU nationals over 18 and living in Dublin. Based on these figures, only 25% of the Dublin non-EU population entitled to vote are registered – in other words 75% are not registered! This is a worrying figure and needs to be addressed with awareness campaigns such as the 'Count us In' campaign run by the Immigrant Council in Ireland. You can also do your bit to increase awareness by asking your friends and family whether they have registered to vote.

Running for Election

While citizenship of Ireland is required in order to be entitled to stand in national elections, it should be remembered that all residents of Ireland, regardless of nationality can stand and vote in local elections. With the next local elections taking place in less than a year in May 2014 it's time for our energies and attention to focus on how we want our local councils to look after the next election. In the last Local Elections in 2009, a total of 37 migrant candidates stood for election, including 14 who originally came from Nigeria. Four of these 37 candidates were elected, coming from Nigeria, the Netherlands, Russia and Lithuania. As it currently stands, just 0.2% of our councillors come from the migrant community in Ireland. This is certainly not a fair representation of our society where 17% of our population is made up of people who were born outside Ireland.

In order for our democracy to be truly representative, we need to encourage and support candidates from different ethnic communities to run for election, whether it be with a party or as an independent. There are a number of projects underway which work towards increasing migrant political participation. Local initiatives such as The Crosscare Migrant Project scheme 'Opening Power to Diversity' which places migrants or new Irish citizens with TDs for a six month period so that they can learn what politics is like from the inside are a very welcome step. The interns who take part in this scheme work with a TD and get involved in various aspects of parliamentary and constituency politics. Labour Party TDs Anne Ferris, Áodhan Ó'Riordáin and Minister Joe Costello have taken part in the scheme and found it to be an excellent and worthwhile initiative.

We need to engage migrant communities more with politics as we work towards diversifying our political landscape and making it more open to people of migrant background. The more people that are involved in the decision making processes in Ireland, the more representative our democracy is. You can contribute to the political scene simply by adding your voice to the debate. That's why the Labour Party campaigns to get people involved in politics - to give a voice to the broadest section of society. There is huge potential among our migrant population and it's true to say that the more representative our democracy is, the better off we all are.

Why report?

The purpose behind iReport.ie



Dr. Matt Cannon,
Integration Policy Officer,
Doras Luimní

The Immigrant Council of Ireland recently announced that 50 racist incidents were reported in the 10 weeks since they started an awareness campaign highlighting racism on public transport. The Integration Centre also released a new report indicating a hardening of attitudes towards migrants. That report, based on a survey of 150 people who accessed the Centre for information on citizenship and living in Ireland, points out that 87% of those surveyed had experienced racism while only 13% reported it. In Doras Luimní we have come across numerous instances of racism which has not been reported to the Gardaí. Official statistics show that 97 incidents of racism were reported to the Gardaí between 2011 and 2012. There is a stark difference between the Irish data on racist incidents and the corresponding reports in England and Wales, where the number of racist incidents were recorded at 47,678 for the same period.

It becomes apparent that the reports to the Gardaí as well as the figures from NGOs such as Doras Luimní, the Integration Centre and the Immigrant Council are only scratching the surface when it comes to documenting the level of racism in Ireland.

Why is racism not reported to the same extent in Ireland as it is in other places? Many migrants can relate to experience of being treated unfairly because of their accent, colour of their skin, or because the offending party perceives them as being 'foreign'. Racism exists in Ireland and is more prevalent than the figures show, however there are a number of obstacles to reporting racism in Ireland. To begin with many of those who are the victim of racism can be reluctant to approach the Gardaí with the information. Additional obstacles include the fact that many people feel that reporting does not have an impact. They may also be unsure if what has happened would qualify as a racist incident, and/or they simply do not know where or how to report an incident. Being aware of these obstacles may help us to overcome them.

Another barrier cited by those who have reported to Doras Luimní is that people don't report racism because they are unsure if an incident qualifies as racism. To over-

come this uncertainty, the Gardaí use what is referred to as the 'McPherson definition of racism', which grew out of the Stephen Lawrence case in the UK. The McPherson definition states that a racist incident is "any incident which is perceived to be racist by the victim of any other person".

We believe that one way to ensure wider reporting is to provide a third-party reporting mechanism. The Irish branch of the European Network Against Racism (ENAR Ireland) is in the best position to provide a nation-wide third-party reporting mechanism. In the past, NGOs have attempted to address the gap in recording racist incidents by providing their own third-party reporting systems. While this provided an avenue for reporting racism it has lacked clear coordination between the groups nationally. ENAR Ireland has developed and is launching a new mechanism to streamline the reporting process for all organisations and individuals: www.iReport.ie. Using a web-based reporting system iReport.ie will provide the first national reporting mechanism that can be used by organisations and individuals to combat racism. The iReport.ie web-based reporting system ensures that the reporting process is a national one that includes all of the groups working with migrants and others who face racism. However, iReport is not limited to NGOs or voluntary organisations. The central aim of iReport is to promote accessibility, so that anyone can report racism via a desktop, laptop or smartphone.

The iReport system is not designed to replace reporting racist incidents to the Gardaí, but instead is meant to complement it. ENAR Ireland and its member organisation are supportive of the reporting of incidents to the Gardaí as there are laws to deal with racism such as the Incitement to Hatred Act, 1989, the Equal Status Act 2000, the Employment Equality Act 1998, Non-Fatal Offences Against the Persons Act, 1997, and the Criminal Justice (Public Order) Act which can be used to prosecute racist crime. Still, there is room for reform in ensuring greater effectiveness of Irish law in dealing with issues of racism and hate crime and this remains a future challenge, but it is a challenge that will be very hard to overcome unless we are armed with the right statistics and data on racism in Ireland. iReport.ie will give the power to the people to report racism where they see it, allow them to send it using technology, and ultimately to help end it.

Author: Dr Matt Cannon is the integration policy officer with Doras Luimní, an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation working to support and promote the rights of all migrants living in Limerick and the wider Mid-West region. He is also a lecturer at the University of Limerick.

Nigerian Deputy Head of Mission honoured in Cork

By: Tony Lawani

The deputy head of mission Mr. George Alabi was on official assignment to Cork and that weekend coincided with his 59th birthday. The newly elected executives and members of the Nigerian community cork decided to organize a surprise birthday thanksgiving for the deputy head of mission.

received from the people of cork.

The highlight of the occasion was the presentation of hand drawn portrait, cutting of cakes presented by the Nigerian community Cork and RCCG and the inaugural blessing of the new executive of Nigeria Community Cork after which the group went for lunch at the home of the newly elected president of the Nigerian community Cork, Mr. Emeka Ikebuasi.

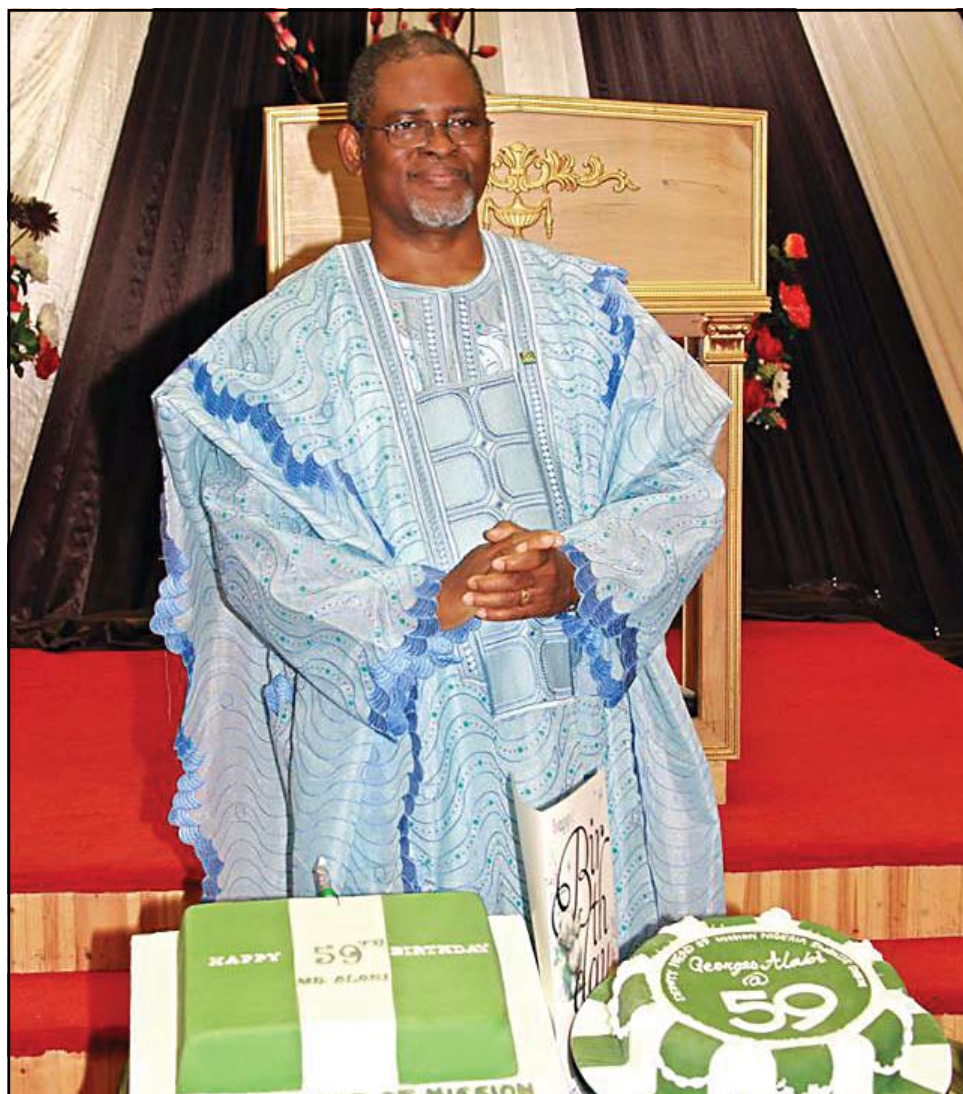
The DHM was accompanied by council-



The thanksgiving service was held at the redeemed Christian church kinsale road Cork and the host pastor Paul Orimolusi presided over the ceremony.

The event attracted leaders of various Nigerian businesses, churches and groups as well as the Irish community in RCCG kinsale road, Cork. The DHM was embarrassed by love, kindness and the varied presents he

or Emma Nwokocha from the Nigerian Embassy Dublin. In his appreciation speech, he said he had planned to celebrate in a big way in Dublin but he got a message from home office to come back, so he cancelled the big celebration only to be honored by the Cork people. He gave thanks to God for his mercies and kindness and said he couldn't have celebrated his Birthday in a better way.



Mr. Georges. O.O. Alabi BDay Thanks Giving Service Held in Cork

Nigerian-born writer makes her mark in Ireland

By Susu Olukemi Komolafe

Carol Azams' new book, 'Nigeria beyond the Perception' was launched recently in Dublin. Peter from Xclusive magazine along with his wife and children attended the launch and the editor of The African Voice, Malcolm Eremionkhale, sent his warm greetings on this special occasion. The Nigerian ambassador was also present.

Azams is used to big names gracing her events. Her first book, 'Journey of the Irish Child', published in 2005, was launched by Irish senator David Norris in Dublin. Her second, 'Teen Mums 'R' Us', was endorsed by the late Brian Lenihan, the then Minister of Children. Azams, a Bayelsan from Delta State, is making her mark in the book world in Ireland, where she lives with her family.

'Journey of the Irish Child' addresses issues such as child labour, which is normally caused by poverty in our society, female genital mutilation, otherwise known as female circumcision, and early marriage; while 'Teen Mums ...' deals with the issues of teenage pregnancy, bullying and abortion.

Prior to the launch Carol had said, "I am very happy to introduce my books in Nigeria and I hope that my novels will be an inspiration to Nigerian youths and teenagers." At the book launch itself, students from four different schools in the state trooped to the venue and each went home with a copy of each of her two published works.

Bayelsa State has acquired notoriety for hostage taking and violence, but with the impressive effort of people like Carol in literature, Professor Azaiki, in his statement, applauded her creative endeavour. "She has done so well to put Bayelsa and Nigeria on the map of good while others are putting us on the map of bad," he noted.

He called on the public to encourage her to continue her literary exploits. Mrs Iyorleti Seibaurugu was so good in her presentation of Mrs Alanyingi Sylva's paper entitled "Teen Pregnancy and Child Wellbeing" that her extemporal additions to the paper drew commendations from the audience.

Her lecture touched on the aforesaid subject because the author's book, Teen Mum & Us, dwells on that issue. Teenage pregnancy, according to her, is a phenomenon that brings about a forced initiation of children into motherhood, and it involves young girls under twenty years of age.

The first lady's speech highlighted



some of the factors responsible for the rise in teenage pregnancies, including broken homes, early marriage, absence of sex education at home and in school, general laxity in the country and poverty.

She pointed out that these factors are usually not mutually exclusive, as a combination of them can also cause a teenager to go astray.

The most important causes, she remarked, are poverty and homes where children are unattended to by their parents and guardians and not just broken homes.

Besides, she drew our attention to other causative factors of teenage pregnancy, "The children start getting acquainted with immoral vices that could turn them not only sex tools for their mates, male teachers and neighbours but even family members, and could make them find themselves in places where they could even be bullied and raped, while on the other hand, poverty could invariably expose some young girls to men constantly, when forced at such early age to fend for themselves and their families.

"Most of the young girls who get carried away are those from broken homes, living with one of their parents, grandparents or uncles and aunties, they are always depressed by outpourings of bitterness against either of their parents. In some cases, where the fathers insist on custody of the children, they are often exposed to uncaring stepmothers, sometimes to the knowledge of their fathers and sometimes not."

She advised teenagers to avoid watching pornographic materials, for "it shows evil desires and makes them want to be sexually active," which leads to promiscuity. She lamented that many young girls don't know what love is, mistaking it for infatuation. Therefore, she cautioned against promiscuity, which could expose them to sexually transmitted diseases and abortion.

Direct Provision causing serious harm says IRC



The residents are unhappy with the low standard of accommodation at the centre.

By Ian Callagy

Sue Conlan, CEO of the Irish Refugee Council (IRC), says that the Direct Provision accommodation system for asylum seekers “is seriously harming the well-being” of residents. Conlan made her comments following a recent protest by around 50 people at a Direct Provision centre in Millstreet, Co.Cork.

The residents are unhappy with the low standard of accommodation at the centre. Unpalatable food, poor quality sanitation, general overcrowding and an infestation of insects and rodents were some of the issues raised by residents at Drishane.

Conlan says Direct Provision “is unsuitable for long term residence and managed by organisations that have limited commitment or experience of running centres for a diverse and vulnerable group of people.”

Restrictions over leisure time for children at the centre are also a problem which needs addressing, residents say. The owners of the

building, in Millstreet, recently met with the protesters, who are mostly of African origin.

In a statement the IRC says “attempts by a representative group of residents to discuss concerns with management... were rebuffed.” The statement goes on to say that “management has consistently frustrated attempts by residents to discuss concerns.”

The Department of Justice have defended their colleagues in the Reception and Integration Agency (RIA). They told the media that the RIA takes the standard of accommodation, for those in Direct Provision, very seriously.

But Conlan remains critical of the government’s position: “The minister also needs to be truthful and acknowledge that the proposed legislative reform will not address the needs of those already in the system.”

There are roughly 4,800 people living in Direct Provision accommodation centres around the country at present. The IRC say that most residents have been in the system for more than three years and some for almost a decade.

The Integration Centre Launches Recording Racism in Ireland

By Staff Reporter

The Integration Centre published the report ‘Recording Racism in Ireland’ last week. The report aims to understand why official figures around racism in Ireland are so low when research and lived experience points to a different scenario.

Figures are released every year from the CSO which state the number of racist incidents that have occurred in Ireland. In 2012 the figure was 98.

The Integration Centre compared this figure to England and Wales and found that Ireland was 27 times less likely to have a racist incident than England and Wales, when adjusted for population. Knowing this could not be the case, an analysis of Garda processes and legislation was carried out.

A number of key issues were discovered and highlighted in the report.

First of all in Ireland the published figures only cover the incidents which have ended in a criminal conviction - there is no way of knowing how often people have reported racist incidents to the Gardaí when no crime was deemed to have taken place or no conviction was secured.

Gardaí were sometimes unsure how to record racist incidents in the Pulse system – which is the electronic system used to record crime. Discretion and confusion play a key role in the loss of data.

Ethnic Liaison Officers (ELOs), which are officers trained to deal specifically with the concerns of migrant and ethnic minority communities are often difficult to contact, and do not return calls.



Director of Public Affairs, the Integration Centre Helena Clarke

The current legislation also plays a key role in the recording of racist crime. The only law which covers racist crime is the Incitement to Hatred Act 1989, which has proved difficult to secure prosecutions with. Racist incidents are often recorded as a Public Order violation without any mention of racism.

The Integration Centre strongly advocates for new legislation to be put in place which makes racism an aggravating factor in the sentencing of crime. This would have the knock-on effect of forcing the collation of better data on racism, which would in turn lead to more accuracy and transparency in dealing with the issue here. For further information or to receive a copy of the report contact helena@integrationcentre.ie

RACIST AND SECTARIAN INCIDENTS MUST BE REPORTED

By Deo Ladislav Ndakengerwa
Racist Incident Referral and
Support Coordinator

Sligo Family Resource Centre launches Racist Incident Referral and Support Services Project, an unique initiative in County Sligo.

We aim to establishing a third-party computerised database which will record all racial and sectarian incidents and provide support and referrals to people experiencing or witnessing racism and sectarianism in County Sligo. This project has been funded by the PEACE III Programme through the European Union’s European Regional Development Fund managed for the Special EU programmes Body by Sligo County Council on behalf of Sligo Peace & Reconciliation Partnership Committee.

Mr. Deo Ladislav Ndakengerwa, Coordinator of Racist Incident Referral and Support Service Project says : “ There can’t be a peaceful and harmonious community if everyone is not welcomed and valued irregardless of skin colour, ethnic origin, religious beliefs, accent,... So fighting racism and sectarianism should be everyone’s duty, those experiencing it and witnessing it alike”



Launch of the Racist Incident Referral and Support Service

By the end of November 2013, members of the formed interagency group from ethnic minority communities, an Garda Síochána, Social Authorities, Sporting Bodies, Government Departments, Social Partners and broader Civil Society including Cultural Groups and special groups such as Asylum Seekers and Refugees

living in Sligo will be fully empowered to deal with racist and sectarian incidents including helping in reporting, supporting and referring cases to appropriate statutory services.

The information and trends generated from annual database analysis will be used for further advocacy work and Policy and legislative

change at County Council Level.

This project has been funded by the PEACE III Programme through the European Union’s European Regional Development Fund managed for the Special EU programmes Body by Sligo County Council on behalf of Sligo Peace & Reconciliation Partnership Committee.



Lycamobile

Call the world for less



Nigeria

1

c
/min
landline

8
c
/min
Mobile



UNLIMITED

FREE calls & texts

from **Lycamobile** to **Lycamobile**

NATIONAL

Landline

3c
/min

Mobile

19c
/min

SMS

9c
/sms

DATA BUNDLE

1GB DATA
for only **€9.99**

to buy dial ***139*91000#**

Valid for 30 days

For your **FREE Lycamobile SIM** visit www.lycamobile.ie or call **01 437 2322**

Top-up your SIM online or where you see the following signs:



Top-up and enjoy the unlimited free calls & text to any Lycamobile Ireland numbers, free calls & text are valid for 30 days from the top-up. The promotion is valid until 31/07/2013. Unlimited offer is subject to a fair usage of 3000 minutes per month per customer. Usage in excess of your allowance will be charged at standard rates. Promotional period: the offer is valid from 01-07-2013 to 31-07-2013. 1c/min to call over 30 international destinations. The new promotional rates are valid from 01/07/2013 until 31/07/2013. The new rates will only apply to Landlines unless otherwise stated above. The new rates are not applicable for Special number or premium number calls. The Lycamobile Data plan 4.99 costs €4.99 and gives 350MB of Mobile Internet data it is valid for 7 days from the day that it is activated. The Lycamobile Data plan 9.99 costs €9.99 and gives 1GB of Mobile Internet data, it is valid for 30 days from the day that it is activated. You may only have one type of value pack active during the appropriate subscription period. Once the value pack been activated a one-off payment is taken from the customers top-up credit balance. This Promotion is valid from 01/07/2013 to 31/07/2013.



Lyca mobile

Call the world for less