

Sept  
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2007

# CROSSROADS

Vol. 14  
Number 4

A Newsletter of the United States Embassy in Nigeria



## The Promise of **Education** For Nigeria

Special Edition

# IYAN-TAMA

## Multimedia

Where Creativity Rules

RC NO. 0010927

Presents

Coming Soon !!!  
**TSINT'SIYA**

(The Broom)

A Movie To Promote National Unity

Produced By  
Hamisu Lamido



Sponsored by the United States Embassy, Abuja

# Education is Power

## Ambassador's Note



Charge d' Affaires  
Lisa Piascik

Dear *Crossroads* Readers, as this is my first *Ambassador's Note* to you, I will like to take some time to formally introduce myself. I am Lisa Piascik, the new Deputy Chief of Mission U.S. Embassy, Nigeria. In the absence of Ambassador

Robin Sanders in the country, I am presently functioning as the Charge d'Affaires. I joined the U.S. Department of State Foreign Service in 1981. Prior to my coming to Nigeria, I was Consul General in Warsaw, Poland. My Foreign Service assignments have included tours as Deputy Chief of Mission in Baku, Azerbaijan; Principal Officer in Cebu, Philippines, and consular assignments in Damascus, Syria; Sanaa, Yemen Arab Republic and Beirut, Lebanon. While I was in Washington, I served in the Bureau of Consular Affairs Visa Office as Director of Public and Diplomatic Liaison and as the Deputy Director/European Division Chief in the Office of Citizen Services; in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research as Staff Director of the Current Intelligence Staff, and in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs as a staff assistant and as Iran desk officer.

I was born in Delaware and I graduated from the George Washington University with a Bachelor's degree in International Affairs and from the National Defense University with a Master's

degree in National Security Studies.

This issue of *Crossroads* is a continuation of our resolve to partner with Nigeria to improve and support education especially at the primary and secondary level. With the support of the Humanitarian Assistance (HA) Program and the U.S. European Command (EUCOM) whose primary objectives are to strengthen international relationships and improve infrastructure in the host, two and the half tonnes of books have been distributed among 26 schools in Northern Nigeria.

You will also read the increasing acceptance and impact of the Educational Advising College and Career Fairs in Abuja and Lagos. This year alone, the Abuja Center members obtained over \$1,800,000 in financial aid, with some obtaining full scholarships to highly prestigious institutions in the US.

Finally, the US Embassy, Abuja and the Consulate General in Lagos hosted US collectors Amir Muhammad and his wife Habeebah to an exhibit featuring *the Forgotten Roots: Muslims in Early America* in Lagos, Abeokuta, Kano and Abuja. I leave you with the rest of the stories.

## CROSSROADS

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## Inside This Issue

### EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Read! Read! and Read! US Envoy Urges Nigerian Youths	4
Book Distribution by States	5
Open Classrooms	8

### THEATER AND ARTS

Using Home Movies to Promote Peace and Unity in Nigeria	9
Forgotten Roots Exhibition Tours Nigeria	12

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT

US Embassy Trains Youth Leaders	14
Engaging Youths With Peace Clubs	17

### COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTERS

American Corner Opens in Maiduguri	15
------------------------------------	----

### INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Bridging the Education Gap With EAC College Fairs	16
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### INTERNATIONAL VISIT

US Deputy Secretary John Negroponte Ends Visit to Nigeria	19
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# Read! Read! Read!, US Envoy Urges Nigerian Youths

Education: US - Nigeria Relations



US Embassy Information Resource Officer Henry Mendelsohn goes through USG donated books with Bauchi State officials.

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

Along the dusty road to Kaduna Airport, between Kaduna metropolis and the airport itself, there is a bumpy path. At the end of the path there are three red brick blocks, where a new approach to education is taking place called the Open Classroom, run by Mrs. Dolores Mohammed, a private US citizen who is helping underprivileged children and adults alike to acquire education. Unlike the traditional classroom, it is common to see a mother with her baby strapped on her back receiving instructions from a teacher; or cattle

grazing beside the classrooms, with the cattle owners and minders themselves receiving lessons in the class rooms. While the adults are receiving their instructions, their young children attend the kindergarten class. The open Classroom and 60 other educational institutions in Northern Nigeria recently benefitted from large book donation from the US Government through the Book Club program.

The flag off ceremony for the book donation to secondary schools in Northern Nigeria started on June 2, 2007 at the Dala Girls Government Secondary School, Kano. The book Club program is a community outreach initiative of the Humanitarian Assistance (HA) Program and the U.S. European Command (EUCOM).

The Club's primary objectives are to strengthen international relationships and improve infrastructure in the host nation.

Former American Ambassador to Nigeria John Campbell launched the program, declaring that "Support for education is a high priority for the American government, and represents a significant aspect of our foreign assistance around the world."

## African-American Biographies

Each set of these books consists of 198 titles and focuses on: The African American Experience. A second set contains biographies of key African Americans in U.S. History and are appropriate for secondary school students. The third is the Secondary School Ambassador Collection. This collection contains over 100 books

and items for teachers and is a combination of US history, geography, biographies, science, fiction and sports. The books are appropriate for secondary schools students and above.

The books are published by Scholastic Press in the United States and are all in English. Scholastic, the global children's publishing, education and media company, has a corporate mission supported through all of its divisions of helping children around the world to read and learn. Recognizing that literacy is the cornerstone of a child's intellectual, personal and cultural growth, Scholastic has created quality products and services that educate, entertain and motivate children and are designed to help enlarge their understanding of the world around them for over 85 years.

Over 2 and half tons of the Book Club educational materials have been donated to schools in Kano, Katsina, Bauchi, Gombe, Niger, Borno, Sokoto and Maiduguri. Altogether the donation will include 11,880 books.

In a short but impressive ceremony on August 17, former US Charge D' Affaires Robert Gribbin presented a collection of these books consisting of 198 titles to Monsignor Paul Russell, Charge d' Affaires of the Embassy of the Holy See, Abuja. The books will support the educational needs of school children in Bauchi State.

In presenting the books, Charge Gribbin said education is vital to cultivating and sustaining any society. "I hope that this modest contribution will help to improve the education of the children in Bauchi state," the Charge added.

The Catholic Diocese of Bauchi currently maintains fourteen schools serving 3,946 children, the majority of whom are non-Catholics. Ten of these schools are both kindergarten and primary schools, serving 3,436 children; one is a primary school serving only 50 children; and there is



Mrs. Muhammed teaches students of the Open Classroom Kaduna how to identify the nose and teeth using one of the Scholarstic books donated to the school.

## Books Distribution

	School	State
1	Command Day Sec. School Bauchi	Bauchi
2	International Sec. Schl. A TBU Bauchi	Bauchi
3	Comprehensive Day Sec. School Bauchi	Bauchi
4	Gov't Secondary School	Borno
5	Gov't Senior Secondary School	Borno
6	Gov't Secondary School	Borno
7	Gov't Secondary School	Borno
8	Gov't Secondary School	Borno
9	Gov't Senior Secondary School	Borno
10	Gov't College (Federal)	Borno
11	Gov't Secondary School	Borno
12	Bangu Primary School Balanga	Gombe
13	Special Education Centre,	Gombe
14	Government Day Secondary School Gelengu	Gombe
15	Government Girls College Doma	Gombe
16	Government Tech School, Kaduna	Kaduna
17	Gov't Girls Secondary School	Kano
18	Gov't Science College	Kano
19	Gov't Girls Junior Arabic Sec. School	Kano
20	Gov't College (Federal)	Kano
21	Gov't Technical College (Fed)	Kano
22	Gov't Secondary School	Kano
23	Gov't Junior Secondary School	Kano
24	Gov't Girls Secondary School	Kano
25	Gov't Secondary School	Katsina
26	Gov't Secondary School	Katsina
27	Gov't College	Katsina
28	Gov't Girls Secondary School	Katsina
29	Gov't Science Secondary School	Katsina
30	Gov't Day Secondary School	Katsina
31	Gov't Secondary School	Katsina
32	Gov't Secondary School	Katsina
33	Gov't College	Niger Bida

## Books Distribution

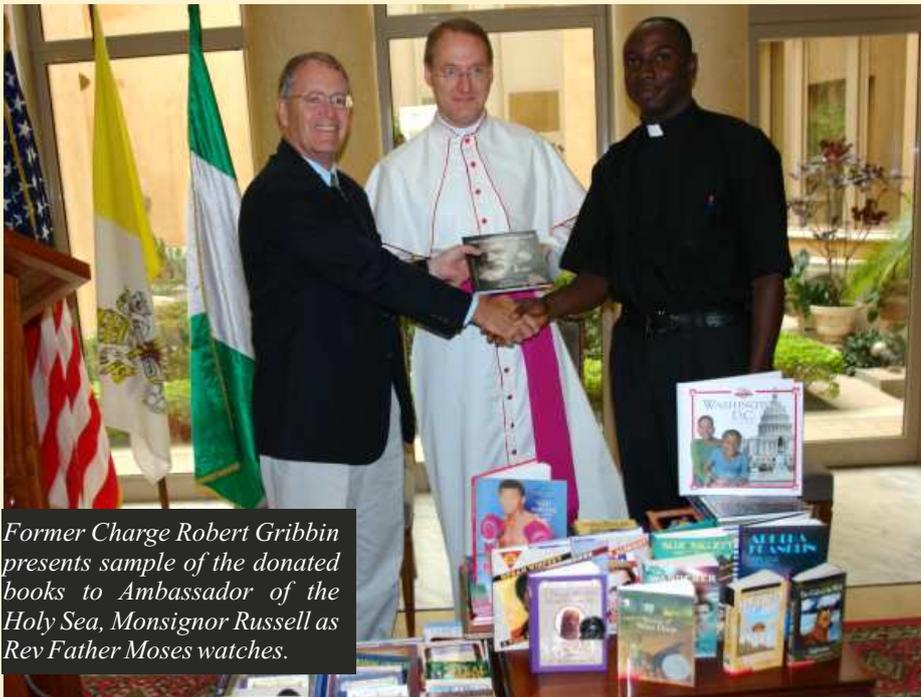
34	Gov't Girl's Senior Secondary School	Niger
35	Gov't Senior Secondary School	Niger
36	Gov't Vocational Training College	Niger
37	Gov't Science College	Niger
38	Gov't Senior Secondary School	Niger
39	Gov't Junior Secondary School	Niger
40	Gov't Senior Secondary School	Niger
41	Jos Secondary School	Plateau
42	Junior Secondary School Achida	Sokoto
43	Army day Secondary School Sokoto	Sokoto
44	Junior Secondary school Mabera	Sokoto
45	Nana Girls Secondary School Sokoto	Sokoto
46	Junior Secondary School Kwargaba	Sokoto
47	Junior secondary School Runji Sambo	Sokoto
48	JSS Yar Akija Islamiyya	Sokoto
49	Tabzirul Umma Islamic School	Sokoto
50	Government Girls College, Sokoto	Sokoto
51	Junior Secondary School Tudu Wada	Sokoto
52	Shehu Malami Junior Secondary School	Sokoto
53	Federal Government Girls College	Sokoto

one secondary school, serving 460 youth. Only four of these schools are self supporting. In addition, the Diocese hopes to build a kindergarten in the village of Propandi.

### Helping Hand

Accepting the donation, Monsignor Paul Russell said sometimes a friend comes to lend a

helping hand, and, today, "dear friends from the United States of America are here to extend a helping hand." He expressed gratitude for the gift which will be used in the Catholic schools of Bauchi, and expressed the hope that this event is only the beginning of cooperation between the US Embassy and the Holy See "which could extend easily and effectively into many other areas," the



Former Charge Robert Gribbin presents sample of the donated books to Ambassador of the Holy Sea, Monsignor Russell as Rev Father Moses watches.

Prelate added.

He used the occasion attended by the media, members of the Catholic Church and staffers from the Office of Defense Cooperation, including Lt. Col. Luis Perozo to also invite other countries to join this strategic partnership in education and service to the people of Nigeria. A set of five soccer balls were also donated to physically challenged children from a catholic school in Kubwa, Abuja.

On Thursday, September 13, Counselor for Public Affairs Atim Eneida George, in collaboration with Islamic Educational Trust Minna donated a collection of these books to five secondary schools in Niger State:

- Government Vocational Training College, Jebba,



Borno State Governor Ali Modu Sherriff remarks as he receives donated books

- Government Senior Secondary School, Kpaki,
- Government Secondary School Kpeke,
- Government Science College Kagara and
- New Horizon College, Minna

In remarks at the presentation, Ms. George repeated former Ambassador Campbell's message saying that "Support for education is a high priority for the American people and government. Indeed, it represents a significant aspect of our development partnerships around the world."

Dr. Mohammed Yahaya, Secretary to the Niger State Government represented Governor Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu and helped



CPAO Atim George presents a set of Books to the Principal GSC Kagara, Sule Kutigi. At right is Secretary to Niger State Government Dr. Mohammed Yahaya.

Ms George to present the books to the principals. Other dignitaries the occasion included the Commissioner for Education Susan Gana, the Science and Technology Commissioner Hajia Usman Yusuf Susan Gana and founder of the Islamic Education Trust Sheikh Lemu and his wife Aisha.

President of the Islamic Education Trust and a member of President Yar'Adua Electoral Reform Commission, Alhaji Lemu described the books as "the rope that fetches water from a deep well" figuratively explaining the importance of the donated books for ameliorating the dearth of educational materials in Niger State and indeed the Northern states of

Nigeria. Dr. Yahaya described the donation as a "precious gift" that will help remedy the perilous state of education in Niger State. Ashia Lemu, matriarch of Islamic Education Trust, said "for book worms like us, I cannot resist the urge to read through some of the colorful books."

In Bauchi State, eight secondary



Students read some of the doanted books



A principal is helped by his students to carry away books donated to the school after a book presentation to five schools in Gombe.

schools also received complete sets of secondary reference and fiction books in a ceremony that took place on June 7, 2007, at the Prof. Iya Abubakar Community Resource Center. Principals and students of the schools – some from as far away as 200 kilometers - came to receive the books from U.S. Embassy Cultural Attaché Henry Mendelsohn and Bauchi State Permanent Secretary, Education, Alhaji Yahaya Yusuf. The ceremony stressed the need to read and explore new ideas and cultures. Mendelsohn gave the students three words of advice: Read! Read! Read! Following the program, students toured the Prof. Iya Abubakar Community Resource Center and the American Corner Library.

The program was one of a series of outreach programs conducted by the Public Affairs Section June 5-7, 2007. In addition to the book donation, ceremony, Mendelsohn and Reference Specialist Samuel Eytayo conducted a one day class on *Effective Internet Searching for Journalists*. fifteen Bauchi State journalists from both print and electronic media houses participated in the training. Dalhatu Hamza, a Public Affairs Section Education Advisor, visited several schools in Bauchi State to explain how students can apply to US colleges and universities to study. The Public Affairs Section provides educational advising services to Nigerian students who wish to pursue higher education in the U.S.

The words of John Brock, a member of the Military Information Support Team (MIST) are reassuring. He says "If we (MIST) are able to see positive results and there exists a need for other similar programs, then we can sit down and discuss how we could be of further assistance to the youths of Nigeria." Students of Open Classrooms Kaduna have already put their collection into immediate use and seem to say that they are ready for John Brock's "further assistance."

## Open Classrooms



US Counselor for Public Affairs Atim George reads *It Takes a Village*, to a class of students of the Open Classroom, Kaduna, on September 28 after donating a set of scholastic books to the institution.

US Counselor for Public Affairs Atim George, on September 28, donated a set of Scholastic Press Books and school supplies to *The Open Classroom*, Kaduna.

Ms. George took the opportunity to read *It Takes a Village* to three classes including the kindergartn, and beginners classes. Ms George also delivered school supplies donated by Linda and Thomas Pepper, her maternal aunt and uncle. Mr. and Mrs. Pepper are educators who visited Nigeria in 2005.

The Open Classroom is run by Mrs Dolores Mohammed, a U.S. citizen who has lived in Nigeria for 37 years. During the course of her sojourn in Nigeria, Mrs. Mohammed has lived in Lagos and Kaduna. She has worked as an educator, Curriculum Development Specialist and Educational Administrator.

In 1982, she founded Kaduna's Essence School. started five years ago, the Open Classroom grew out of

an emerging friendship between students of the Essence School and a nomadic community. Today, the Open Classroom serves men, women and children by teaching English language literacy, numeracy and basic life skills.

A gifted teacher, Mrs.

Mohammed immediately engaged the students using one of the donated books entitled *Two Eyes, A Nose and A Mouth*. In addition to teaching basic vocabulary and anatomy, Mrs. Mohammed inspired the students to get up and speak before their classmates.



Amina Daba, Open Classroom Educator, teaches a class of students

# Using Home

## Video to Promote Peace and Unity in Nigeria



Camera and crew members shooting a scene on set during the making of "Tsintsiya" *The Broom* in Kano.

By Sani Mohammed  
Editor, MAGAMA

The saying that art imitates life cannot be further from the truth with a new movie - sponsored by the U.S. Government through the Defense Department outreach (MIST) program and implemented by the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Abuja.

The movie, a musical, is based on true experiences of the various Nigerian ethnic tribes living in Kano during the violent crisis that disrupted business and social life in that historic city.

Recently, the Voice of America (VOA) Hausa service featured excerpts of "Tsintsiya" songs in a four-week series of programming on its popular talk show "A Bare Ya Huce" with Ibrahim Alfa Ahmed. In the program, the movie producer Alhaji Salisu Hamisu Iyan-Tama and the U.S. Embassy's Senior Information Specialist Sani

Mohammed spoke extensively about the making of "Tsintsiya," and what distinguishes the movie from other Hausa movies made in the past. Following are excerpts of that discussion:

**Presenter:** Listeners as I mentioned earlier, are aware of a new movie will be coming out soon. The movie I am told is entitled "Tsintsiya" (*The Broom*). What is it that distinguishes this movie from the rest of the Hausa movies made in the past? I began by asking Alhaji Sani Mohammed what is the meaning of the movie titled "Tsintsiya" (*The Broom*)?

**Answer: (Sani Mohammed):** "Tsintsiya" is a Hausa adaptation of the movie classic "West Side Story." This movie is a messaging tool through Hausa songs. The U.S. Embassy is funding this movie to support the arts and provide employment to hundreds of youths who depend on the Hausa movie industry for their livelihood.

And we are doing this in partnership with one of the prominent producers in the Hausa movie industry, Alhaji Hamisu Lamido Iyan-Tama. The U.S. Embassy is supporting this movie to promote Hausa culture, especially Hausa language culture of messaging through songs. These songs promote peace and unity, and as art imitates life, these songs are like a mirror to the society. The movie "Tsintsiya" idea is not an entirely new concept. It is the story of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," depicted in the 1960s classic "West Side Story." This is the first time, however, that this movie is being produced in the Hausa language. The difference and fresh angle to the movie is that this time, the story is about northern Nigeria, and in particular the Kano environment, which has a lot in common with 1960s New York. I will, however, give the producer a chance to elaborate on the movie.

**Presenter:** Now I will like to turn it over to Hamisu Iyan-Tama. You are the producer of this movie "Tsintsiya." What is the idea behind the story? Did you take the entire "West Side Story" plot, or what did you do differently?

**Answer: (Hamisu Iyan-Tama):** Thank you. As Sani Mohammed explained, "Tsintsiya" is a Hausa adaptation of "West Side Story," developed to benefit our present and future generations. *The Broom* is a well known metaphor in Hausa classics. One single strand of broom is vulnerable, but a bunch is hard to break. So goes this story. It discusses the nature of the Hausa as an ethnic group, and Kano city, well known as a hospitable city and northern Nigeria's melting-pot. The Hausa ethnic group in Kano was well acknowledged in the

African hospitality to their visitors and neighbors, which encouraged other ethnic groups and foreigners to migrate and live in Kano, thereby promoting trade, agriculture and commerce in the city. As a result, Kano became well known as the center of commerce in Nigeria bringing together people from all over the world to interact and live in Kano, where many got married and bore children who have known nowhere else but Kano. This diversity gave the Hausa ethnic group a sense of pride for its tolerance and accommodation. But unfortunately, this trend of events has been reversed with recent violent crises, which has affected Kano's economy adversely. There are claims that the crises have religious and ethnic undertones, but the fact of the matter is that many of the visitors and foreigners who had settled in Kano and contributed to the growth of the city as a center of commerce are closing out their factories and shops and relocating from Kano to other cities that they consider more tolerant to visitors and settlers. This is not good for Kano's development and image. Those moving out of Kano are afraid of someone torching their property and destroying their life-long investments in one swoop orgy of violence. They are concerned that after several years living in Kano and adopting it as home, they could still be referred to as strangers and non-Kano citizens. These are some of the issues addressed by this movie, as was the case in 1960s New York as reflected in *"West Side Story."* We as Hausas and Kano citizens take pride in our past accomplishments. We are not happy to watch the reversed trend dominated by violence and intolerance, driving out investors and creating massive unemployment, especially among the youth population. When people do not have things to do, to fulfill life's basic needs for joy and comfort,



Artists representing different ethnic groups in Nigeria prepare to go on stage for the shooting of *"Tsintsiya" The Broom* in Kano.

frustration sets in with all its vices and violent behaviors. That is the story of *"Tsintsiya"*

**Presenter:** You said the movie *"Tsintsiya"* depicts the life style in Kano, where people from diverse ethnic backgrounds live and work together. Can you further explain the movie plot based on Kano's history as a melting pot?

**Answer (Hamisu Iyan-Tama):** Yes, the movie draws public attention to the fact that we may have come from different ethnic backgrounds, but we are Nigerians who now live together and do things together in one city. We have people from other countries, from Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and other Arab countries who live in Kano. And this is reflected in many other northern Nigerian cities and not just Kano. We do not discriminate against them or reject them. If that is the case, why should we discriminate against fellow Nigerians, Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba, the Tiv, and people from Benue, Niger Delta or other ethnic tribes? We should discuss our differences, understand each other and work together for the economic growth of our city, not kill each other and bring

destruction and misery to the community. This message is incorporated in the music.

**Presenter:** We will discuss the music lyrics later, but first let me ask Alhaji Sani Mohammed, why is the U.S. Embassy supporting this movie production?

**Answer:** We are aware that Hausa home videos are very popular with northern Nigerian audiences, especially the youth as a medium for entertainment and messaging. It is an important medium for the promotion of peace. We are also aware that the home video industry is the source of employment for hundreds of youths, artistes, writers, and producers who depend on this industry to feed themselves and take care of their families. We are sponsoring this movie as a means of supporting the professional growth of the industry. This particular movie poses a big professional challenge for better quality and technical creativity in the Hausa home video industry. If properly produced, we hope that this movie will help propel the industry forward and raise the quality of their productions. As you are aware, the

technical quality and depth of plot in the Hausa home video productions at the moment cannot be compared with their Nollywood counterpart. This movie will also promote the Hausa language culture. As we speak, Hausa language has become an important language of communication in many parts of the world through regular international radio broadcasts. Hausa home videos are sold in many countries that have large populations of Hausa speakers, so what we are doing is supporting the growth of the Hausa home video industry by helping to improve the quality of their productions. Most importantly, through this collaboration with the movie industry, we are promoting peace messages.

**Presenter:** Before I move on to Hamisu Iyan-Tama in this conversation, Alhaji Sani I would like to know, what was the motivation, or rather, what were the criteria used to select Iyan-Tama Multimedia Productions to produce this movie?

**Answer:** Basically his track record. Two years ago, The U.S. Embassy gave Hamisu Lamido Iyan-Tama a grant to produce a home video,



*"Tsintsiya" heroine Francisca*



*Baballe Hayatu, lead actor of "Tsintsiya"*

creating awareness around HIV/AIDS issues including an anti-stigma campaign, and he did very well. We are also aware that he had produced many Hausa classic videos. We wanted someone who had the talent and creativity to interpret *West Side Story* in Hausa. *West Side story* has won several awards and has been adapted in different languages, Hausa being the latest. We envisage that the Hausa language adaptation should be no less a classic than its English version, so that informed part of the decision to select someone who has the experience, and skills to do the job.

**Presenter:** Now back to Alhaji Hamisu. Could you give us a summary of the screen play? What are we likely to see in this movie?

**Answer (Hamisu Lamido Iyan-Tama):** Alhamd Lillah (Praise be to God). When you watch the movie "Tsintsiya," you will get some education, and see love intrigues, provoking thoughts about the word "love" as a universal language. By watching this movie, you will understand why we need peace and unity to appreciate the full meaning of love. Our message in this movie is

for harmony, mutual understanding and respect, patriotism, service to country, and social cohesion as a means of promoting growth and development. That's a brief summary of the movie.

**Presenter:** My understanding from what Alhaji Sani said, and what you have again emphasized is that the making of this movie is quite a challenge, and different from any Hausa movie ever produced in this region. What you are saying is that this movie is a unique musical genre. Could you give us examples of what you are saying in some of the lyrics?

**Answer:** (Hamisu Lamido Iyan-Tama) The theme song "Tsintsiya" like in *West Side Story* is a song that exposes our vulnerability as individuals and celebrates our strength as a group. The song becomes a rallying point where it says Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo are inseparable. The song encourages the different ethnic tribes in Nigeria who live in Kano to work in harmony, to respect and understand each others' differences – that God created us in different locations, but has brought us together not to kill and destroy each other but to live and work together in harmony. That is the message in this song. There is also another song about intermarriage. We did that song to explain that intermarriage is a not a bad thing as some who preach hatred would want others to believe because we have done some research with Islamic scholars who affirmed that intermarriage between tribes is not religiously forbidden. There is no sanction against a Hausa getting married to a Yuruba, or a Yoruba getting married to an Igbo or vice versa. Intermarriages have been in practice in this community, for long, and such inter marriages help to promote mutual understanding and respect for each other in the community. This movie re inforces that message.



Alhaji Dasuki Ibrahim Nakande, Honorable Minister of State, Information and Communication assists US Deputy Chief of Mission Lisa Piascik to open the Exhibition on *Forgotten Roots: Muslims in Early America*, Abuja October 29.

## Forgotten Roots Exhibition Tours Nigeria

An exhibit featuring *Muslims in Early America* opened at the Abuja Arts and Culture Center during Ramadan. Imam Fu'ad Adeyemi acclaimed that the exhibit is unique. Deputy Chief of Mission Lisa Piascik, assisted by Alhaji Ibrahim Dasuki Nakande, the Honorable Minister of State, Ministry of Information and Communication opened the exhibition.

U.S. collectors Amir Muhammad and his wife Habeebah kicked off their Nigerian tour in Lagos, tracing the history of the exhibits to the pre-colonial era in the United State. The exhibits include frames and panels of the Holy Koran recovered during the American Civil War, portraits of Kunta Kinte and Muhammad Ali Ibn Said, also know as Nicholas Said. Muhammad Ali ibn Said was born in Bornu Kingdom (present day Yobe State) to a well-educated merchant. He was later sold into slavery and shipped to England, but subsequently freed in the United

State.

The Abuja Muslim Forum, the Al-Habibiyyah Islamic Society, Abuja and the FCT Department of Arts

### Sample Exhibits and Panels of "Forgotten Roots: Early Muslims in America"

#### Frames

Charno	5 Arabic writing
Job ibn Dijallo	2 photo/letter
Yarrow Marmood	2 (1800/1820 ) census
Muhammad Ali Ibn Said	1 photo
Job	1 photo
Abraham	1 photo
Job Arabic writing	1 reproduction
Abraham letter / translation	2 reproductions
Abraham letter	1 reproduction
Letter from Washington / Sultan	2 reproductions
Four assorted frames	Photos /Letters
Five assorted frames	Photos/Arabic letters
Runaway slave advertisement	4 reproductions

and Culture, collaborated with the US Embassy to host the exhibition. Original works of the Islamic scholar and sculpture Abdulfattah Adeyemi, were displayed side-by-side with those of Amir Muhammad. Students of Fou'ad Lababidi Islamic Academy, Capital Science Academy, members of the Abuja Central Mosque and members of the press, viewed the exhibits which they claimed facilitated a deeper understanding of the United State as a nation. The exhibits were also shown in Kano where they were on display for public viewing for two days at the Center for Democratic Research and Training, *Mambayya House*, Bayero University, Kano.

Amir Muhammad is the co-founder, president, and curator of *Collections and Stories of America Muslims*, established in 1996. He is an accomplished and noted researcher, historian, writer, and poet whose works have gained him international recognition. He is one of the foremost historians and researchers

of the Islamic experience in the United States and a leading activist in developing national awareness of the Islamic experience in America.

In his remarks, Alhaji Nakande said the Federal Government's agreement to partner with the U.S. Embassy in bringing the exhibits to Nigeria was a clear demonstration of the cordial and robust relationship existing between Nigeria and the United States. He alluded to the timely nature of the exhibition since it coincided with the Holy Month of Ramadan. "There is no doubt this exhibition on Muslims in America will provide an opportunity to Nigerians of various faiths to learn about American history, and some of the values we share in common." The Minister urged the DCM and the entire US Embassy to expand the exhibition to other parts of Nigeria including Kano, Sokoto, and Bauchi.

Muhammad spoke on "Ramadan and Global Peace," and told the audience that ignorance and foolishness were major hindrances that divide Muslims and Christians. He argued that history clearly shows both religions are rooted in a common principle of "faith" and have always come to the aid of each other's religion, especially in times of great need and difficulty.

On Sunday evening, September 30, Ms Piasek hosted an Iftaar dinner at the Sheraton in honor of



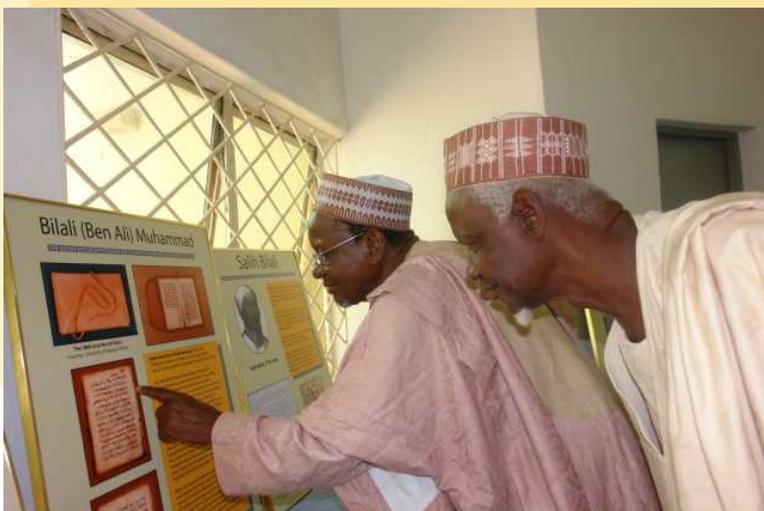
*Habeebah Muhammad explains some of the collections on **Forgotten Roots: Muslims in Early America** to students of Capital Science Academy, Abuja.*

Amir Muhammad and his wife Habeebah. The DCM used the occasion to read President Bush's Ramadan message, which stated that "America is a land of many faiths, and our society is enriched by our Muslim citizens." The event attracted Muslim scholars, members of the diplomatic

community and other dignitaries including the Vice Chancellor of the University of Abuja Professor Nuhu Yaqub Ustaz Fu'ad Adeyemi, the Imam Abuja Mosque and Professor Jibril Aminu, former Nigerian Ambassador to the United States and Chairman, Senate Committee on



*Students of Fou'ad Ladabidi Islamic Academy pose with Amir and Habeebah Muhammad at the Exhibition in Abuja.*



*Photo left: Islamic scholars in Kano view the Amir's collections. Photo Bottom: Amir Muhammad making remarks at the opening on his exhibition in Abuja.*

Foreign Relations. U.S. Embassy Counselor for Public Affairs Atim Eneida George presented a copy of the 2007 World Almanac to each guest after the Iftaar dinner.



— <http://nigeria.usembassy.gov> —



## U.S. Embassy Trains Youth Leaders

Before departing Nigeria, former Ambassador Robert Gribbin, Charge d’Affaires, U.S. Embassy, Abuja, tasked Nigerian youth to envision their role in a better world and strive to make a difference in their prevailing circumstances.

Charge Gribbin gave the challenge in a motivational speech at the opening of a U.S Embassy-sponsored Summer Leadership Academy for Nigerian Youth in Abuja on August 31.

Ambassador Gribbin asked the participants to learn from the examples of several good, visionary and eloquent leaders in politics, government, civil society and business such as the Biblical Moses, Presidents Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy, Mohandas Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, and Bill Gates.

He discussed qualities of good leaders including

effective decision making ability through consultations and team building, integrity, honesty, self-confidence as well as understanding and support for colleagues and followers. He encouraged the participants to develop these leadership qualities.

The three day training program is organized in partnership with KAIROS Leadership Development Institute (KLDI). The Summer Leadership Academy’s purpose is to train selected Nigerian youth in

entrepreneurial skills and enhance their effectiveness as student leaders at tertiary institutions across the country.

Resource persons for the training program included Atim Eneida George, the Embassy Counselor for Public Affairs, who spoke on “Leading Your Life” as well as participated in the plenary sessions. Others were Professors Emeka Okoli, and Stella Williams, both Fulbright Senior Scholars.

Professor Emeka Okoli, Managing Partner of Raybourne and Dean Consulting, the parent organization of KAIROS Leadership Institute, said the participants are some of the finest youth leaders in Nigerian universities with potential to change the focus of Nigerian education, labor, politics and the economic environment to fit the realities of the 21st Century.



*Nigerian World Cup SAGE champions- JSS Jikwoyi, pose with Ms. Atim George after attending the Youth program.*

# American Corner Opens in Maiduguri



*US Charge' d'Affaires Robert E. Gribbin joins the Executive Governor of Borno State Ali Modu Sherriff to commission 12th American Corner located at the main Library of the University of Maiduguri, on September 18.*

**O**n September 18, former U.S. Charge' d'Affaires Robert Gribbin joined the Executive Governor of Borno Senator Ali Modu Sherrif, to formally commission the newest American Corner in Nigeria. The American Corner Maiduguri is located at the Main Library of the University of Maiduguri in Borno State.

The Center is the 11th to be officially commissioned and the 12th to open its doors to the Nigeria public. Although located at the University, it is open to the public at no cost. The Corner contains books on life and culture in the United States, award winning American fiction, books on how to study in the U.S. and an eGranary, a computer database that contains thousands of full text

documents on a wide variety of subjects.

At the commissioning the Charge' noted that "This American Corner will serve as common ground for Americans and Nigerians to engage, communicate and learn from each other. It houses a collection of books and multimedia materials that are a gift to the people of Borno State from the American people."

Gribbin quoted the First Lady of

the United States Laura Bush, herself a librarian, who said, "Libraries are community treasure chests, loaded with a wealth of information available to everyone equally."

He noted that although this American Corner is modest in size, it is big in ideas. To prove his point he quoted American Poet Laureate Rita Dove who said, "My childhood library was small enough not to be intimidating. And yet I felt the whole world was contained in those two rooms. I could walk an aisle and smell wisdom."

American Corners have information for journalists, academics, businessmen and women, civic organizations, teachers, students, government officials, military, clergy and traditional rulers.



*Charge' Gribbin test-runs one of the Internet facilities at the Maiduguri Center.*

— <http://nigeria.usembassy.gov> —



*A US Alumni explains how to study in the US to participants at the 2007 annual College and Career Fair organized by the US Embassy, Abuja.*

U.S. Embassy, Abuja Chargé d’Affaires, Lisa Piascik, cut the tape on Thursday, October 25 to officially open the ninth annual college and career fair amid cheers from enthusiastic Nigerian students hoping to study in the United States. The fair was held in the Center for Arts and Culture, Abuja.

The theme of the 2007 fair is “Bridging the Gap – Education U.S.A.,” which Ms. Piascik said is aimed at filling the information gap regarding study in the United States and potential sources of funding for higher education.

Representatives from highly competitive U.S. institutions participated in this year’s event. The Embassy also hopes to bridge the gap between the numbers of

students seeking undergraduate and graduate degree programs with the introduction of a session focused specifically on graduate studies.

Nigeria has been grappling with the problem of “brain drain.” To this concern, Ms. Piascik said, “We are not trying to lure your most promising youths away. Rather, we hope to develop their talents, so that when they return to Nigeria, they can help this country achieve its full potential.”

Annual college fairs are part of an overall educational advising service offered by the Embassy and Consulate Lagos that has dramatically increase the number of high-quality Nigerian applicants to U.S. educational institutions. The number of Nigerians studying in the United States has increased by 121 percent in the last seven years.

Embassy educational advising services have also helped increase the overall amount of financial aid and scholarships for Nigerian students.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, Educational Advising Center student members obtained over \$1.8 million in financial aid, with some obtaining full scholarships to highly prestigious institutions in the U.S.

Some of those manning the fair’s tables were alumni of both the universities present and the U.S. Embassy’s Advising Center. On graduation, they returned to Nigeria to share their knowledge of U.S. higher education and to help the country develop.

For more information on Education USA see: [http://abuja.usembassy.gov/educational\\_advising.html](http://abuja.usembassy.gov/educational_advising.html)

## **Bridging the Education Gap with EAC College Fair**

# Engaging Youths With Peace Clubs



*Participants at a Peace Club meeting give each other a High-Five after a successful outing.*

The Interfaith Mediation Center (IFMC), based in Kaduna is an organization focused on bringing together the youth in Nigeria of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds to learn how to live in accord with one another and to resolve issues without the use of violence. IFMC has recently received assistance from the U.S. Embassy in Nigeria to help further their reach into the community.

This assistance came in the form of the Military Information Support Team (MIST). The MIST works through the Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC) at the Embassy and has been working in conjunction with IFMC since the end of 2006 in order to help the organization increase their ability to reach out to

the youth of Nigeria. This is part of the U.S. Government's ongoing effort to provide assistance to its partners in Nigeria as both continue to develop and move toward the future.

The IFMC's method for reaching the youth in Nigeria is the Peace Club; a course that spans several days. This workshop allows the youth to sit together and receive formal instruction on topics ranging from peaceful resolution of differences to educating them more about the beliefs and perspectives of others. The Peace Clubs so far have had two successful meetings. The first event was held in Kaduna on October 2-4 and was attended by the students of the Government Technical College Malali. The

second was held in Jos from October 16-18. This most recent meeting was attended by students from the Government Secondary School Larento.

The class was taught in part by Pastor James Wuye who along with Imam Ashafa is the co-founder of the IFMC. Other members of IFMC took turns teaching the children the concepts of conflict mediation. The students sat in their uniforms of polo style shirts with the IFMC logo on it and the words "Peace is My Right" and "Peace is My Responsibility" on the front and back of the shirt respectively along with a cap, which also bears the IFMC logo. The MIST provided funding assistance to the IFMC so that it could begin classes and provide the students with quality

learning materials such as the uniforms, teaching materials and textbooks that were given to each student outlining conflict mediation in their communities.

The Peace Club is the result of months of coordination between the MIST and the IFMC. It is a program born of both necessity and the desire of Nigerians and the US Government to help ease the tensions that exist between different religions and ethnic groups.

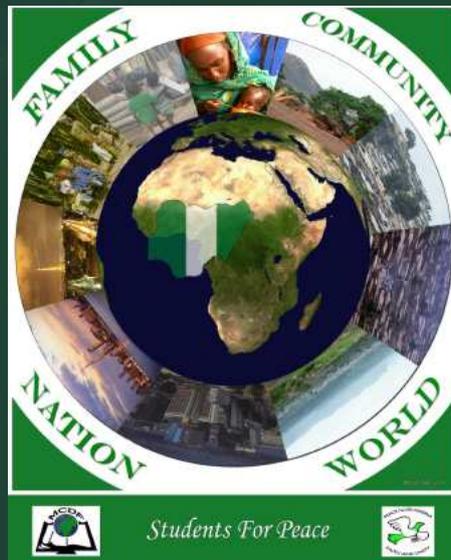
Both the MIST and the IFMC hope that the Peace Club is not only able to make a difference in the students that attend the course but also to ensure that others become aware that they have the ability to make a difference in their communities. The next step for the IFMC and MIST is to step back and take a look at the work that was accomplished and see what can be

done to make the Peace Club better in the future. The IFMC and MIST's plan is to continue to reach out to the youth, develop the Peace Club and see that it blossoms and reaches its full potential.

"In this day and age I believe we all realize that the global community

is just the village next door. It is necessary that nations work together to ensure stability and the opportunity for prosperity for all those who desire it and are willing to make it their goal. With groups like the IFMC the future of the Nigeria that the youth will inherit seems brighter and brighter," said program manager John Brock.

The Peace Club is a step towards a more prosperous and unified Nigeria. A program such as this, whether sponsored by governments, private businesses or communal effort is critical to the success of any nation. Investing in our youth is investing in the future. As the world moves forward, let the members of all nations understand the importance of cultivating the youth, for they are the ones that will be entrusted with the world.



*Terrence Willett Coordinator of the Peace Clubs presents a certificate of participation to one of the students.*

# Deputy Secretary John Negroponte Visits Nigeria

US Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte and Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer were in Nigeria from November 11-13, 2007 as part of a larger trip to West Africa, with stops in Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, and

Mali. On November 12, Deputy Secretary Negroponte met with President Yar'Adua and other senior officials, including Foreign Minister Maduekwe, National Security Advisor Mukhtar, Defense Minister Ahmed and Nigeria's Chief of Defense Azazi. The

Deputy Secretary also held consultations with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Chairman Nuhu Ribadu and representatives of the business community and civil society groups. Photos were taken by **Crossroads** Editor Idika U. Onyukwu.



*Deputy Secretary John Negroponte addressing the media with Nigerian Foreign Affairs Minister Chief Ojo Maduekwe in front of the Foreign Affairs Office, Abuja.*



*Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer exchanges greetings with Foreign Minister Chief Ojo Maduekwe.*



*Deputy Secretary John Negroponte listens to EFCC Chairman Nuhu Ribadu with US Charge Piascik at center.*



*Deputy Secretary John Negroponte in consultations with Nigeria's Defense Minister Ahmed in Abuja.*



*Excited staff of the US Mission in Nigeria pose with Deputy Secretary Negroponte during a Meet-and-Greet ceremony.*



*A detachment of the U.S. Marines pose with Deputy Secretary John Negroponte during his visit to the Embassy Community.*

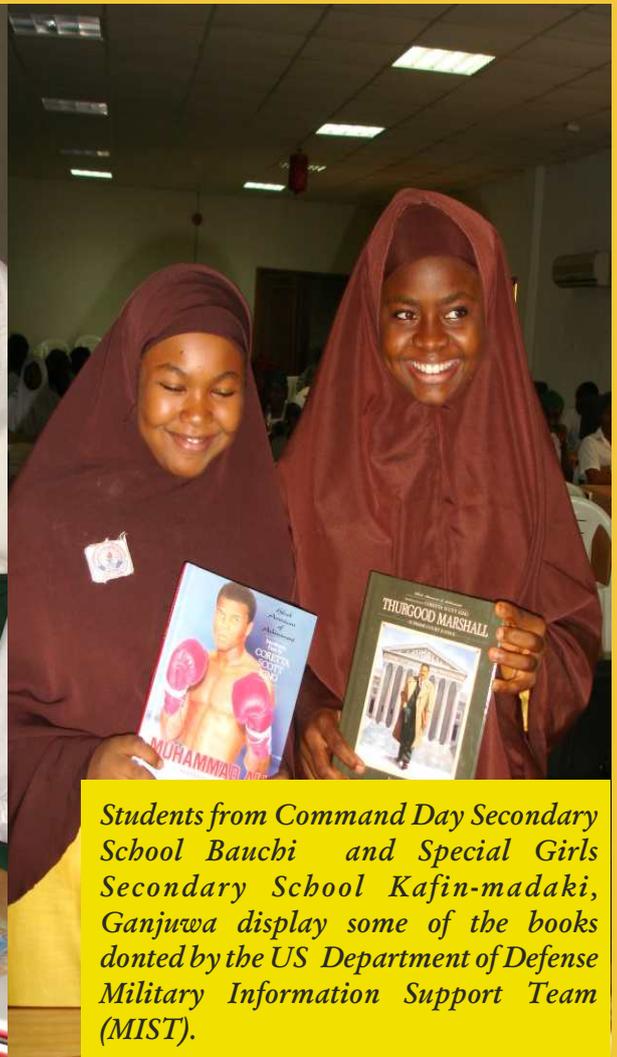
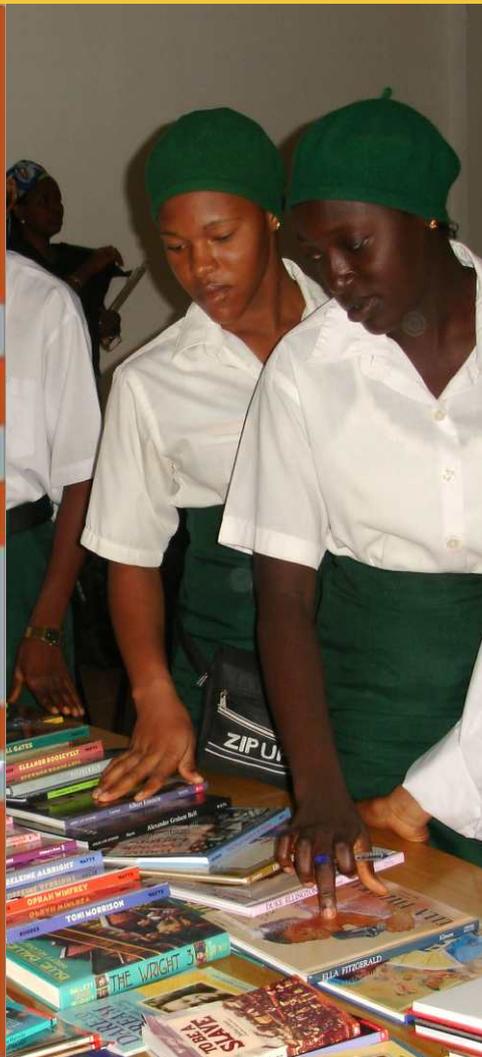
INTERNATIONAL  
EDUCATION  
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<http://iew.state.gov>

*Celebrating and promoting international educational exchange*



*Students from Command Day Secondary School Bauchi and Special Girls Secondary School Kafin-madaki, Ganjuwa display some of the books donated by the US Department of Defense Military Information Support Team (MIST).*

<b>December</b>	<b>Calendar of Events</b>	<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		2	3	4 <i>Media Briefing (Lagos)</i>	5 <i>Study in the U.S. classes (Abuja &amp; Lagos)</i>	6 <i>Media Briefing (Abuja)</i>	7	8
		9	10	11 <i>Media Briefing (Lagos)</i>	12 <i>Study in the U.S. classes (Abuja &amp; Lagos)</i>	13 <i>Media Briefing (Abuja)</i>	14	15
		16	17	18 <i>Media Briefing (Lagos)</i>	19 <i>Study in the U.S. classes (Abuja &amp; Lagos)</i>	20 <i>Media Briefing (Abuja)</i>	21	22
		23	24	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26 <i>Boxing Day</i>	27 <i>Media Briefing (Abuja)</i>	28	29

*Please note that ALL events on this calendar are STRICTLY by invitation. For enquiries please call 09-461-4373 or 01-263-3395.*