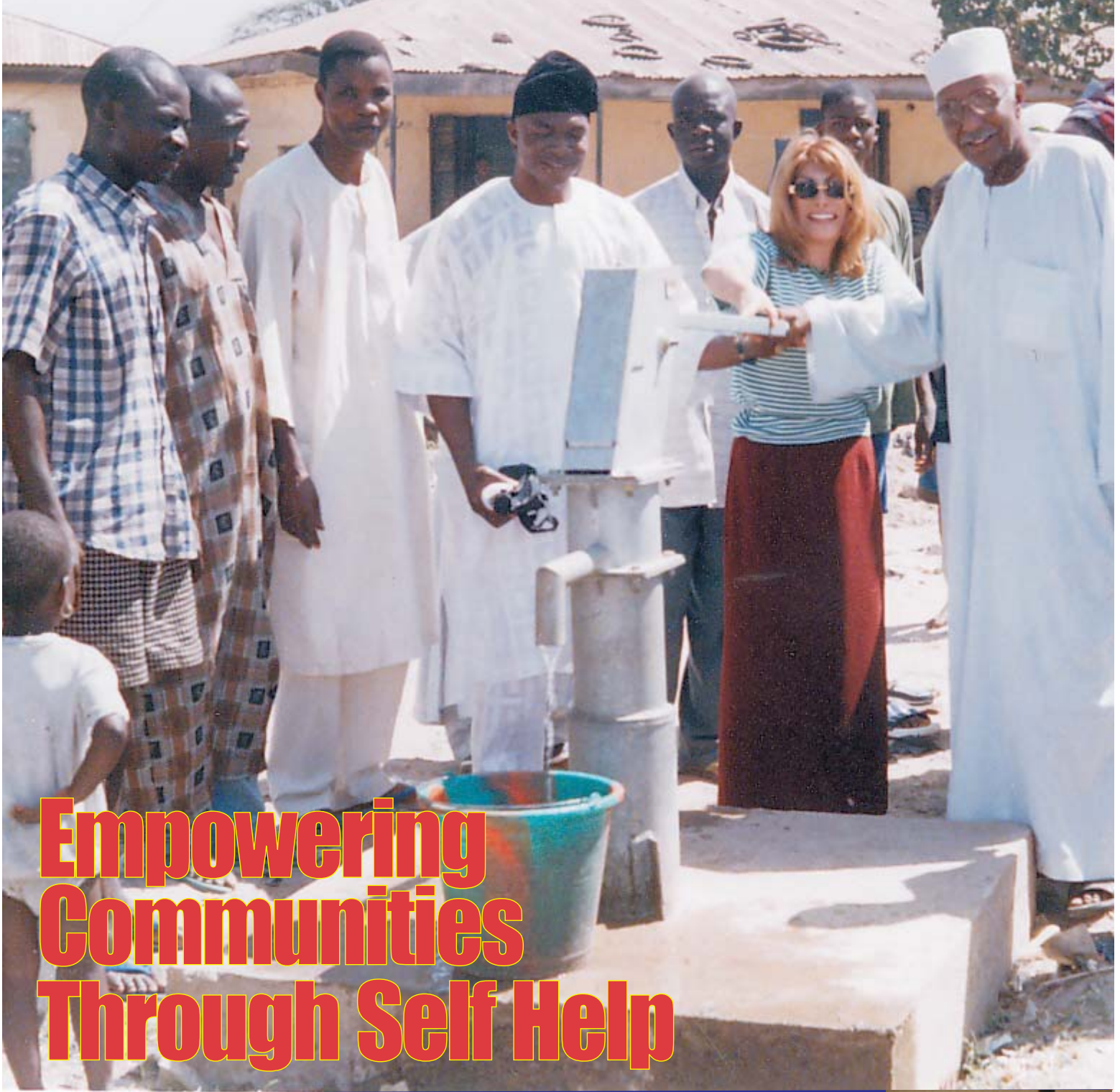


Oct.
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CROSSROADS

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Number 5

A Newsletter of the United States Embassy, Nigeria



Empowering Communities Through Self Help

- U.S. Ast. Secretary of State Frazer Visits Nigeria
- U.S. Envoy Observes Ramadam in Sokoto
- Americans Celebrate Nigeria's 45th Independence



U.S. Treasures Nigeria's Friendship



U.S. Consulate General
Public Affairs Officer
Atim Eneida George

Dear Crossroads Family: In the United States November is a special month. We observe Native American History Month, honor the memory and the sacrifice of our veterans and celebrate our national Thanksgiving holiday. Thanksgiving — that attitude of gratitude — dwells deep within

of Nigeria's First Lady Stella Obasanjo who died in Spain and victims of the Bellview air crash. When people comfort one another in times of loss, their relationship deepens. Americans and Nigerians paid a final tribute to the memory of a friend and colleague, Major Joseph Haydon; the Mission received condolence messages from remote villages where Major Haydon gave so much of his service as Chief of the Office of Defense Corporation (ODC). They described him as a man of character and courage. (see page _)

America also laid to rest Mrs. Rosa Parks, the mother of the modern Civil Rights Movement. A woman of quiet strength, Mrs. Parks' refusal to surrender to injustice ignited the spark that transformed America. Her courage strengthened our democracy.

In this issue of Crossroads, we join our Nigerian partners in giving thanks for the Ambassador's Special Self-Help Program and the power of sweat equity. Leveraging the widow's mite, the United States Mission to Nigeria identifies local communities with a will to work and improve their quality of life. Ask Rev. Mother Mary Joseph Uzoigwe of Ikpa Mbeke in Imo State. The village now has safe drinking water. In thanking Ambassador Campbell, Rev. Mother Uzoigwe said health is wealth. (see page __). Thank you Crossroads Family for your faithfulness. Peace, Atim.

the human psyche. Recently, Ambassador Campbell reminded a group of prominent Nigerians that we in the United States treasure Nigeria's friendship. We have an expression; a friend in need is a friend in deed. As we watched the tragedy unfolding in our homeland caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Nigerians stood with us — expressing your concern, offering your prayers and reaching into your pockets to support the international relief effort. We will not forget your faithfulness.

Our new Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, Dr. Jendayi Frazer visited Nigeria. Prior to delivering her remarks (see page _), Ambassador Campbell led the entire Mission staff in a minute of silence in honor

Quotable Quote

“There is no gainsaying that the September 11, 2001 terrorists attacks and the Hurricane Katrina/Rita tragedies of August/ September 2005 are the worst man-made and natural disasters that the U.S has ever witnessed as a country. But glory be to the God Almighty that a man like George W. Bush, a very strong man of FAITH, presides over the U.S. at these times of great lost.”

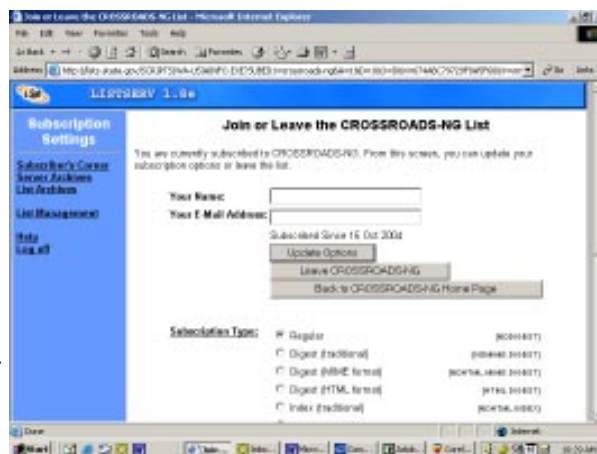
- Kolawole S. Afolayan
Writes from Lagos

Editor's letter To Crossroads Readers

DEAR *CROSSROADS* READERS,

We are still building our on-line access to an expanded version of *Crossroads*. Our virtual community distribution list continues to grow by the day. Some of you have already subscribed to the list through your e-mail to the Editor of Crossroads. We have gone a step further by creating an easily accessible way for readers to directly join or leave our mailing list using the *LISTSERV* system. Simply access this link and enter your name and e-mail address into the *LISTSERV* and you are on.

Please direct all enquiries to *The Editor* through e-mail at crossroads@state.gov





In major Nigerian cities, people carry buckets and jerry cans to queue for water from borehole as more than half of the country's 120 million people lack access to potable water.

Communities Find Strength in Collective Efforts

When going through the hundreds of applications submitted for consideration into the Ambassador Special Self Help (SSH) Program, you realize that you literally hold in your hands the dreams and hopes of thousands of many Nigerian communities, including the dreams and hopes of generations unborn. This stewardship is very important and indeed a rare privilege. Accordingly, the SSH program

strives for excellence in the successful completion and maintenance of each commissioned project awarded to different communities. It is a task the SSH coordinator Angela Jarman lives with each day.

In the last one year, eleven of the thirteen U.S. Government funded projects have been successfully completed. The other two will be completed by November. This is a testament to the initiative, pride,

strength, perseverance, responsibility, honesty, reliance, of community efforts among Nigerians. Given the opportunity and with the experience of the SSH programs, communities in Nigeria have proven time and time again that they are able to efficiently maintain very good community oriented activities that result in economic development for its members.❖



Ambassador John Campbell signs a grant for one of the recipient NGOs at the September 26 ceremony at the Embassy compound in Abuja.

13 Grass Root Organizations Get \$140,000 U.S. Self-Help Grants

By Idika U. Onyukwu
Editor, *Crossroads*

Long awaited expectations were fulfilled when thirteen grass root communities on September 29, received grants totaling \$140,000 under the Ambassador's Self-Help Program (SSH) and Democracy and Human Rights Programs (DHRP). These grants facilitated the establishment of various community projects in many areas, such as healthcare delivery, education, providing clean drinking water and

projects to facilitate economic empowerment.

Under the SSH program, ten organizations were awarded \$80,000 for projects including classroom construction, establishing a health clinic, and a food processing plant, purchasing laboratory equipment and furniture for a secondary school, and building a workshop for use as a skills center. The DHRP program benefited from a grant of \$60,000 to three organizations for projects, including funding a comprehensive campaign on civic rights for women

in Purdah; a 2-day workshop on laws relating to corruption and a wide-ranging campaign against female genital mutilation in ten communities.

In congratulating recipients of this year's projects, U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria John Campbell said SSH is designed "to help communities help themselves." Under the Ambassador's Self-Help Program, projects must originate in the community and the community must make significant contributions to the success of the project, such as providing land, labor, money, materials, ongo-

ing supervision, and other resources. Currently, the U.S. contribution to a single project ranges from USD\$3,000 to \$USD10, 000. Smaller requests are also welcome.

States, which benefited from this year's grants included Zamfara, Nassarawa, Kebbi, Yobe, Imo, Kaduna, Ondo Adamawa, Enugu and Sokoto. The Emir of Kaura Namoda

HRH Ahmad Muhammad Asha led his community to the colorful ceremony that took place at the new U.S. Embassy ground in Abuja. ❖

<http://nigeria.usembassy.gov/>



Ruwandoruwa community celebrate their Mini Rice Milling Plant. The project was funded by the Ambassador Self-Help Program. (Inset), Community leaders beam with smiles in a group photo with Ambassador John Campbell after signing grants for self-help development on September 26.

Borehole Saves Lives in Ikpa Mbeke Community

With as much as \$9,380 grant, the Ikpa Mbeke community in Imo State now enjoys safe drinking water, courtesy of the U.S. Ambassador Self-Help program. This was the testimony given by the Rev. Mother Mary Joseph Uzoigwe of the I.H.M and Project director, during the signing ceremony of the SSH on September 26.

According to the Rev Mother, accessing safe drinking water was a Herculean task in Ikpa Mbeke. Prior to the borehole project, the village depended on a polluted stream as the only source of drinking water for both humans and animals. . “But through this project, the Americans have given us good health and health is wealth” according to the Rev. Mother. On behalf of the sisters and the entire village community, she expressed her affection for Ambassador Campbell and her appreciation to the U.S.



Coordinator of Self-Help Program Angel Jarman commissions the Ikpa Mbeke water project.

government for the generous gesture. . ” Rev Uzoigwe added that through the Embassy’s selflessness, the SSH project loudly portrays to the community and its environs, the generous and caring nature of the people and government of the United States toward the poor ad needy.

A member of the project

committee told *Crossroads* that one can only understand the out-pouring of appreciation coming from Rev Mother Uzoigwe when such a person comes to terms with the collateral effects bad drinking water costs the community. Indeed, 75% of diseases in the community are water related the Project Committee member said.❖



President of the Harama Women Community Dev. Association Mrs. G.L. Yahaya-Joe (2nd right) explains the different by-products from the groundnut milling plant.

Groundnut Mill Becomes a Major Source of Income for Zaria Women

In remarks at the September 22 commissioning of a groundnut processing mill for the Harama Women Community Development Association, Wusasa, Zaria, Kaduna State, president of the union Mrs. G.L. Yahaya-Joe, stated that a grant of \$9,121 from the U.S. Ambassador Special Self-Help Project has dramatically changed the lives of the Wusasa women for the better and also enabled them to supplement the family income. Below are excerpts from Mrs. Yahaya-Joe's prepared speech delivered at the commissioning ceremony.

Groundnut oil processing as a means of livelihood has always been of paramount importance to our community as an income generating activity. Not only is it a major occupation of women in our area but also the traditional method used in extracting the produce is time consuming, labor intensive and stressful. Our womenfolk are saddled with a lot of responsibilities that include farm work, food processing, house keeping and earning money to supplement family income. This leaves us with little or no time to increase our incomes and

the welfare of our families. It thus became inevitable that we needed an improved technology to take care of this problem. So we consulted experts in the field, went from one place to another, brainstormed together as members of the association and also with our patrons before finally putting in our application for the Ambassador Special Self-Help (SSH) program. We were so elated when we were finally selected as one of the recipients of the SSH/Democracy and Human Rights Programs (DHRF) program.

Indeed, we are grateful to the U.S

Embassy and Ambassador John Campbell including the SSH coordinator Angela Jarman. Words alone cannot express how the community feels with the realization of a groundnut processing mill in Wusasa. We were given a grant of \$9,121 about 1.2 million naira. This we used in purchasing the engines used in groundnut oil processing.

After receiving the award, then challenges started coming in from all directions. Initially, some people criticized us for this initiative, some tried to discourage us, some felt we

were just going to share the money amongst us. All manner of things were said or done to discourage us. And as rightly said by R W Emerson "to be great is to be misunderstood." We kept on pressing ahead because we have made up our minds that if from this project we are to be great so be it. Nothing will stop us from achieving that. With God being on our side, we kept on pushing on until we were able to reach where we are today.

This project has just started; the oil processed is sold at subsidized rate. To ensure every member of the association benefits from the project, those who cannot afford to buy on a cash and carry basis are allowed to take the produce on credit. The groundnut cake, which is a by-product, is also sold to poultry farmers. Already, the project has offered employment to a large number of our youths in the community. This project is intended not only to help the women but the community as a



Workers extract oil from the Harama Women Community groundnut milling plant.

whole.

In fact, we have even organized a one-day sensitization class on income generation to some women from neighboring communities to learn about this groundnut oil processing business. Indeed, the Wusasa community saw it as a dream come true when the project was finally commissioned on September 22,

2005. Everybody in the community was happy to see US Embassy officials including the project Coordinator Angela Jarman in our community. We really appreciate this kind gesture. Thank you for your confidence and encouragement in our community's ability to economically help ourselves."❖

How to Benefit from the Ambassador Special Self-Help Project

Projects which may be funded by the Ambassador Special Self-Help (SSH) Program include but are not limited to the following:

- * Small construction projects like school rooms, community centers, health clinics or workshops
- * Water / sanitation related projects like wells, toilets or bore holes
- * School equipment or supplies like desks, chairs, blackboards or library books
- * Communal construction equipment like brick making machines
- * Some durable goods like a stove or refrigerator for a school or operating tables for a clinic, or
- * Income-generating equipment like weaving looms, sewing machines or ricemilling machines.

The Ambassador's Special Self-Help Program has been assisting communities in Nigeria since 1990. Since its inception, the program has benefited over four million Nigerians and supported over 100 projects in 26 States and the Federal Capital Territory.

The Special Self-Help Program is dedicated to alleviating poverty and fostering community development through modest contributions to local grassroots communities that are committed to improving their welfare. For enquiries, write to The Co-ordinator, Ambassador Special Self-Help Program, U.S. Embassy, Plot 1075 Diplomatic Drive, Central Business District, Abuja. E-mail: SSH@state.gov or visit website at: <http://nigeria.usembassy.gov>



Proposed Projects for 2005

“America Honors Your Faith” U.S. Ambassador Tells Nigerian Muslims

*By Musa Mohammed
U.S. Embassy Abuja*

United States Ambassador to Nigeria, John Campbell, has told the Nigerian Muslim Ummah (community) that “America treasures your friendship” and “America honors your faith”. Ambassador Campbell who spoke in Sokoto, on Wednesday, October 13, at an Iftar (Muslim breaking of fast) event, stated that as the world’s fastest growing religion, Islam brings hope and comfort to more than a billion people, including millions of American and Nigerian Muslims.

Islam according to Ambassador Campbell is shaping the future in many communities and noted that it has been essential in shaping Nigeria’s past and present. Specifically, he described the Sokoto Caliphate under the leadership of the legendary Usmanu Dan Fodio as a catalyst that changed the political and intellectual landscape of Nigeria. Ambassador Campbell explained that “The Caliphate revolutionized and improved education, promoted the rights of women, and rescued the “Talakawa” (common people) from a brutal dictatorship.”

The American Ambassador informed the gathering which included the Governor of Sokoto State, Alhaji Attihiru Dalhatu Bafarawa and members of his cabinet, traditional rulers, businessmen and Islamic and Christian leaders, that the revolution headed by Dan Fidio accommodated people from diverse backgrounds, which today has resulted in a richness of the Northern culture, which shares some striking similarities with the United States.

The event also provided Ambassador Campbell with an



Ambassador John Campbell in a warm discussion with the Sultan of Sokoto Alhaji Muhammadu Maccido before breaking the Fast in Sokoto.



Left, U.S. delegation led by Ambassador John Campbell pose with the Sultan of Sokoto and his Council members during the Iftar visit. Right, Ambassador Campbell acknowledges a present from Governor Attihiru Dalhatu Bafarawa.



opportunity to deliver President George W. Bush’s Ramadan message, where the President stated that “Throughout our history, America has been blessed by the contributions of people of many different faiths. Our Muslim citizens have helped make our Nation a stronger and more hopeful place through their faith, generosity, and compassion.”

Sokoto State Governor, Alhaji Attahiru Dalhatu Bafarawa, who also spoke at the Iftaar, commended the level of partnership and assistance

between the United States and Sokoto. He made particular reference to the YES program which provides the opportunity for High School students from the state to go for a one year High School study in the United States, and asked the Ambassador for additional spaces in the program for Sokoto students.

Earlier on arrival in Sokoto, Ambassador Campbell had paid courtesy calls on Governor Barafawa and His Eminence, the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammadu Maccido, who also hosted the

Ambassador to an Iftaar on Thursday, October 13. During the courtesy call, Ambassador Campbell recalled how he first came into contact with the Sokoto Caliphate during his student days through some of the writings on the Sokoto Jihad.

He explained to Sultan Maccido that since then, he had always looked forward to coming to Sokoto to see the beautifully preserved manuscripts of Sheikh Usmanu Dan Fodio.

As part of the three-day visit, Ambassador Campbell signed a Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the Vice Chancellor of the Usmanu Dan Fodio University, Sokoto, for the establishment of an American Corner and also interacted with Fulbright Scholars and students who participated in the YES program. The U.S. envoy equally, visited places of interest including the Waziri Junaidu History and Culture Bureau, which contains historical materials including personal effects of past Sultan from Muhammadu Bello, son



Vice Chancellor of the Usmanu Dan Fodio University, Sokoto Prof. Tijjani Bande and Ambassador Campbell exchange a signed MOU for the establishment of American Corner Sokoto.

of Sheikh Usmanu Dan Fodio, and also toured some educational projects undertaken by the Government of Sokoto State, like the Bafarawa

Institute for Islamic and Science Educational and the Sokoto State Polytechnic.❖

— <http://nigeria.usembassy.gov> —

More Than 500 Fed at Ramadan

The Public Affairs Section of the Embassy organized a two-day feeding program on the 17th and 18th day of 2005 Ramadan in collaboration with the Al-Habibiyah Islamic Movement in Nigeria's federal capital, Abuja. Over 500 poor Muslim and non Muslim youths, including the homeless and migrant commercial motorcycle operators were fed by the food bank program which had about a dozen volunteer Embassy staff serving the food. Mrs. Claudia Anyaso, Embassy's Counselor for Public Affairs read President Bush's Ramadan greetings and quoted Ambassador Campbell's Iftar message, "In hosting tonight's Iftar, I want to tell the entire Muslim community in Nigeria through you,



respond to our appeal to help the needy during this holy month of Ramadan."❖

Photos: Left, participants at the Iftar Feeding program collect their meals. Bottom: U.S. Embassy staff led by the Country Public Affairs Officer Claudia Anyaso (right) hands out ready to eat meals.

that: America treasures your friendship. America honors your faith."

Imam Fu'ad Adeyemi, Chief Imam of the Al-Habibiyah Mosque praised the Embassy gesture and urged Muslim communities to show understanding "because the U.S. has demonstrated its care for humanity as the first, even among Muslims, to





U.S. Ambassador John Campbell and Nigeria Minister of Justice Bayo Ojo sign a \$1.5 million Law enforcement grant at the Federal Secretariat, Abuja on September 28.

Four Agencies Get \$1.5 Million U.S. Grant to Fight Crime

On Wednesday, September 28, 2005, U.S. Ambassador John Campbell, and the Attorney General of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Minister of Justice, Chief Bayo Ojo, signed a grant assistance of One Million, Five Hundred and Fifty Two Thousand Dollars (\$1,552,000) under the Law Enforcement Assistance and Narcotics Control Program. Four Nigerian agencies; the Nigerian Police, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) will benefit from the grant.

In this 6th Amendment to the agreement, the Nigerian Police under its Police Reform Program will receive \$682,000 to provide training capacity and establish an effective Community Policing/Integrated Administration of Justice Model for Kaduna. The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA)'s assistance of

\$450,000 is to improve the agency's capacity to interdict drug trafficking and also to support the development of regional law enforcement cooperation.

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) will receive \$220,000. This assistance is to enhance the commission's capacity to investigate and prosecute corruption cases. The sum of \$200,000 is to assist the Government of Nigeria improve its capacity to prosecute financial crimes and investigate public corruption through the activities of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). ❖



President Obasanjo (2nd left) and Senate President Ken Nnamani commission EFCC new Training Center. Right is EFCC Chairman Mallam Nuhu Ribadu.



Policemen ride their way into a better community policing in Kaduna State.

Community Policing, A Success in Kaduna with Basic Tools

*By Sani Mohammed
U. S. Embassy Public Affairs, Abuja*

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) is funding a Community-Policing project in Kaduna. The project is being implemented by the U.S. Department of Justice's International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP). The project has helped police and citizens build a partnership, based on trust, to fight crime and solve community problems. ICITAP provides training on the principles of community policing to

police, NGOs, and local government officials. The training stresses that community policing is an overarching philosophy and that strategies for its implementation can vary depending on the demographics, crime profiles, cultures, and religions of communities. INL and ICITAP appreciate the support that IGP Sunday Ehindero has shown for this project.

"The project will energize and empower the civil society to play an important role in community policing. It is complementary to a much broader community policing program being implemented by the British Government in Nigeria. INL and

ICITAP have focused their project on Kaduna to assure maximum impact with limited funding," Mr. Beinhardt, a visiting ICITAP Assistant Director, said.

INL and ICITAP's overall goal is to ensure that the U.S. project in Kaduna is closely coordinated with the British Government's much larger police assistance program to help the Nigeria Police Force transform itself into an effective, fully-functioning organization that serves and protects the public while respecting human rights and human dignity.

The U.S. program in Kaduna uses bicycles to mount police patrols in neighborhoods because they are reliable, inexpensive and much easier

to maintain than motorcycles or cars. The bicycle patrol might seem a novelty, but, in fact, it is an old concept to help bring police in closer contact with citizens, and encourage mutual respect and cooperation. The results so far show that Kaduna citizens are pleased with regular bicycle patrols because they allow citizens with much better access to police. When Kaduna Governor Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi heard of the success of the community-policing program he immediately supported the project by purchasing an additional 250 bicycles to increase the number of bicycle patrols deployed around Kaduna.

ICITAP has worked in more than 70 countries since it was founded in 1986. ICITAP's mission is to develop sustainable civilian-based foreign law enforcement institutions that promote democratic principles, instill respect for human rights and human dignity, and reduce the threat of transnational crime and terrorism. ❖

ICITAP's Core Competencies

- * Enhancing professional capabilities to carry out investigative and forensic functions
- * Organizing law enforcement academy programs that provide instructor, curriculum, and management development elements
- * Helping local citizens and police/government officials to combat police and governmental corruption
- * Improving the administrative and management capabilities of law enforcement agencies, especially their capabilities relating to career development, personnel evaluation, and internal discipline procedures
- * Implementing effective community policing programs
- * Developing effective criminal database systems.



Photos:

TOP; At the direction of the Kaduna State Governor Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi, Deputy Governor Patrick Yakawa (left) purchased 250 bicycles to expand the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program's bicycle patrol program. Here Deputy Governor Patrick Yakawa welcomes the U.S. Police trainers.

BOTTOM; John Shaw dispensing water after policemen rode the bicycles from the Kaduna Police College to the Sabon Tasha Division, where bicycle patrols were conducted.



American International School of Abuja Lays Foundation at New Site

By Sani Mohammed
U.S. Embassy Abuja

“It takes a village to raise a child,” an old African proverb that has proven relevant to the American International School of Abuja’s existence says the U.S. Embassy’s Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Thomas P. Furey at the school’s new site foundation laying ceremony in Durumi District of the Federal Capital Territory on October 25, 2005.

The expansion enables the school to accommodate a fast-growing student body and to provide the local community access to school facilities and outreach programs.

“Education is needed to plan the future, and to plan Nigeria’s future, we must educate our children,” Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Minister, Malam Nasir El-Rufa’i said at the foundation laying ceremony.

The American International School of Abuja was established 12 years ago even before the US moved its Embassy from Lagos to Abuja.

In that time, many other diplomatic missions have moved to Abuja. These missions are expanding, just as Abuja expands its importance to Nigeria combined with the influx



Minister of Power and Steel Liyel Imoke takes his turn to lay the foundation block of AISA while other dignitaries (R-l) are School Director Amy Uzoewulu, FCT Minister, Malam Nasir El-Rufa’i, U.S. Ambassador John Campbell, Education Minister Rep. Alhaji Mohammed Gulma, former Head of State Yakubu Gowon and U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Thomas Furey.

of international businesses and well-traveled Nigerians who desire US style secondary school program in Nigeria.

The American International School of Abuja has grown from 40 students when it started to 261 today, representing 40 different countries.

AISA’s expansion plan began with the American International School of Abuja school board and administration, who, after much deliberation, worked with an

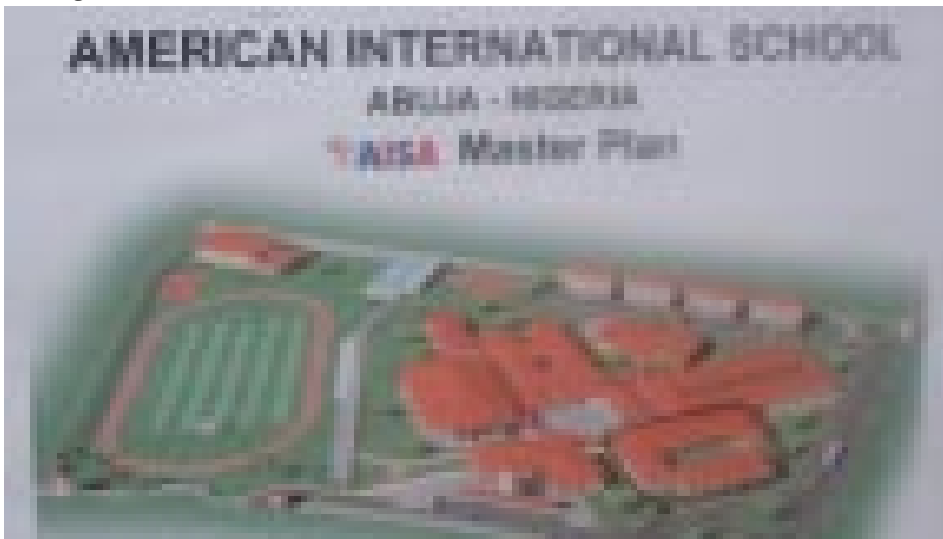
developed the designs and the specifications of the new school.

After receiving approval for a site for the school from the FCT, they presented their detailed plans to the US Department of State who agreed to provide support for the school.

The enhanced plans were next presented to the FCT Minister, who not only designated the site for the new school but who also pledged the much needed infrastructure — roads, electricity and water.

With the help of Ambassador John Campbell, the school held a very successful fund raising event in April.

Armed with support from this event, and the infrastructure from the local government, half a million dollars in security equipment provided for the school by the Department of State, and an excellent design plan, the school then approached the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, an independent agency of the United States Government, requesting a loan



to construct the school.

The loan was approved in the amount of three million, two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

“This was certainly the result of the entire global village coming together for the benefit our children,” Mr. Furey enthused as a new chapter was added to the records of FCT’s educational development.

Mr. Ron Acuff, President of the school board, said AISA will add a high school beginning in August 2006, while the Director, Mrs. Amy Uzoewulu, said the American International School of Abuja has piloted a new program to offer two scholarships to deserving and

academically gifted Nigerian students who reside in the Federal Capital Territory. One boy and one girl have been selected to receive these scholarships, and their scholarship will remain in force through the highest grade level that is offered by the school.

American International School of Abuja is also organizing scholarships for five students from the Niger Delta area.

The Education Minister who was represented by the Acting Permanent Secretary, Alhaji Mohammed Gulma, led the Federal Government of Nigeria’s delegation to the ceremony. Also in attendance were Nigeria’s



AISA students present flags of Nations at the Foundation block laying ceremony.

former Head of State, General Yakubu Gowon, Power and Steel Minister, Senator Liyel Imoke, former governor of Anambra State, Chief Jim Nwobodo, parents and students of American International School of Abuja. ❖

Education USA: Students Follow Footsteps of Prominent Nigerians



Students listen to a U.S. recruiter during the Educational Advising Center College and Career Fair in Lagos.

*By Idika U. Onyukwu
Editor, Crossroads*

“A good education opens the doors of opportunities for young Nigerians to build a better tomorrow.” Ambassador John Campbell, U.S. envoy to Nigeria used these words to underscore the

importance of education at the seventh Education Advising Center Annual College and Career Fair held in Abuja and Lagos from October 5-7.

This year’s College and Career fair witnessed an unprecedented number of participants some coming from neighboring states like Zaria,

Jos, to attend in Abuja and from Ibadan and Abeokuta to attend in Lagos.

In his opening remarks Ambassador Campbell said most students at the Fair including others already in various institutions of higher learning in the U.S., were rightly following the “footsteps of a long list of distinguished Nigerians who studied in the U.S.” before going on to accomplish so much for the country.

The Envoy named the first Republic President Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, Science and Technology Minister Turner Esoun, Governor Donald Duke of Cross River State, and Stock Exchange Director General Ndi Onyiuke as just a few of these distinguished Nigerians. Ambassador Campbell also mentioned the works of Oby Ezekwesili of “Due Process” and Minister of Solid Minerals Resources, computer engineer Philip Emegwali and Power and Steel Minister Senator Liyel Imoke as further testimonies of the long standing collaboration and shared values between Nigeria and the U.S.

in education.

More than forty U.S. universities and colleges exhibited at the Fair. Folu Ojutalayo from Huron University USA in London, Hakeem Tijani from the University of St Francis and Maren Milligan from the University of Maryland, conducted on the spot interviews on college admissions with many of the qualified students at the Fair. The Fair also provided a conducive atmosphere for Consular Officers from the U.S. Embassy and the Consulate General to find answers to issues of Visas and post 9/11 expectations of students who study in the U.S.

In a paper titled "Studying in the U.S.: An Open Door to Global Education," U.S. based Nigerian-American Fulbright scholar Dr. Emeka Okoli, said the starting point for a College pursuit in the U.S. begins with a good secondary school result in the West African Examination Council (WAEC). "Get your scores



Guest speaker Dr. Emeka Okoli engages a parent on how to study in the U.S. during the EAC College and Career Fair in Abuja.

right, follow the application process and the rest will be history," Okoli said.

To encourage more Nigerians to pursue higher education in the U.S. the Educational Advising Center was established to provide up-to-date information on the U.S. educational system. Advisers at the Center counsel students, discuss career choices and help them to choose appropriate

U.S. institutions.

Every year EAC advisers counsel over 20,000 students during the weekly Wednesday General Orientation Program and the Tuesday Open House. Approximately 300 students become members, successfully complete the admission process, and attend college in the U.S. Not only do these students obtain admissions, many

of them passing through the EAC obtain financial assistance.

This year's class of college freshman and graduate students received a total of \$1.5 million in scholarships and financial aid from their universities. It is obvious that the EAC provides a total package for serious students who wish to study in the U.S. and the annual College and Career Fair is just the starting point.❖

American Corner Opens in Kaduna

*By Idika U. Onyukwu
Editor, Crossroads*

On September 27, Kaduna State Governor Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi and members of his executive council joined the U.S. Counselor For Public Affairs Claudia Anyaso, at the Women Development Center, to officially commission the American Corner in Kaduna. The Center becomes the sixth in a series of information technology-driven institutions established by the U.S. Embassy to provide Nigerians with current and reliable information about the United States.

In declaring the Center open, Mrs. Anyaso said the Center "represents a common quest for knowledge, for engagement with peoples and cultures outside our local communities, for exploring new ways of thinking and



Kaduna State Governor Ahmed Makarfi joins CPAO Claudia Anyaso to unveil the plaque of the Center.

perceiving and for learning about others."

Responding, Governor Makarfi observed that the siting of the Center in Kaduna is further confirmation of the strong and vibrant relationship existing between the peoples of the state and the U.S. Mission in Nigeria. The Governor said Kaduna being the seat of learning and knowledge in the geo-political North, "the Embassy made a very wise

choice in siting the Center in Kaduna."

Under the terms of the agreement establishing the American Corner Kaduna, the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy will provide a collection of books, CD-ROMs and magazines on American history, literature, education, culture and law, as well as educational advising materials worth about \$8,000, while the

Kaduna Community Resource Center will provide the space to accommodate the materials.

The American Corner Kaduna will serve writers, journalists, human rights groups, students, academics and any other person and group interested in the study of the United States of America. Access to the Center is free and open to all interested citizens within and outside Kaduna State.❖

Dr. Jendayi Frazer Makes First Trip to Africa as Assistant Secretary of State



Assistant Secretary Jendayi Frazer discusses her Africa trip with journalists in Abuja.

Dr. Jendayi Frazer made her first trip to Africa as Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs on October 2005. She came to Abuja just as the news of the Bellview crash and death of First Lady, Stella Obasanjo broke.

The visit afforded her the opportunity to pay a condolence visit on

President Obasanjo and to express her sympathy to the families of the victims of the ill-fated Bellview flight 210.

Speaking to the press on October 24 after her visit to the State House, the Assistant Secretary expressed profound sympathy to Nigerians over the crash, saying: "I would like to express my profound sympathy and con-

lences to President Obasanjo and his family at the loss of First Lady Stella Obasanjo. I would also like to extend condolences to the families of the victims of the Bellview flight that crashed at Ifo.

Dr. Frazer confirmed that the Embassy was directly affected by the crash because Major Joseph Haydon, the Chief of Defence Cooperation, was among the passengers. Before coming to Nigeria, Dr. Frazer had visited Liberia, Ghana and Tanzania. She also visited South Africa where she was U.S. Ambassador from August 2004 to July 2005.

Dr. Jendayi Frazer was nominated by President George W. Bush to her current position on June 17, 2005, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on July 29, 2005. ❖



Ambassador Campbell (r) and Embassy staff with Assistant Secretary Frazer.

Americans Celebrate with Nigerians at 45

In celebration of Nigeria's Independence Day anniversary, the American International School Abuja (AISA) students dressed in traditional Nigerian clothes for the festivities at school on Friday, September 30. Here American kids pose for a group photos just before boarding the school bus that morning.

October 1, 2005 marked Nigeria's forty-five years of nationhood. The country came under the colonial rule of the British (United Kingdom) during the second half of the 19th century and the first decade of the 20th century. ❖



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“We Want to Help” - Nigerians Tell Katrina Victims



Iowa Legislatures led by Senator Daryl Beall (r) and Embassy staff pose beside a banner presented by Hope World Wide Nigeria bearing sympathy messages in different Nigerian languages to Hurricane Katrina victims.

September 15, 2005 witnessed an unprecedented attendance at the Embassy’s Public Affairs Section’s Thursday Briefings. Every seat in the conference room on the third floor was taken. When Claudia Anyaso, Embassy’s Counselor for Public Affairs introduced the week’s topic, “Katrina Recovery Efforts,” many heads lowered, eyes covered, and tears flowed freely as Nigerians empathized with America on the extent of the destruction caused by “Katrina.”

Claudia read President Bush’s statement, thanking foreign countries for their contributions to the relief and recovery efforts. She also shared statistics and emphasized that the initial slow response to the situation in New Orleans was not race motivated as assumed.

Two Nigerian groups quickly came forward with proposals to raise funds while a US-based Mississippi Consortium for International Development (MCID) was ready to coordi-

nate Nigerian relief efforts. Keith A. Benson Sr., MCID’s Nigeria Country Director, said legislators and other influential Nigerians trained by USAID-sponsored MCID projects were eager to show their connection with the United States. He said MCID projects have trained legislators in 13 states of Nigeria to support democracy, and these legislators and other influential Nigerians have had links with Mississippi, New Orleans and Alabama.

Mr. Wale Ewedemi, a popular radio presenter on Cool FM proposed an “Africa for USA” radio call-in show in collaboration with mobile telephone operators to enable ordinary Nigerians to donate a minimum of 100 Naira to Katrina victims.

The African Environmental Action Network, an environmental NGO engaged in advocacy and training, said it was planning a musical concert in collaboration with the Performing Musicians Association of Nigeria (PMAN). The NGO’s representative, Ms. Eferemo said arrangements had been made with ECO Bank for donations to the Katrina Relief Fund and urged Nigerians to donate generously. ❖

...Local Employees Also Condole Hurricane Victims



Ambassador Campbell (left) about to receive the condolence card being presented by the FSN Advisory Committee Chairman Mukhtari Shitu on behalf of local employees of the Embassy.

With victims of hurricane Katrina and Rita still counting their losses, the Chairman of the Foreign Service Nationals (FSNs) Advisory Committee Mukhtari Shitu led seven representatives from different agencies under the U.S. Mission in Nigeria to present a large condolence card to Ambassador Campbell for victims of hurricane Katrina and Rita.

In receiving the card, Ambassador Campbell said that “I am deeply touched by this gesture. I will transmit this message through Washington to the Governor of New Orleans to show our solidarity to the state.” ❖



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November		CALENDAR OF EVENTS		Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <i>Media Briefing (Lagos)</i>	2 <i>U.S. study classes (Lagos and Abuja)</i>	3 <i>Media Briefing (Abuja)</i>	4	5
6	7	8 <i>Media Briefing (Lagos)</i>	9 <i>U.S. study classes (Lagos and Abuja)</i>	10 <i>Media Briefing (Abuja)</i>	11	12				
13	14 <i>International Education Week</i>	15 <i>Media Briefing (Lagos)</i>	16 <i>U.S. study classes (Lagos and Abuja)</i>	17 <i>Media Briefing (Abuja)</i>	18 <i>International Education Week Ends</i>	19				
20	21	22 <i>Media Briefing (Lagos)</i>	23 <i>U.S. study classes (Lagos and Abuja)</i>	24 <i>U.S. Ast Sec. of State Visit (Abuja)</i>	25	26				
27 <i>PAS OffSite Meeting</i>	28	29 <i>Media Briefing (Lagos)</i>	30 <i>PAS OffSite Meeting</i>							

Please note that ALL events on this calendar are STRICTLY by invitation. For enquiries please call the telephone numbers listed above.