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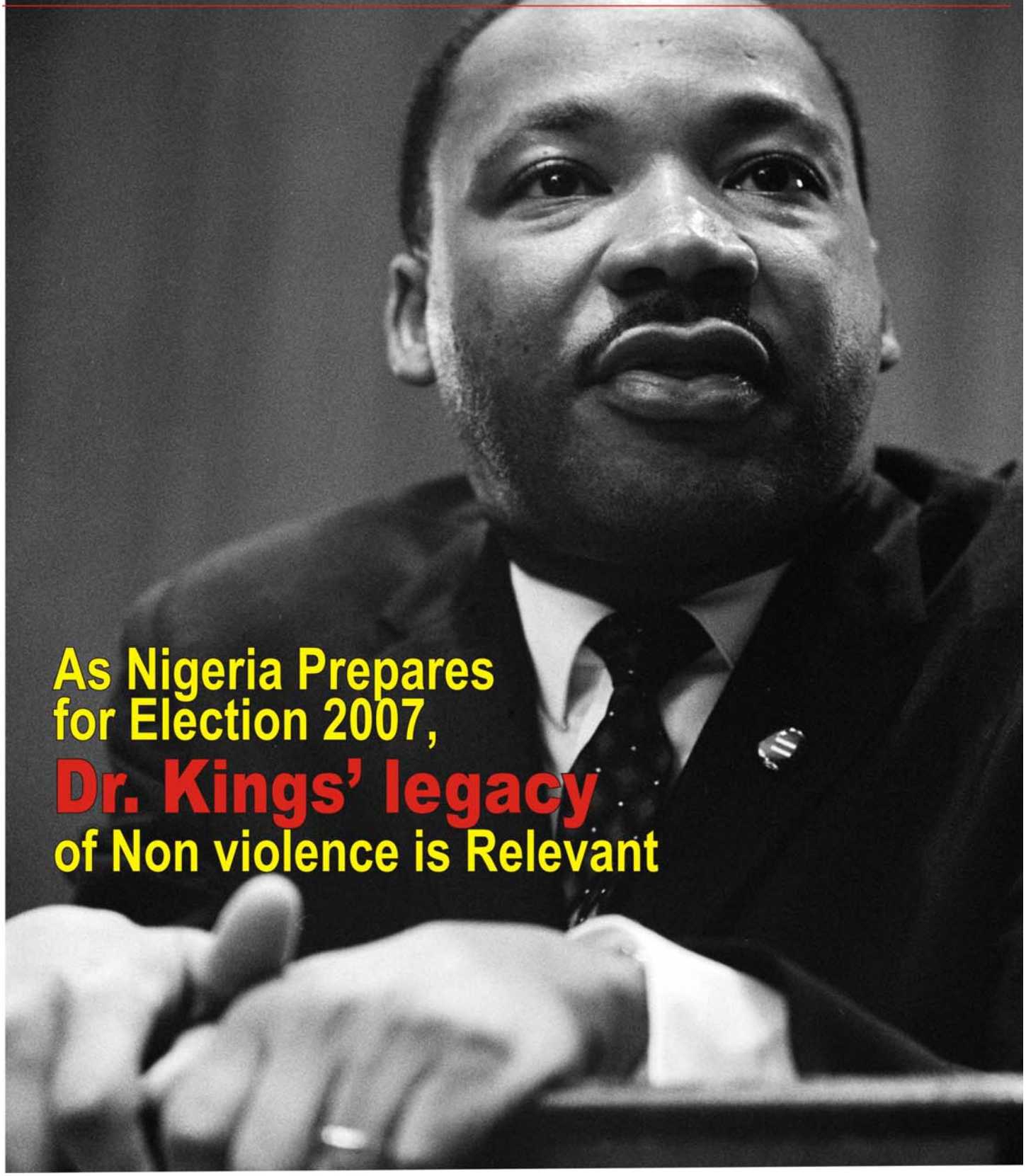

As Nigeria Prepares for Election 2007, Dr. Kings' legacy of Non violence is Relevant

U.S. EUCOM Deputy Commander General Ward Visits DHQ Medical Center, Abuja

General W. Ward, Deputy Commander U.S. European Command (EUCOM), accompanied by the U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria, John Campbell and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Africa Theresa Whelan visited the Defense Headquarters (DHQ) Medical Center at the Mogadishu Cantonment in Abuja. The purpose of the visit was to see first hand the services provided at the medical facilities of the center. The Mogadishu Cantonment is supported by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) - a special initiative of President George W. Bush to address the problems of HI V/AIDS. The visit strengthened US-Nigeria bilateral military cooperation. Acting Cantonment Commander Group Captain Ade Adekunle received the EUCOM Deputy Commander and the Assistant Sectary of Defense at the Cantonment. ***Crossroads*** Editor, Idika U. Onyukwu captured the event.❖

General W. Ward, Deputy Commander European Command takes a salute on arrival at the Mogadishu Cantonment, Abuja.

General Ward and Ambassador Campbell being conducted round the facilities of the DHQ Medical Center by Surgeon Captain Ugwuadu.

Surgeon Captain Ugwuadu (second left), with General W. Ward and Ambassador John Campbell at the DHQ medical laboratory.

Surgeon Captain Ugwuadu explains some of the challenges facing the DHQ Medical Center to General Ward.

Surgeon Captain Ugwuadu presenting a souvenir to Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Africa Theresa Whelan.

General Ward in a group photo with senior military officers including Acting Cantonment Commandant Group Captain Ade Adekunle.

Ambassador's Note

U.S. Ambassador John Campbell

U.S. Treasures Nigeria's Friendship

This issue of ***Crossroads*** honors the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a man who stirred the conscience of America with his non-violent approach to significant social change in American society. Thirty nine years after Dr. King's death, his philosophy of nonviolence remains relevant to all emerging democracies including Nigeria. As the country prepares to go to the polls in crucial elections in April, lessons from Dr. King's philosophy are relevant (see page 4).

We have just returned from a very successful visit to three Northern Nigeria cities – Sokoto, Zaria and Kano (see page 10), where several community projects funded jointly by the United States and Nigeria Governments were commissioned. We met with traditional rulers, government officials, university officials and students, representatives of non-governmental organizations, rural women and youth which helped to solidify the deep friendship between the United States and Nigeria.

During the trip, a new American Corner was commissioned at the Usmanu DanFodio University; a collection of books were donated to Governor Bafarawa's Attahiru Bafarawa Institute for Quranic and General Studies. To ameliorate the problems of Vesico Vagina Fistula (VVF), a new Obstetric Fistula center was commissioned at the Maryam Abacha Womens and Children Hospital. A borehole water project was also commissioned at the Government Secondary School, Sharada, Sokoto .

Helping to improve the lives of Nigerians continues to be a major objective of the U.S. Mission in Nigeria. For example, during Ramadan, the U.S. Embassy community participated in an Iftaar program which provided food for over 200 people. They also engaged students in dialogue on ***"Community Responsibilities in Islam"*** (see page 9).

Working in tandem with an American philanthropic organization, the MacArthur Foundations, and a U.S. book donor - the Sabre Foundation, the U.S. Embassy will provide 20,000 volumes of books to be divided among American Corners in Nigeria (see page 16).

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Inside This Issue

GLOBAL PEACE

U.S. Embassy Celebrates Dr. Kings Legacy with Lessons for the April Elections **4**
The Man Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. **5**
Ambassador Campbell Opens Images of the Niger Delta Exhibition, Speaks of Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy **7**

BUILDING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

Ambassador Campbell Assures Nigerian Senate President Ken Nnamani of U.S. Support to Elections 2007 **8**

U.S. - NIGERIA RELATIONS

Embassy Reaches Out to Those in Need **9**
"U.S. Treasures Nigeria's Friendship" Ambassador Campbell **10**

CONSULAR

Embassy Abuja Begins Visa Revalidation **11**

ELECTIONS

Three is Not a Crowd **12**

An attentive audience listen to Ambassador John Campbell as he remarked on the virtues and philisophy of Dr. King Jr.

U.S. Embas
with Le

By Ibrahim Dan-Halilu
U.S. Embassy Abuja

The U.S. Embassy in collaboration with the National Center for Women Development organized a panel discussion on Wednesday, January 17, 2007 with the theme "MLK Remembered: Embrace the Legacy of Non-Violence." This event highlighted the contributions of the Civil Rights leader to democracy, human rights and good governance.

At the event, prominent civil society leaders appealed to major stakeholders, federal and state governments, political parties, and electioneering candidates to resist violence and human rights abuses both before and after the approaching general elections in April.

Ambassador John Campbell urged Nigerians to practice the values of non violence which the late Martin Luther King Jr cherished and preached amongst his followers. Ambassador Campbell described the theme as timely in view of the upcoming general elections in Nigeria, and urged Nigerians, especially youths to shun violence during the forthcoming polls. "I urge you all to continue to educate other Nigerians on the need to shun violence and ensure a peaceful conduct of the elections."

Ambassador Campbell recalled that Martin Luther King was resourceful and imaginative in confronting the civil rights challenge of the time, rather than pursue extremist and violent acts to accomplish his goals.

The first speaker at the event, Dr. Kabir Muhammad Mato of the University of Abuja outlined the lessons of Martin Luther King's philosophy of non-violence. He pointed out that for Nigerians, especially those interested in bringing about positive changes in the system, they should understand the need to address key problems of society, which include a democratic culture, economic prosperity and social security.

Dr. Mato emphasized that without these three fundamentals, it would be extremely difficult for Nigerians to embrace the philosophy of non-violence and practice it for the benefit of society as Martin Luther king was able to do in the United States.

In her contribution to the discussion, Mrs. Latanya Mapp Frett of the U.S. Agency for international Development (USAID), traced the origins and development of Martin Luther King's philosophy of non-violence and explained the reasons for its success in the United States. She stressed that Martin Luther King devoted much of his time to study the life and time of Mahatma Gandhi who was regarded as the originator of Satya Grahas (non-violence).

She said that his trip to India in 1959 refined his thoughts on nonviolent social protests and strengthened his resolve to adopt non-violent action as the best approach to fighting injustices in society. She traced the success of non-violent action in the U.S. to Martin Luther King's patience, perseverance and power of oratory with which he appealed to conscience of African Americans and other American citizens that were against racial discrimination. Mrs. Frett who is the Acting Deputy Director of USAID Nigeria also explained that other factors responsible for the success of MLK's philosophy was the fact that American society had laid fertile ground for ideas like his to flourish and to be sustained.

"The presence of law and order as well as a strong judicial system had helped in sustaining the struggle and ensuring that unjust laws were not allowed to continue."

She acknowledged the contributions of education and enlightenment to the success of the civil rights movement in the U.S., and urged Nigerians to be committed to investing in education because it is the key to solving all human and societal problems. Other institutions she mentioned include a free press, and a robust civil society alert to its responsibilities.

*(L-r), Julie Sanda, Rev. Father Schineller, Latanya Map Frett and Shirley Lisenby join the crowd to sing **"We Shall Overcome"** at the end of the MLK Day celebration*

Another panelist, Reverend Father Peter Schineller, principal Loyola Jesuit College Abuja, emphasized the need for all agents of socialization to join hands in imparting the philosophy of non-violence to Nigerian youth. He said parents have a prominent role to play in teaching their wards or children respect for humanity, which is the bedrock of Martin Luther's non-violent approach.

Rev Father Schineller who accused some developed countries of unleashing violence around the world, called on world leaders to adopt Martin Luther's approach to resolve conflicts. He noted that lack of creativity, imagination and respect for humanity by some world leaders has been largely responsible for the violence that humanity is witnessing today.

While advocating for moral studies as a good platform for child upbringing,

The Man Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr., (January 15, 1929-April 4, 1968) was born Michael Luther King, Jr., but later had his name changed to Martin. His grandfather began the family's long tenure as pastors of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, serving from 1914 to 1931; his father has served from then until the present, and from 1960 until his death Martin Luther acted as co-pastor. Martin Luther attended segregated public schools in Georgia, graduating from high school at the age of fifteen; he received the B. A. degree in 1948 from Morehouse College, a distinguished Negro institution of Atlanta from which both his father and grandfather had been graduated. After three years of theological study at Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania where he was elected president of a predominantly white senior class, he was awarded the B.D. in 1951. With a fellowship won at Crozer, he enrolled in graduate studies at Boston University, completing his residence for the doctorate in 1953 and receiving the degree in 1955. In Boston he met and married Coretta Scott, a young woman of uncommon intellectual and artistic attainments. Two sons and two daughters were born into the family.

In 1954, Martin Luther King accepted the pastorale of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. Always a strong worker for civil rights for members of his race, King was, by this time, a member of the executive

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the peaceful march on Washington, D.C. where he delivered "I have a Dream" speech.

President George W. Bush greets volunteers big and small during Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at Cardozo Senior High School in Washington, D.C., Monday, Jan. 15, 2007. "One of the things that Mrs. King wanted was for MLK Day to be a day of service. It is not a day off, but it's a day on," said the President. "And so I'm here at Cardozo High School to thank the hundreds of people who have showed up to serve the country."

White House photo by Paul Morse

Reverend Father Peter Schineller noted that both Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.'s views were influenced by their religion and tradition in adopting non-violence to bring about positive changes in their societies. He urged Nigerians, especially youth to internalize the teachings of their religion and traditions as a first step towards embracing the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. Reverend Father Schineller also urged Nigerian governments to introduce the noble art of politics in secondary schools in order to change people's orientation to governance.

In proclaiming January 15 as Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday, U.S. President George Bush said, Americans honor the memory of Dr. King because "he stirred the conscience of our Nation."

"We also recommit ourselves to the dream to which Dr. King devoted his life an America where the dignity of every person is respected; where people are judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character; and where the hope of a better tomorrow is in every neighborhood," President Bush said.

He added that America will continue to build on the legal equality championed by Dr. King and all the heroes of the civil rights movement, and "we will continue our work to protect the promise of our Declaration and guarantee the rights of every citizen."

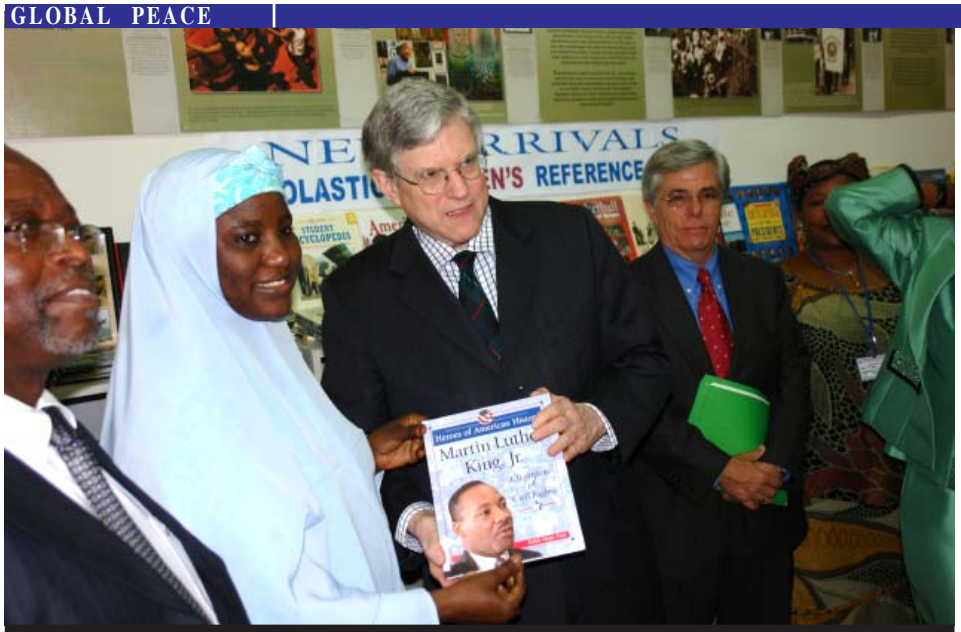
Senior Research Fellow and Head of Conflict Studies, National War College Ms. Julie Sanda, explained that violence is a consequence of failure to settle conflict amicably. She said that though conflict is a necessary condition for growth and in fact inevitable in every human society, efforts have to be made to resolve desputes peacefully. She advocated dialogue as the best way of resolving conflict.

The Man Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the leading organization of its kind in the nation. He was ready, then, early in December, 1955, to accept the leadership of the first great Negro nonviolent demonstration of contemporary times in the United States, the bus boycott described by Gunnar Jahn in his presentation speech in honor of the laureate. The boycott lasted 382 days. On December 21, 1956, after the Supreme Court of the United States had declared unconstitutional the laws requiring segregation on buses, Negroes and whites rode the buses as equals. During these days of boycott, King was arrested, his home was bombed, he was subjected to personal abuse, but at the same time he emerged as a Negro leader of the first rank.

In the eleven-year period between 1957 and 1968, King traveled over six million miles and spoke over twenty-five hundred times, appearing wherever there was injustice, protest, and action; and meanwhile he wrote five books as well as numerous articles. In these years, he led a massive protest in Birmingham, Alabama, that caught the attention of the entire world, providing what he called a coalition of conscience. and inspiring his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail", a manifesto of the Negro revolution; he planned the drives in Alabama for the registration of Negroes as voters; he directed the peaceful march on Washington, D.C., of 250,000 people to whom he delivered his address, "I Have a Dream", he conferred with President John F. Kennedy and campaigned for President Lyndon B. Johnson. At the age of thirty-five, Martin Luther King, Jr., was the youngest man to have received the Nobel Peace Prize. When notified of his selection, he announced that he would turn over the prize money of $54,123 to the furtherance of the civil rights movement.

On the evening of April 4, 1968, while standing on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was to lead a protest march in sympathy with striking garbage workers of that city, he was assassinated.❖



Ambassador Campbell assisted by the Director-General Women Development Center Dr. A'isha Mahmood, display new collections of Scholastic Children books donated to the American Corner, Abuja by the U.S. Embassy as part of events marking the MLK Day.

According to the scholar, non-violent attitudes can be internalized if people learn the basics of conflict resolution and peace building, which include understanding the problem; sharing information; respect for the rule of law; respect for humanity; patience and perseverance; negotiations followed by taking direct action.

She suggested that secondary schools should introduce a conflict resolution curriculum to target the youth. According to Ms. Sanda, Nigerian youth can learn a great lesson from Martin Luther King who achieved what he wanted to achieve for himself and humanity at a prime age of 39 years when he won the civil rights struggle and was awarded the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

In closing, the Chairman of the occasion, Dr. Tawfiq Mohammed Ladan described King's legacy as a universal treasure that should be guarded zealously. He urged Nigerian youth to avoid being used as thugs or "trouble makers" by selfish politicians to get what they could not achieve through the ballot box.

"The 2007 election is crucial and parents must keep an eye on their children to avoid politicians recruiting them as thugs and trouble makers during the election," Dr. Ladan cautioned.

The U.S. Embassy Cultural Affairs Officer, Shirley Lisenby in her vote of thanks commended the panelist for their contribution in explaining Dr. King's legacy and in joining Americans to celebrate the birthday of his national holiday. She explained that all Americans cherished the legacies and do encourage other peoples of the world to appreciate the power of non-violent social action. Over 450 people including students, teachers, university lecturers, leaders of civil society and journalists attended the program.

The third Monday of every January is observed as U.S. Federal Holiday in memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. January 15, 2007, marks the 21st year of the federal holiday honoring Martin Luther King Jr. It is also the first without his widow, Coretta Scott King, who died shortly after last year's celebrations.❖

Ambassador Campbell Opens images of the Niger Delta Exhibition, Speaks of Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy

U.S. Ambassador John Campbell was the special guest of honor on January 25, 2007 at an Art Exhibition celebrating the 10th anniversary of Bayelsa State. Organized under the leadership of Emeritus Professor E.J. Alagoa, and Chairman Onyeoma Research, the Niger Delta Images Exhibition presented collections of creative images of ten artists from Bayelsa, Delta and River States.

In opening remarks, Ambassador Campbell, said his presence at the exhibition was a testimony of the value the United States places on Nigerian arts and culture. He reminded the artists of the

Pius Waritimi uses his gas-flaring art work to explain life in the Niger Delta to Ambassador Campbell

contributions of famed U.S. civil and human rights activist, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose philosophy of non-violence pricked the moral conscience of America. The Ambassador said although the Niger Delta region is best known for the production of oil and gas, "This Exhibition shows us that both life and culture in the Niger Delta are so much richer and more complex than merely the exploitation of its natural resources."

Before closing the exhibition, Ambassador Campbell inspected several works of arts which he said embraced Dr. King's philosophy of nonviolence. He said "We must continue to work for Dr. King's vision of social justice and peace, not only for the people of the Niger Delta, but also for all mankind. This work abhors violence and speaks to the human heart's passion for justice."

Waribugo Jackson explains her artwork to Ambassador Campbell.

The exhibition covered eight artistic genres of painting; straw art, textiles, mixed media, sculpture, bas relief in fiber glass, printmaking and photography. Three female artists - Pamela Cyril-Egware, Klara Nze, and Waribugo Jackson, along with seven male artists – Palmore Abassah, Dr. Marshall Enenajor, Tam Fiofori, Paniebi Jones, Diseye Tantua, Joel Tubonimi and Pius Waritimi participated in the Bayelsa at 10 Art Exhibition held at the Abuja Arts and Culture Center.❖

Senate President Ken Nnamani making a special appeal for incresed US assistance to Nigeria's election during Ambassador Campbell's visit to the Senate, Jan. 25.

Ambassador Campbell Assures Senate President of U.S. Support to Nigeria's Election

On January 25, 2007, U.S. Ambassador John Campbell paid a visit to the National Assembly where he held closed door consultations with Senate President Ken Nnamani on Nigeria's approaching general elections. Nigerians will be voting to fill presidential and legislative offices on April 14 and 21 in a crucial election many consider very strategic to the survival of Africa's largest democracy. Campbell who arrived at the Senate Chambers at 2:10 p.m. was met by principal officers of the Senate including Deputy Senate president Dr. Ibrahim Mantu; Chairman Senate Committee on Media and Public Affairs Victor Ndoma-Egba; Senate Leader, Dalhatu Sarki Tafida and former Nigeria Ambassador to the United States Professor Jibril Aminu.

Principal Officers of the Senate pose with Ambassador John Campbell.

Ambassador Campbell said his visit was to re-enforce U.S. support for the coming elections. "As friends of Nigeria, we appreciate your efforts on behalf of free and fair elections, and we look foward to April 14 and 21, and to the first ever transition of power from one civilian elected government to another on May 29," Ambassador Campbell said. To accomplish a smooth transition, the Senate President solicited additional U.S. assistance especially in election monitoring by international observers. Senator Nnamani acknowledged the work that the International Republican (IRI) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) were already doing in these areas. "Now that we are at the threshold of the elections, we expect that the level of assistance would be increased. We recognize what the NDI and the IRI have been doing towards credible elections in April."❖

Embassy Reaches Out to Those in Need

The U.S. Embassy in Abuja and the Consulate in Lagos collaborated with the Al-Habibiyyah Academy and the Ansar-ud-Deen Central Mosque in Surulere Lagos, to host Iftar dinners on September 26 and October 20, 2006 respectively. Dinners were provided to approximately 1,000 needy Muslims in Abuja as well as to students from the University of Abuja. The dinner was served by Embassy staff and family members. At the Al-Habibiyaah Mosque, U.S. Embassy Political Officer Rabia Qureshi, reiterated President Bush's message that the U.S. is proud to have many Muslims among its citizenry.

Quoting President Bush, the young Muslim Political Officer said "Ramadan and the upcoming holiday seasons are a good time to remember the common values that bind us together. Our society is enriched by our Muslim citizens whose commitment to faith reminds us of the gift of religious freedom in our country," U.S. Embassy Community Liaison Officer Fatima Mendelsohn participated in the feeding program arranged by the Chief Imam of Al-Habibiyyah Mosque Fuad Adeyemi.

In Lagos, U.S. Consul General (CG) Brian Browne met with top officials of the Ansar-ud-Deen society where he addressed the community and answered questions on US policy in Iraq, US relations with Islam, motives for the food and book donation as well as U.S. assistance on education. Society members expressed their desire for continued interaction with the US Consulate General.❖

Photos top to Bottom: Embassy staff handing out cooked food; Middle: Ms. Qureshi gives out packed food; Below, Consul General Browne presents books to Ansar-ud-Deen Society.

Iftaar Lecture Underscores Community Responsibilities in Islam

On October 9, the U.S. Embassy, Abuja, held a Ramadan lecture on "**Community Responsibilities in Islam,**" and distributed Embassy-donated Iftaar packs, at four programs organized to engage Muslim youth, to foster better understanding of US policies. The lecture held at the Al-Habibiyyah Mosque prayer ground was attended by over 500 young Muslim men and women, including a Nigerian-American Muslim, Malam Muhammad Awal, who lectured on freedom of worship in the United States.

U.S. Embassy Political Officer Rabia Qureshi in her presentation emphasized the importance of individual responsibility towards family, neighbors, friends, the nation, and the rest of humanity. She stressed the need for the community to properly guide individuals on how they can live and contribute positively in a diverse society.

Ms. Rabia Qureshi, U.S. Embassy Political Officer, sharing her experience as an American and a Muslim. At her left is Embassy Community Liaison Officer Fatima Mendelsohn.

Other speakers included Alhaji Ridwan Adebayo Mustapha, Chairman of Al-Habibiyyah Islamic Society, Malam Abdulfatah Adeyemi, and Imam Fuad Adeyemi; all of them advised Muslims to shun violence, and to be kind to their neighbors.

The U.S. Embassy/Al-Habibiyyah collaborative Ramadan Program ended with a two-day feeding for poor and underprivileged Muslims.❖

"U.S. Treasures Nigeria's Friendship" – *U.S. Ambassador Campbell*

Ambassador John Campbell confers with the Sultan of Sokoto His Eminence Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar during a courtesy call to the Sultan in Sokoto, February 4.

Ambassador John Campbell assisted by the Kano State Commissioner for Education Tijjani Naniya commission a borehole constructed by the U.S. Embassy Office of Defense Corporation for Gov't Secondary Sharada.

U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria John Campbell reached out to millions of northern Nigerians during a trip to Sokoto, Zaria and Kano, February 4 to 6, 2007. The purpose of the trip was to tell the entire Muslim community in Nigeria that America treasures their friendship and honors their faith.

During his trip Ambassador Campbell met with traditional rulers, government officials, university and educational leaders, representatives of non governmental organizations and youth. Among the personages he met was His Eminence Sultan Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar, the 20th Sultan of Sokoto, His Excellency Alhaji A.D. Bafarawa, the Executive Governor of Sokoto State, His Excellency Alhaji Chiso Abdullahi Dattijo, Deputy Governor of Sokoto State, His Excellency Mahmud Shinkafi, Deputy Governor of Zamfara State, His Highness Wamban Kano, Senior Counselor Kano Emirate Council, who represented the Emir of Kano, Alhaji Dr. Ado Bayero, Tijjani Naniya, Commissioner of Education, Kano State, Professor Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, Vice Chancellor, Usmanu DanFodio University, Sokoto, Professor Shehu Usman Abdullahi, Vice Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, and Professor Attahiru M. Jega, Vice Chancellor, Bayero University of Kano.

In Sokoto Ambassador Campbell paid a courtesy visit to His Eminence Sultan Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar, the 20th Sultan of Sokoto. The Sultan pledged his support for U.S. government programs especially health care programs, including polio eradication.

Ambassador Campbell commissioned an American Corner library at Usmanu DanFodio University, donated a collection of books to Governor Bafarawa's Attahiru Bafarawa Institute for Quranic and General Studies, and, along with Governor Bafarawa, launched a new Obstetric Fistula center located in the Maryam Abacha Women and Children Hospital.

In Zaria Ambassador Campbell delivered a lecture on Democracy, Elections and Non-violence to political science faculty and students at Ahmadu Bello University.

Later that day, he presented 30 ACCESS Micro-Scholarships grants to secondary school students at the Demonstration Secondary School of ABU to enable them stay in school. The ACCESS Micro-Scholarship Program helps needy but brilliant high school students acquire a good education through enhanced English language teaching.

The following day Ambassador Campbell and his entourage traveled to Kano where he was received by both His Highness Wamban Kano, Senior Counselor Kano Emirate Council, who represented the Emir of Kano, Alhaji Dr. Ado Bayero, and Tijjani Naniya the Commissioner of Education, representing His Excellency Malam Ibrahim Shekarau, Governor, Kano State.

Ambassador Campbell and Commissioner of Education Tijjani Naniya commissioned a borehole at the Sharada Secondary School. The borehole will provide clean drinking water for thousands of students who attend the school. In Northern Nigeria, the U.S. Embassy's Office of Defense Cooperation is working in partnership with USAID to construct boreholes, seed storage facilities and repair school buildings.

Finally, he visited Shabab Muslimina Islamiyya primary school and presented a collection of children's books. The Kano State Universal Basic Education Board, the U.S. Government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development's the COMPASS Project, the headmaster, teachers, parents and administrators of the school cooperated on joint projects to improve facilities at the school for the students and teachers. This addresses USG efforts in supporting quality basic education in Nigeria which is a major investment in people that promotes human capacity development.❖

Abuja Consular Section Begins Visa Revalidation

On Thursday, November 9, 2006, the U.S. Embassy Abuja Consular Chief, Ms. Victoria Coffineau briefed the press on U.S. Embassy Abuja's Non-Immigrant Visa Revalidation Program. She emphasized that the U.S. Embassy Abuja Visa Revalidation Program is not the same as the "Drop Box" program used by the U.S. Consulate in Lagos. She said that to use the Visa Revalidation Program, a person must already be in possession of a full-validity (24-month), multiple-entry non-immigrant visa issued in Abuja or Lagos that is either still valid or it expired no more than 12 months ago.

Qualified non-immigrant visa applicants do not need appointments in advance to use the Abuja Visa Revalidation Program, instead they queue at the U.S. Embassy Abuja Consular Section Gate at 1:30 p.m., any Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Applicants that are processed at the Consular Section Gate between 1:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m., and that meet the revalidation qualifications, have the necessary forms and documents (including passport with last visa issued) and have proof of visa application fee payment (UBA receipt), will receive a numbered, colored ticket and proceed that same day directly to the Consular Section to be

Victoria Coffineau

interviewed by a Consular Officer. Successful applicants will return to the Consular Section at 3:00 p.m. two business days after the interview to collect their passports.

Ms. Coffineau also gave general guidelines on the 2008 Diversity Visa Lottery Program, warning the public to be wary of fraudsters requesting payments from unsuspecting applicants and promising them success in the DV Lottery program. She reminded the general public that there is no charge to download and complete the Electronic Diversity Visa Entry Form, and that the Department of State notifies successful Diversity Visa applicants by letter, and NOT by email. Additional information regarding the requirements for the 2008 Diversity Visa Lottery Program is available at: www.dvlottery.state.gov

Visa Revalidation Program Extended to Students

Effective on **Monday, December 18, 2006** any student wishing to apply for a student visa will be able to appear at the Consular Section Gate any Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday at **1:30 p.m**. (**except holidays**) with all of the necessary visa application forms, financial documents, school registration documents, and all other documents necessary to qualify for a student visa.

Since the Visa Revalidation Program is open only from **1:30 - 2:00 p.m**., applicants not processed by 2:00 p.m. will need to return the next day, (**except holidays**).

Please refer to the U.S. Embassy web site for additional information regarding this change in the Visa Revalidation Program at http://nigeria.usembassy.gov ❖

Nigerian NGO Wins Micro-credit Award

For providing micro-credit to more than 65,000 clients, Lift Above Poverty Organization (LAPO) – a Nigerian micro-credit institution has won this year's edition of the Grameen Foundation Excellence in Microfinance Award.

LAPO is a major beneficiary of United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which has provided both technical and financial assistance through its PRISMS (Promoting Improved Sustainable Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Financial Services) scheme. Over the years assistance has included training, product development and providing access to International Guarantee Funds which in turn assured loans from local banks.

The award is bestowed on organizations that use microfinance as an effective tool in the fight against poverty. LAPO was established as an antidote to harsh economic policies in the 1980s which had a strident effect on low income earners. From a start-up capital of $150 in the village of Ogwashi-Ukwu in Delta state, the microfinance firm has spread to eight states in the country and an annual turnover of $16.2 million.❖

2007 Elections

Three is Not A Crowd

U.S. Consul General Browne was the key-note speaker at the 2006 PAN African Democracy symposium organized by the Africa Dialogue Mission on November 2 at Rockview Hotel, Abuja. Browne spoke to a capacity filled hall and counseled Nigerian politicians to see politics as a vocation of innovation, an avenue of cumulative advance as Nigeria stacks progress upon earlier progress. Former South African President Nelson Mandela, Noble Laureate Wole Soyinka, and Ghanaian President John Kufuor, are some of the past guest speakers at the PAN African Democracy Symposium. Below are excerpts of the Consul General's speech.

Consul General Brian Browne delivering his lecture on Nigeria's Election at the Africa Dialogue Mission symposium, November 2

... Now before I begin to tell you what I am here to say let me tell what I am not here to say. I am not here to speak in elegant language. The day is too short and too many hours have already slipped away for such finery. We haven't the time to spend on subtle phrases that leave you guessing about what I said. My language will be plain and straightforward so that there can be no mistake about what I have said and what I have meant.

There will be no double or hidden meaning so subtract nothing from what I say. Neither add to it. What is said shall be no more and no less than what you hear. Likewise do not speculate that my presence is anything other than it is – to speak on good governance.

I am not here to favor or oppose any person, group or organization. I am here not to condemn or commend any particular person or party.

Thus if you are looking for whom I support, don't go to any elected official's office. You won't find me there. Don't go to any party headquarters. My footprints will neither be there. I am singularly disinterested in who beats whom in the political game. What has my abiding interest is that government look after the well being of those who do not have the capacity to fully look after themselves.

Thus, if you want to see whom we support, get out of your chair, walk out of this hall and go to the schools to see young children struggling in ill equipped schools to obtain an education that will give them hope for the future.

Go to marketplace. See the somber-eyed mother with too many needs to meet but too little money with which to meet them. Go to the farms. See people working and tilling the soil from sun up to sun down in order to scratch out a living, to feed their family and feed this nation. Go to the bus stops. See the men and women who wake up tired in the morning and come home even more-weary from work late at night. These are the people I support.

These are the people who form the backbone of Nigeria. As they hope for democracy and its dividends to improve their lives they are also the hope of democracy. Ultimately they are the ones who must team up with socially conscious leaders to put the political system in better order.

However, right now too many misdeeds by those seeking office are being hatched. Some of these misadventures are so severe that they should never have been contemplated let alone been committed. For example, assassination attempts against the lives of political figures should make you shudder and recoil from such desperate malevolence.

In a country with so much talent and resources, politics should be a vocation of innovation, an avenue of cumulative advance as Nigeria stacks progress upon earlier progress. But right now, that is not so. Right now, the terms "the politics of disorder and the disorder of politics" can be used interchangeably to describe too much of what has been taking place across this land.

So let me address what I am about to say next primarily to the officer holders, office seekers and political partisans among us. Here you have a grave responsibility. Clouds of portent are now assembling over this country. What you do or don't do in the months to come will shape the nation for years to come. History waits with pen in hand to chronicle what we do at this fertile moment.

Should Nigeria fail in this democratic enterprise, succeeding generations will look back and be baffled at how we ran aground given the corps of talented people and the

First Secretary High Commission of the Republic of Zambia Solomon Mchomachoma Nyirenda (r) poses with Consul General Browne after the Lecture.

ample store of resources Providence has lent this nation.

To be found waiting at this moment would be allowing your destiny to pass through your fingers like melting butter on a hot day. We must act wisely and well to justify why we have been placed here in this special hour. Remember, what Nigeria does today, Africa will do tomorrow. What Nigeria becomes today, is what Africa will be tomorrow. You have a responsibility that extends beyond your borders and your shores. Great is the responsibility. Great is the potential reward but also great are the consequences of failure. Let not that responsibility crash against the shoals of failure because of our indecision, indifference and want of vision.

In the best sense of the word, politics is supposed to order society for the better. The political system is supposed to be a venue where problems get solved equitably so that society and all of its component parts can progress in relative harmony. However, it seems that politics has mutated into its opposite. Instead of a way of solving problems, politics has become a problem unto itself. Instead of improving people's lives, it has become adept at claiming lives.

People are rushing to and fro, pushing from pillar to post, joining and leaving one political party after another as they jockey for position and office. A lot of activity is taking place. Cunning tactics and strategies are being employed by political godfathers, their godsons and even political orphans.

Many people are scrambling to get in office or scheming to get someone else out of office. All of this is characteristic of politics. It is to be expected but not exalted. More sadly, is the fact that too many people are attempting to push politics into even darker reaches. Attacks on political rivals, destruction of private and public properties, rioting, and the promotion and funding of gangs and militia should have no place in Nigeria's equation.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not a naive idealist. Politics is a tough game. Politicians must often do things that make a saint blush. However, there is a great difference between being tough and being wrong. Those of us too eager and too prone toward violence and intimidation should not be trusted with the public welfare. Putting a wolf in charge of a flock of sheep in no way turns him into a shepherd. It only makes for an unfortunate flock of sheep.

While all the political wrangling is taking place, there is barely a peep about the art of serving the citizens, and what must be done once in office. There is a near universal muteness among the political office-seekers and those who cheer them in defining why they seek office. And it is this question heretofore left unanswered that is most important to the welfare of society. Thus, it is to that question we direct ourselves.

The real issue is why does one take part in the drama of politics? Why does one seek elective office?

Being in politics for the sake of politics is selfish. It is a barest expression of ambition. One should only engage in politics if one seeks to move to a more elevated and productive plane – that of governance. Electoral politics is seasonal. Governance is perpetual.

A politician adept at getting elected but incapable of governance is like a new car without of an engine. While the car looks good, it gets you nowhere. Thus, we should ask all potential politicians, "Are you a politician because you have something to contribute or are you involved because you are looking for something to take away. Are you there because you like the sound of the title or have fallen in love with the sound of sirens blaring as your motorcade plies the nation's streets and highways.

Or are you seeking office so that you can help the old lady receive her pension, help the young man find work to feed his family their daily bread and because you feel an unequalled exhilaration when you see healthy, well fed children smile as they walk, books in hand, on their way to school.

Now that the election season is upon us, we all have a choice to make. Will our politics be small and selfish or will it be visionary and will it be beneficial to those whom we purport to serve?

These are the questions before us all. These questions are freighted with importance.....

Full Text of this Speech is at:

http://nigeria.usembassy.gov

Ambassador John Campbell Charges Journalists to Report 20007 Election Accurately

By Idika U. Onyukwu
*Editor, **Crossroads***

*U.S. Ambasssador John Campbell in a group photo with Editors and Senior Journalists after a workshop on **"Covering the 2007 Elections"** in Abuja, November 21.*

"As members of the media wielding an enormous amount of power and influence over the public debate, you have a sacred obligation to ensure that your reporting is accurate and responsible." U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria John Campbell made this remarks at a November 21, media training workshop on ***"Covering the 2007 Elections, The Role of Media."*** The workshop was organized by the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy, Abuja in collaboration with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the International Republican Institute (IRI). Twenty-five editors and senior journalists drawn from major print and electronic media organizations in Nigeria participated in the workshop held at the Bola Ige Technology Center, Abuja.

The workshop comes on the heels of public concerns about the ability of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to conduct a free and credible April 2007 general elections in Nigeria. Two facilitators, Ms Ayo Obe, Senior Programs Manager NDI, and Lanre Arogundade, Executive Director International Press Center provided extensive guidance to the journalists on how to cover the pre and post election events. Questions on INEC's preparedness, credibility and its organization of the on-going voter registration exercise generated considerable debate between the Chief Press Secretary to INEC Chairman and Head of Media Andy Ezeani, and participants. Mr. Ezeani stressed that there is a need for a change of mindset by the journalists and indeed Nigerians on how past elections had been conducted. Saying that today's INEC is different and legitimate. "You as journalists must reframe from using your medium to inflame passion or to publish inaccurate and misleading information." Country Director NDI, Dr. Keith Jennings and his IRI counterpart Dr. Matthias Naab, moderated the sessions that also had five journalists who recently returned from a reporting tour of the U.S. Mid-Term Elections, who shared their U.S. experiences with workshop participants. Ambassador Campbell presented certificates following the training.❖

US Government Reiterates Support For Credible Election Processes in Nigeria

The Public Affairs Section of the United States Embassy in Abuja held its fourth Democracy Series briefing on Thursday, October 5, to underscore US Government's support to the development of a credible election processes in Nigeria. The Media event focused on the crucial Presidential and Parliamentary elections scheduled for April 2007. It was attended by more than a dozen reporters representing the print, electronic and wire service. Mr. Stephen Herbaly, USAID's Democracy and Governance Officer, said the elections support program

Stephen Herbaly

has three separate but integrated components, jointly managed by USAID and the Embassy through implementing partners with a total estimated budget of $15,000,000 over three years (2005 – 2007).

USAID implementing partners are: The International Foundation for Electoral Systems, IFES; the National Democratic Institute (NDI); and the International Republican Institute (IRI). The three components of US Government's elections support for Nigeria focuses on strengthening the capacity of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), strengthening civil society engagement in voter education and elections observation, and enhancing political parties' professionalism. This is done in order to increase transparency, and reduce electoral violence.❖

US Mid-Term Elections, Lessons for Nigeria

By Dr. Matthias Zana Naab, Country Director International Republican Institute.

The views expressed by Dr Naab do not reflect offical U.S. Government position.

On Tuesday, November 7 2006, America voted in a mid-term election in which a third of the United States Senate and the entire House of Representatives of the 110th Congress were chosen; in addition, 36 States elected Governors. The outcome of these mid-term elections will invariably determine the direction of governance, public and foreign policy in America over the coming years.

Background: US Mid-Term Elections

According to public opinion polls before the elections, most Americans were unhappy with the current direction in the country. Political pollsters measured the public mood by the "right-track / wrong- track" question. Polls consistently showed that 2 out of 3 Americans believe things are headed in the wrong direction. The key issue driving the response is the Iraq War. It should be noted, however, the support for the war on terror remains high consistently. The American people are also separating the War in Iraq from the global war on terror. In the 2002 and 2004 election cycles, the Republican's were able to link the two issues together, but as people have separated the two issues, the President's approval numbers have declined.

Implications on U.S. Policy Due to Changes in Congress

With the Democrats winning the both House of Representatives and Senate, the U.S. Government is about to reenter into the era of divided government. Divided government is when one party does not control the House, the Senate, and the Presidency. Divided government, just as one-party

Dr. Matthias Zana Naab

control, has positive and negative implications.

On the positive side, divided government tends to reduce government corruption and increase accountability.

On the negative side, divided government means that public policy changes will be incremental or non-existent in most cases. Conversely, with one party control, changes in public policy direction are more pronounced. This does not mean that no public policy of significance is passed in divided government. It just means there are fewer large initiatives. The last time the U.S. had divided government (from 1994 to 2000), a democrat President, Bill Clinton, and a Republican congress, led by Speaker Newt Gingrich, passed a very comprehensive welfare reform bill. This bill changed over 30 years of welfare policy.

For policy to change under divided government there must be broad public support, a series of well-defined policy options, and the political will by policy makers. Beginning next year, there are two issues where all 3 elements are present. The two issues are: (i) Iraq policy and (ii) immigration policy.

President Bush acknowledged while accepting the resignation letter of former Secretary of Defense Donald Ramsfeld, that public opinion is certainly on the side of doing something different in Iraq.

The second issue where they might be movement, despite divided government, is on immigration policy. In an ironic shift, democrats in the House may allow the President to enact his policy of immigration liberalization which he could not do when the Republicans controlled the House. The Republicans in the House led a significant revolt against Bush on his immigration plan. The Democrats are more closely in-line with the President on the issue. Because the Democrats would control the committee agenda in the House, there is a possibility of a Bush-Democrat resolution on immigration much like there was a Clinton-Republican partnership on welfare reform in 1996.

Campaign 2006 Lessons for Nigerian political professionals

1. Winning elections is not about winning every vote, it is about effective targeting of voters - Politics is a game of simple numbers. In politics, you have a majority of votes, or you do not. If you don't, you cannot get elected, pass legislation, or govern. In the 2006 US elections, both political parties demonstrated this fundamental political principle.

The lesson for Nigerian parties is this. Nigerian parties should spend time and money researching where they get their support and develop strategies to target these voters. In order to effectively target this group of people, political parties need to incorporate public opinion polling and create databases of voter preferences and registration.

2. Allocating campaign resources is not based on personal friendships and patronage, but on the ability to win - If your campaign is losing, a well-placed friend cannot save you. The lesson for Nigerian parties is you have to approach a political campaign as a business and voters as the customer. Business that do not serve customers, go out of business.❖

Education

EAC Holds International Education Week with Workshop, College Visits and DVC Program

The Educational Advising Centers of the U.S. Embassy Abuja and the Consulate General in Lagos, participated in the seventh annual International Education Week (IEW), November 13-17, with a series of events including a school visit to Capital Science School, Kuje Abuja; a workshop on Financial Aid for students, and a Digital Video Conferencing (DVC) on University Study in the United States.

In remarks to kick off the week, U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings said this year's theme, International Education: Engaging in Global Partnerships and Opportunities, presents a golden opportunity to focus on what it takes to create new partnerships and seize new opportunities in the 21st century. "It all starts with a quality education," Spellings said.

USAID Senior Education Advisor Sandy Ojikutu contributing to the DVC program, November 15 in Abuja.

On November 15, Dr. Susan Perry, head of the Political Science Department at the American University of Paris chaired a DVC session that linked Abuja and Lagos with discussants in Paris. Nathan Clark, ARS intern; Esther Jung, UNESCO Fulbright; and Corinne Amany, a graduate student from the American University, Paris shared their experiences on University Study in the U.S. Ten other panelists from EAC Abuja and Lagos including USAID Senior Education Advisor Sandy Ojikutu, the Public Affairs Officer Timothy Gerhardson, Cultural Affairs Officer Shirley Lisenby, and EAC Advisors Jennifer Onyukwu and Ifeanyi Olagbaju, participated in the program.❖

Embassy Public Affairs, Sabre Foundation Launch 20,000 Volume Book Donation Program

Target of Opportunity Speaker Tania Vitvitsky, and the Executive Director, Sabre Foundation, presented lectures at the American Corner Abuja, October 11, and the American Corner Kaduna, October 12, on problems associated with book donation programs in Africa.

The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy Abuja is partnering with the Sabre Foundation, the American Corner Ibadan, and the MacArthur Foundation who awarded a grant to the U.S. Embassy to ship a sea container of books to Nigeria to be divided among the 12 American Corners in Nigeria. The book donation to American Corners Nigeria was formally launched during the presentation at the American Corner Abuja.

Tania Vitvitsky (second right) assisted by Embassy Information Resource Officer Henry Mendelsohn (right), presents samples of Sabre books donation to 12 American Corners in Nigeria.

Ms. Vitvitsky came to Nigeria to unravel bureaucratic problems associated with book donations to Nigeria. The Public Affairs Section, Abuja arranged several appointments with key government officials, including the Minister of Finance, and NGO representatives which resulted in the resolution of long standing difficulties to shipping donated books into Nigeria.

In a power-point presentations entitled, "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly" at the American Corners, Ms. Vitvitsky highlighted the major characteristics of book donation programs, thereby raising awareness among government officials and NGOs concerning bureaucratic problems associated with book donations to Nigeria.

In addition to the American Corner book donation, the Sabre Foundation has received grants from the MacArthur Foundation to ship American books to four universities in Nigeria yet could not do so due to bureaucratic impediments.❖

Young boys present their vials of urine colored red from schistosomiasis infection to President Jimmy Carter while Carter Center Executive Director John Hardman, M.D. (center right), Frank O. Richards, Jr., M.D. (left), and director of the Carter Center's River Blindness, Lymphatic Filariasis, and Schistosomiasis Control watch.

President Carter Visits Nigeria to Combat Neglected Diseases

For most school children in Nasarawa North, northern Nigeria, Thursday, February 15th was the most-auspicious day in their lives as former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Rosalynn Carter helped in administering drug treatment of schistosomiasis to hundreds of school children, village Heads and other community members. Schistosomiasis is a silent and destructive parasitic infection that leads to poor growth and impaired learning, in the small community of Nasarawa North.

President Carter visited the highly affected community to draw national attention to the country's need to make disease prevention and treatment with the medicine praziquantel more accessible to rural and impoverished communities. Senior officials from The Carter Center, national health experts, and Nigeria's former Head of State General Dr. Yakubu Gowon accompanied President Carter on this visit..

"Communities once weakened by schistosomiasis and other neglected diseases can become stronger thanks to the dedication of local health workers to distribute simple, preventative drug treatments annually," said President Carter. "Watching these children smile and knowing that they have the opportunity to grow up no longer fearing blindness, disfigurement, and organ damage that their parents suffered is a testament to the bright future of Nigeria. To make this vision a reality, however, the Nigerian government must pledge more financial and political support and ensure the dedication of officials throughout the country."

The visit to Nasarawa North came a day after President Carter's meeting with Nigeria President Olusegun Aremu Obasanjo to request further governmental support to help Carter Center-assisted programs combat schistosomiasis and other neglected diseases in the most populous African country that has more people at risk for schistosomiasis, river blindness (onchocerciasis), and lymphatic filariasis than any other nation on the continent. Nigeria's disease burden is staggering even on a global scale. An estimated 30 million Nigerians, more than any other country in the world, need to be treated routinely with praziquantel. The country is the most highly endemic country in the world for river blindness, a parasitic infection that causes intense itching, skin discoloration, and potential blindness and the third-most endemic for lymphatic filariasis, a parasitic disease transmitted by mosquitoes that causes permanent disability.❖

Marcelo Balboa poses with youths at the Lagos Soccer Clinic event. Photos below; Lauren Gregg and Marcelo Balboa (in set) demonstrate ball control to youths in Abuja.

Soccer Clinic Strengthens U.S.-Nigeria Relations, Builds Friendship Among Youth

Teamwork, respect, leadership and conflict resolution, and how these attributes can translate into life skills and academic achievement, were the focus of the soccer clinic organized by the U.S. Embassy Nigeria and U.S. Sports Federation in collaboration with the Nigerian Football Association and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Sports Council Abuja from October 6 -13, 2006

In Abuja, three soccer veterans - Marcelo Balboa, Lauren Gregg and Chief Festus Onigbinde conducted the soccer clinic with no fewer than 800 school children in attendance at the Garki Area 1 Sports Stadium.

Marcelo Balboa is three-time World Cup veteran and U.S. National Soccer Hall of Fame inductee while Lauren Gregg remains the first woman to serve as an assistant coach for any of U.S. Soccer's national teams. Chief Onigbinde is FIFA's technical instructor and former National Coach of the Super Eagles.

In his remarks at the closing ceremony, Tijani Yusuf who represented the Minister of Youth and Sports, thanked the U.S. Embassy for such an initiative that has "built tremendous impact in fostering U.S./Nigeria friendship in addition to grooming talents among Nigerian youths." Inside a heavy downpour that nearly disrupted proceedings at the closing ceremony, U.S. Embassy Country Public Affairs Officer Atim George joined Tijani Yusuf and Lauren Gregg to present certificates to the participants. On Thursday, October 12, the duo of Marcelo Balboa and Lauren Gregg had briefed the media on the programs for the soccer clinic during the Public Affairs Section Press Briefing in Abuja. At the briefing, Cultural Affairs Officer Shirley Lisenby said that outreach through sports programming remains a powerful public diplomacy tool and has proven particularly effective in reaching the key youth demographic in Nigeria.

In Lagos, more than 600 school kids participated in the soccer clinics with Marcelo and National Team Coach Chief Laloko at the Obalende playground.

The Soccer Clinic is a World Cup follow-up program initiated by U.S. Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Karen Hughes. Youths in four countries South Africa, Bahrain, Uganda and Nigeria participated in the clinics.❖

US Embassy Abuja Begins Visa Services

On Friday, September 22, two state Governors Alhaji Ahmed Yerima of Zamfara and Boni Haruna of Adamawa, and the Honorable Ministers of Justice Bayo Ojo, and Commerce Dr. Aliyu Modibbo Umar joined U.S. Ambassador John Campbell to cut the ribbon launching full Visa Services at the U.S. Embassy in Abuja. Prior to this event, U.S. Visas were only processed at the U.S. Consulate General in Lagos.

In his remarks at the well attended ceremony that included members of the diplomatic community, Ambassador Campbell said the goal of the Consular Section is to facilitate travel between Nigeria and the U.S. – to encourage Nigerians to visit, to seek business opportunities, to study and work in the U.S. and then return home to share their experiences and to help build Nigeria.

Ambassador Campbell also said that because the Consular Section will facilitate people-to-people contact, "this opening is a long-awaited contribution to the broader bilateral relationship between Nigeria and the United States." With the advent of Visa Services in Abuja, applicants can now go on-line to schedule visa appointments either in Abuja or Lagos. Editor ***Crossroads*** Idika U. Onyukwu took these photos at the ceremony.❖

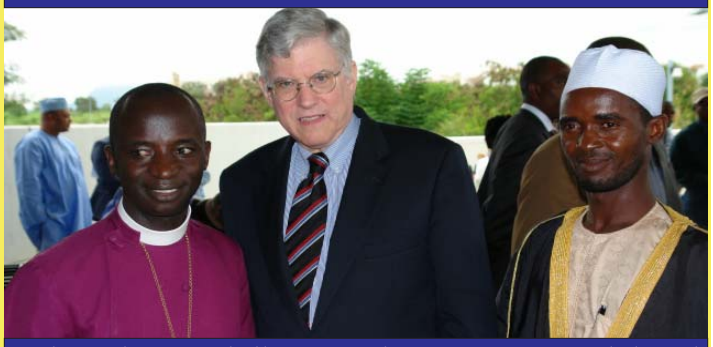
(L-r) Minister of Justice Bayo Ojo, Adamawa Governor Boni Haruna, Ambassador Campbell and Zamfara Governor Ahmed Yerima jointly cut the ribbon to open visa services in Abuja.

U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Thomas Furey welcomes Adamawa State Governor Boni Haruna.

(L-r) Justice Minister Bayo Ojo, Governor Boni Haruna, Ambassador Campbell and Governor Ahmed Yerima share a happy moment after cutting the ribbon to open visa services in Abuja.

U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Thomas Furey in a discussion with the Minister of Justice Bayo Ojo during the occasion.

U.S.Ambassador John Campbell making his opening remarks at the Visa Roll-Out in Abuja, September 22, 2006.



Ambassador Campbell poses with Rt. Rev. Simon Bal (l) and Muslim Cleric Ustaz Aliyu Abdulsalam.

(c) White House Photo

White House holds Roundtable Discussion on HIV/AIDS

U.S. President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush hosted a meeting on World AIDS Day, Friday, December 1, 2006, in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. Participants included (from left side of the table): President and CEO of the Catholic Mission Board, John Galbraith; Director and Founder of Global Outreach for Addiction Leadership and Learning, Mary Theresa Webb; CEO of the Youth Health Organization in Botswana, Vuyisele Otukile; U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, Ambassador Mark Dybul; Director of the Domestic Policy Council, Karl Zinsmeister; Co-Chair of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, Alan Holmer; Director for Infectious Disease Management and Research at Howard University Hospital, Dr. Celia Maxwell; CEO of Geneva Global, Steve Beck; Founder, CEO and Executive Director of World Hope International, Dr. Jo Anne Lyon; Chief of the Division of Infectious Disease at the Nassau University Medical Center in New York, Dr. Getachew Feleke; Secretary of Health and Human Services, Michael Leavitt; President Bush; Mrs. Bush; Center Coordinator for the Light and Courage Centre Trust in Botswana, Angelina Magaga; Executive Director of RIP+ in Cote d'Ivoire, Cyriaque Yapo.

March Calendar of Events 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Media Briefing (Abuja)	2 U.S. Jazz Group Tour Lagos	3 U.S. Jazz Group Tour Abuja & Jos
4	5	6 Media Briefing (Lagos)	7 Study in the U.S. classes (Abuja & Lagos)	8 Media Briefing (Abuja)	9	10
11	12	13 Media Briefing (Lagos)	14 Study in the U.S. classes (Abuja & Lagos)	15 Media Briefing (Abuja)	16	17
18	19	20 Media Briefing (Lagos)	21 Study in the U.S. classes (Abuja & Lagos)	22 Opening American Int' School Abuja	23	24
25	26	27 Media Briefing (Lagos))	28 Study in the U.S. classes (Abuja & Lagos)	29 Media Briefing (Abuja)	30	31

Please note that ALL events on this calendar are STRICTLY by invitation. For enquiries please call 09-461-4000 or 01-263-3395.