



ESPAM FORMATION UNIVERSITY

(ECOLE SUPERIEURE PANAFRICAINNE DE MANAGEMENT APPLIQUE)

FINAL YEAR PUBLICATION OF GRADUATING STUDENTS;
ESPAM-FORMATION UNIVERSITY, 2020/2021 CLASS

THE LEGENDS



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CLASS OF 2020/2021
YEAR BOOK



Editor's Note

'Go to the school but don't let the school go through' is what I planned to do after gaining admission to this great citadel of learning, Espam Formation University, the great and receptive environs I found myself couldn't let me keep to my words as I passed through the school and let it pass through me; it was a bewildering experience.

Putting together our memories in this book was an overwhelming task not because it was cumbersome but because it ascertains the reality that we have to bid farewell. Immensely profound gratitude goes to the legends yearbook committee members for their great and relentless efforts to make this book a success, gratitude also extends to the SUG board that entrusted us with the task of compiling the yearbook.

It seemed almost a miracle to put these memories together considering the fact that every member of the committee had their separate busy lives to lead. Perfection might not be the best words in describing our effort in sharing our memories with everyone through this book because it seems insufficient to make you all relive our experiences with us.

To the pro-chancellor and all the staffs of the great Espam Formation University that contributed academically and socially to give us a great experience, we say an

enormous thank you, your contribution is a great help to prepare us for a great after school life. Although no one can go back and make a brand new start but we the 2021 legends we will start from now and make a brand new ending, change is the end result of all true learning. It's always might seem impossible until it's done, 2021 LEGENDS WE DID IT!!

To our readers I hope you're going to enjoy reliving our experiences with us. CONGRATULATIONS once again to the 2021 Legends.



Orly Progress O.
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



THE **LEGENDS**

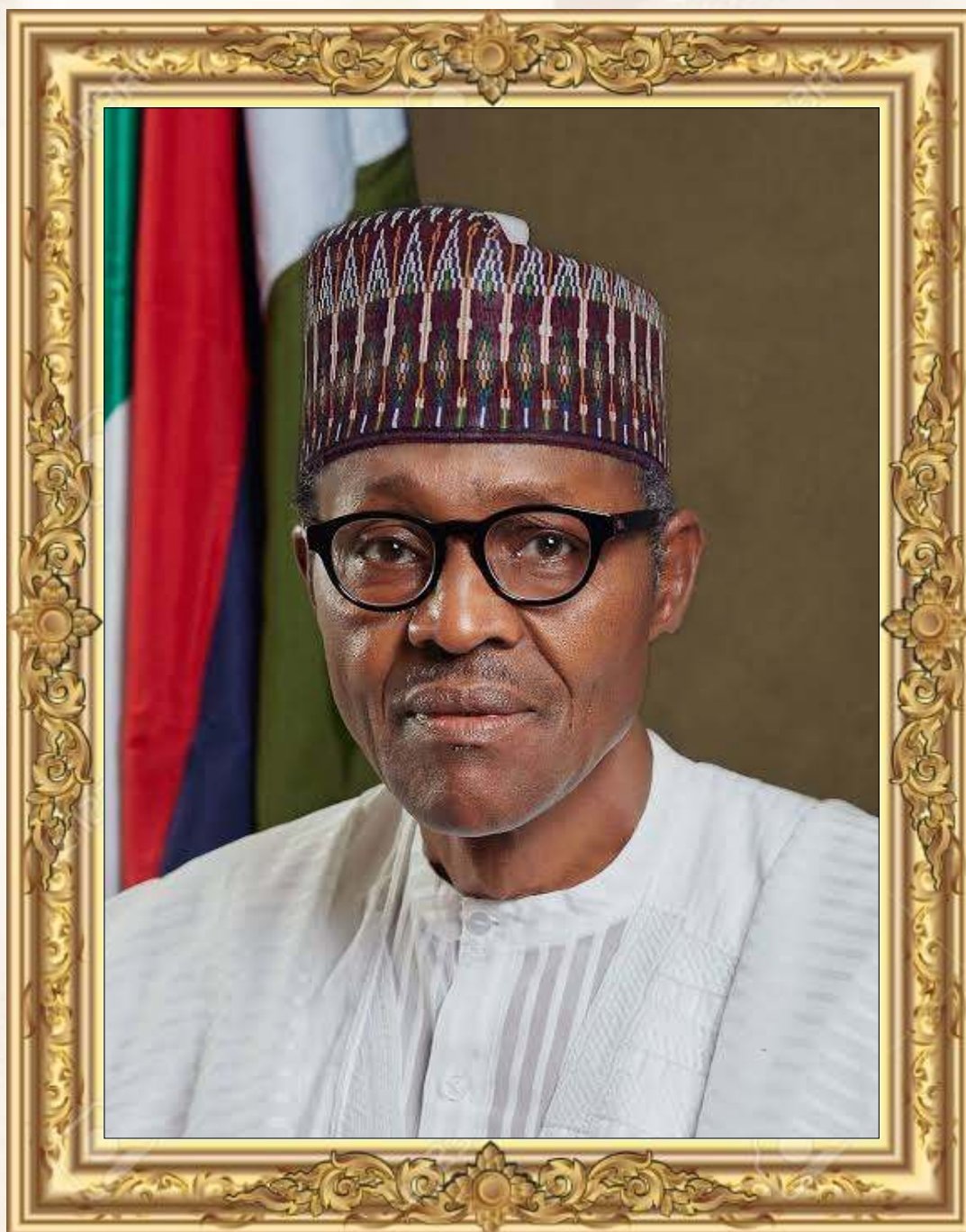
2020/2021 Year Book

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His Excellency
Patrice Guillaume Athanase Talon
THE PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC OF BENIN



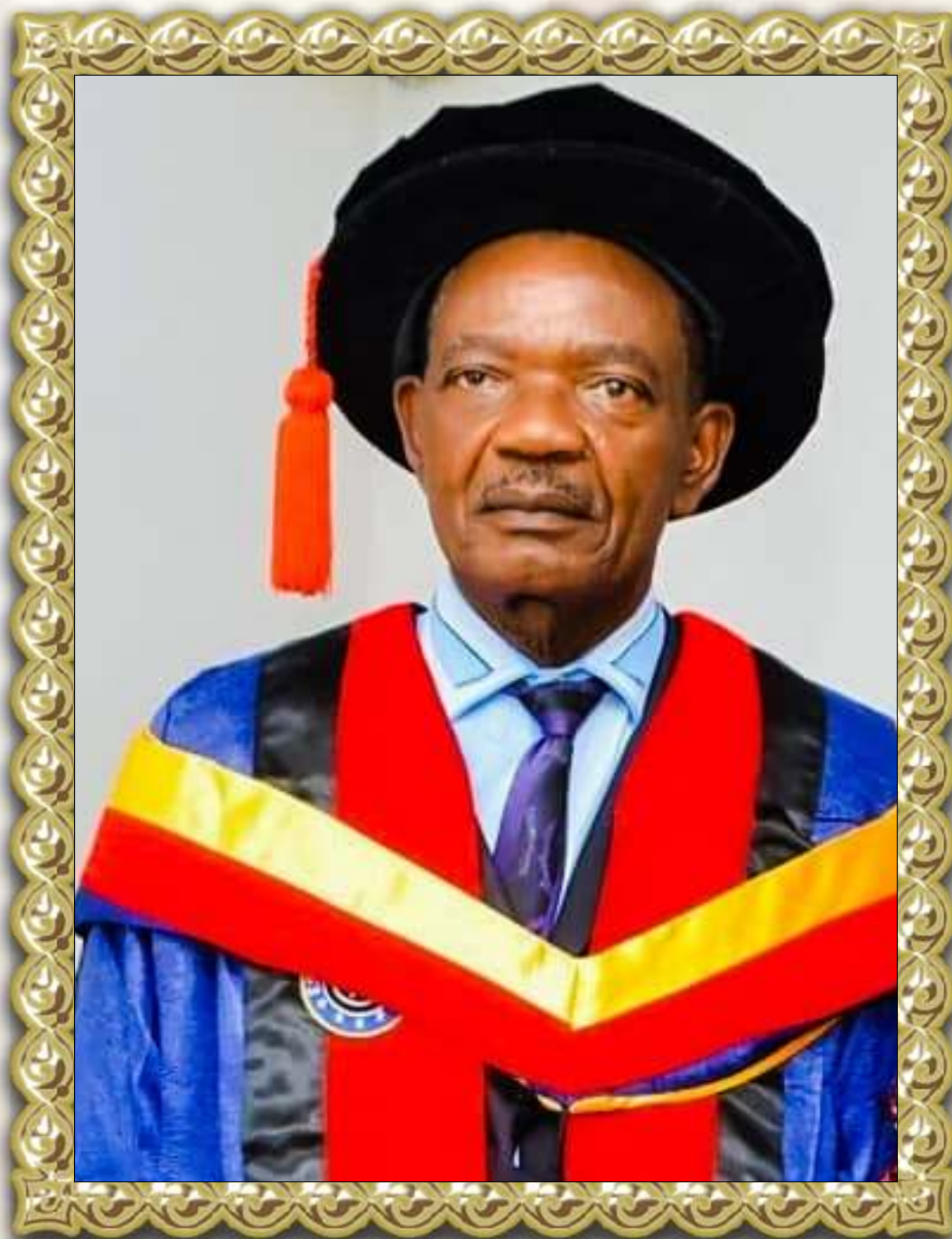
His Excellency
Muhammadu Buhari GCFR,
President and Commander-in-Chief of The Armed Forces
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



Mrs. Marie Odile Attanasso
Minister of Higher Education
and Scientific Research
REPUBLIC DU BENIN



Mallam Adamu Adamu
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Prof. Martial Lipeb
THE FOUNDER/VICE CHANCELLOR
ESPAM-Formation University



HRH (Dr.) Queen Halimat Adenike Tejuosho
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REGISTRAR



Dr. NKEUDJOUA Franck
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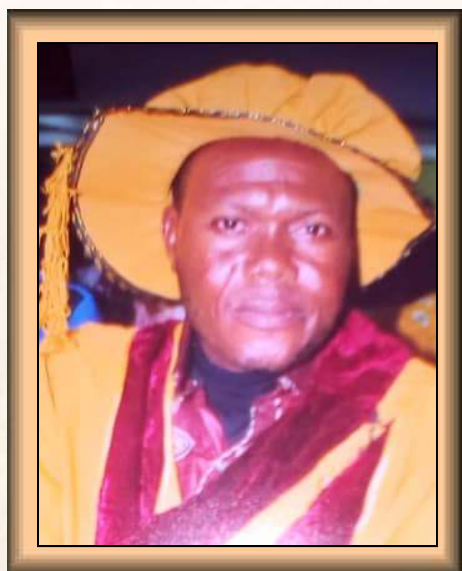
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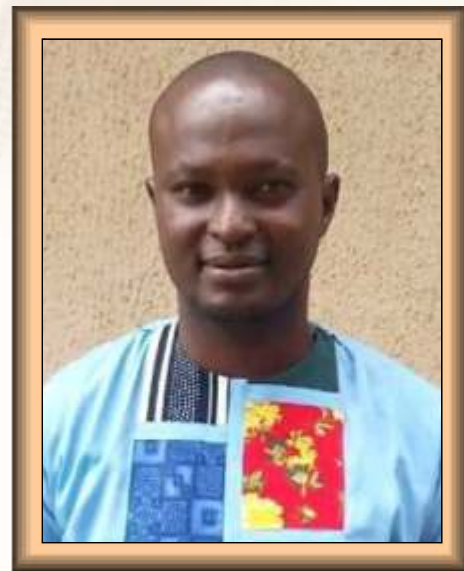
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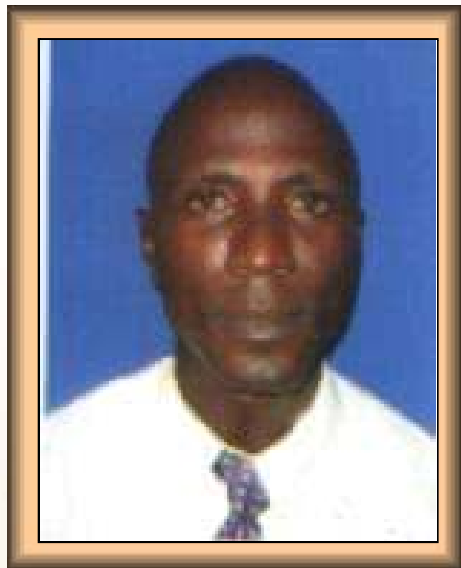
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HOSTEL MATRON



Mr. Thomas Emmanuel
Assistant Registrar



Mrs. Christiana Adebayo
SECRETARY

SPEECH OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR



Prof. Martial Liheb
VICE CHANCELLOR

Congratulations to you our graduands. I am using this medium to express my unreserved gratitude and appreciation to you all for taking your time to witness this occasion which is the Graduation ceremony of our university.

My welcoming speech message goes to all our most cherished graduands, I salute your courage to have passed through the rigors of academic life for four academic session. You also passed through difficult financial and emotional hurdles in pursuit of the Golden Fleece (knowledge). Today I am glad that we are all gathered to celebrate our success.

The university has given you the training needed to help you confront the problem

of our present world. It has taught you the pursuit excellence through various leadership training and seminars. We are therefore confident that you will do ESPAM – Formation University proud by being an epitome of greatness and a great beacon light of hope to other students.

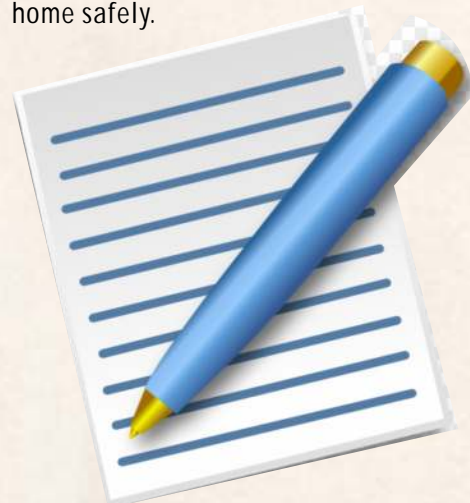
Anytime I am to deliver my address on an occasion like this, I always feel highly fulfilled on your triumphs. I also feel a sense of nostalgia that we are letting out again useful members of the university community. My dear graduands, education is a lifelong heritage that liberates the mind

from the mind from the strong hold of ignorance and lineage poverty. I charge you to take advantage of your knowledge and skill to put an end to ignorance and perpetual poverty.

Dear graduands and all those present at this ceremony today, my dreams and aspirations are yet to be fully realized because my main vision for establishing ESPAM – Formation University is to construct a super-structure that will produce world for class graduates who will fit into any system anywhere in the world. I also intend to build a cross cultural university where unity and excellence will be achieved in diversity. Our university is already billing well, where the English language and French, the two global languages are used simultaneously as the language of instruction in our lecture room.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, my profound gratitude goes to your parents and guardians for entrusting into our hand the future and destiny of their children. We will continue to do our best to meet up their expectations.

Thanks you all for being part of this occasion. We hope that journey back home safely.



Prof. Martial Liheb

SPEECH OF THE REGISTRAR



Dr. (Mrs.) Omolewa Egor Ese

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Let me begin by expressing my appreciation to the Almighty GOD who in HIS infinite mercy have granted me mercy in face of all obstacles and has given me the strength to be upright, all glory I give to you LORD.

In sincerity I appreciate the honor the Founder of ESPAM Formation has conferred upon me. As the Registrar of this 'Citadel of knowledge'.

On behalf of the management of ESPAM Formation University I say congratulation to our graduates. We will not be here if not for the support from you, your parents and guidance.

As we celebrate our graduation let us remind ourselves of the importance of which we are here in Republic of Benin. Our integrity and dignity as Nigerians, let us remember the academic training, let us remember the rigor of our training, let us remember the joy and pain of our stay and of most let us remember our pledge to our mother land to serve with our knowledge and strength.

Although it might not be easy in a turbulent environment like ours, the word of Winton Churchill has always given me strength 'The

pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty'. I encourage you to be an optimist, sworn like an eagle, face the storm with all your strength, be outstanding, build a spirit of result oriented, challenge the world around you, don't be satisfied with the qualification attained, develop yourself, acquire more knowledge, be innovative, be creative. It doesn't matter how many times you fall, it's whether you get up. I would not want to keep pondering, but I will like to say a word is enough for the wise. Be wise!

In a special way I would like to appreciate the Republic of Benin for accommodating us, I am grateful I must say, great moral impact is now being realized in our lives, coming here was a great experience for Nigerians as we have to learn the Francophone ways of life. A mixed culture for better Africa.

Permit me to appreciate the management, thank you all for your hard work and enthusiasm, thank you Prof Martial LiPeb you are an epitome of knowledge and hardworking, working with you is the best experience so far. To the lecturers, dean of student affairs, the heads of departments, lectures, non-academic staff, I sincerely appreciate your efforts, I say thank you for guiding students academically, morally, socially and spiritually. Permit me to say this that all training has been possible due to the tireless efforts we all put together. Great appreciation.

At this juncture allow me to say this that, true success is not about status or wealth, but true success is about the kind of person you are and the positive impact you have on the society, be proud of doing things that are right and become a role model of good things.

Thank you.

Dr. (Mrs.) Omolewa Egor Ese
THE REGISTRAR



STUDENTS' UNION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



COMR. UFFEH MERCY NDIFREKE
VICE PRESIDENT



SEN. ISMAIL BABA INUWA
SECRETARY GENERAL



HON. YAHYA MOHAMMED KABIR
DIRECTOR OF WELFARE



COMR. ENNENCHE EMANUEL
DIRECTOR OF SPORTS



SEN. KOLAWOLE SAHEED OWOLABI
PRESIDENT



COMR. OGUNYEMI OLUWASEUN BOLUWATIFE
DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION (P.R.O)



COMR. DIVINE FAVOR OTEY
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE



COMR. MUSA ABUBAKAR BOKANI
ASST. SECRETARY GENERAL



COMR. CHUKWU COMFORT IJEOMA
ASST. SPORT DIRECTOR



COMR. STANLEY IJEH GERARD
DIRECTOR OF SOCIALS



Presidential Address

Greatest Espamite! Articulated Espamite!

The Vice chancellor, Espam-Formation University, the registrar, The Bursar, the Director of student Affairs, the HOD of Various Department, Academic and Non-Academic staff of the University, Our honorable Guests, My Co-Executives, My Beautiful looking ladies and handsome gentleman. Alutarian Greetings to You all!

I feel honored and sad at the same time; honored because of the remarkable and appreciable privilege bestowed toward me to deliver this valedictory speech; sad, sad because it's me who has to do the tough job of bidding you a farewell.

Being at the echelon of the student union, we have been so privileged enough to interact quite frequently with the members of staff and indeed the management of this citadel of learning. We have learnt a lot from many of you and you have inspired us in many different ways. We are leaving here today with a wealth of knowledge we will always treasure. Working here has been a fantastic learning experience, and we are thankful for the modicum of experience we have garnered.

More so, I feel as if being here with you all each day has made me a more complete and well-rounded person. I have learned how to take direction, criticism, and compliments. I have also learned to be open-minded, to value other people's opinions and to consider other ideas along with mine, to end up with a great final result. These are things I wasn't so great at taking before, and now I feel as though I can apply that in many different situations.

About a year ago when we took over the mantle of leadership of the Students' Union Government, we knew truly well, it was quite daunting and challenging task but we so much believed most our problems are surmountable. To vindicate our earlier resolve, the following is

progress recorded:

UNION REFORM: For us to revamp, reform and set the union on the path of prosperity, sustainable growth and progress, we have developed Consolidated Action Plan (Based on SWOT Analysis) for 2020/2021 academic session, which served as a collaborative process for the SUG to establish a unified vision for the union development actions. It offered the Executives the opportunity to



Sen. Kolawole Saheed
SUG President

develop projects and programs into an effective, coordinated set of strategies that addressed most of the needs and problems of students while complimenting the management in her efforts toward radicalizing the transformation of University to a world class institution. Transparency, accountability and probity in governance, effective use of social media and continuous updates on SUG activities had contributed toward re-branding the union.

SOCIAL WELFARE: This administration left no stone unturned in the strive to improve

earnestly the social welfare of our students which is one of the standing pillars of student's unionism. These giant efforts responsive to the diverse and constantly changing needs of students on campus, has helped to create conducive and peaceful environment for effective learning.

However, these milestones wouldn't have been achieved but for the unflinching support and cooperation bestowed toward me by the Management of the university and Director of Student Affairs, academic and non-academic staff of the university, my amiable HOD and the entire staff of the department, SUG stakeholders, my amiable and dedicated appointees and indeed the entire students of the university. We say "Merci beaucoup".

To my Honorable executives, let me congratulate all of us "THE LEGACY TEAM", Not only for the time we have spent here, but also for all that we have achieved. You have sacrificed your time, your energy and resources to ensure that the goals that we set were achieved.

Great Espamite! Indeed it's been a pleasure studying here while at the same time serving as the SUG President, and I will genuinely miss it. I take with me fond memories, valuable skills and experience, and I hope to one day leave an impression on others similar to the one you have left on me.

My wish for everyone here is that you all continue to experience success, to feel fulfilled in all you do, and to have nothing but pleasant results with each completed project! While that may be an overly optimistic wish, it is sincere. With highest level of humbleness and ultimate loyalty, I remain your chief savant SEN. KOLAWOLE SAHEED a.k.a. "it's plenty" (opoor!).

Thank you very much and God bless you all!

Sen. Kolawole Saheed
SUG President, 2020/2021 (The Legacy Team)



Dr. (Mrs.) Omolewa Egor Ese
ENTREPRENEURSHIP COORDINATOR

AFRICA: ENTREPRENEURSHIP CALL FOR ALL

When I was young I love this poem by David Diop 'Africa',
the part I love most says,
.....'But a great voice answers me
Impetuous child that tree, young and strong
That tree over there
Splendidly alone amidst white and faded flowers
That is your Africa springing up anew springing up
patiently, obstinately
Whose fruit bit by bit acquires
The bitter taste of liberty'

The writer was so optimistic that Africa will grow just like a young tree. He believes in our hard work, our knowledge, strength and skills.

The 21st century is looking for these Africans. The question is who are these people? Entrepreneurs! Entrepreneurial generation and you are the generation she is looking for. We are looking for that entrepreneurial generation that will help to build a better Africa to be precise a better Nigeria.

With the changes all over the world, innovation and creativity has become the other of the day, in my little

world of knowledge I have realized that the only antidote for development is through entrepreneurship, the outbreak of the corona virus in Wuhan China, December 2019, following the global lockdown in February 2020 is of great lesson to Africa nations. We made our cloth masks the Wikipedia noted the use of cloth face mask was revived in Africa due to shortage of surgical masks and respirators, we struggled to survive the pandemic in our own ways, and our traditional medical practitioners looked inwards to find solutions, we struggled, we innovates, we creates, but as the economy is coming out of the pandemic we forgot all our struggling during the pandemic and we rushed to look unto the developed nations once again.

Much effort has been targeted by Africa Nations, at improving the standard of living and encouraging economy growth, but to date there is no comprehensive result to explain the failure of these strategic initiatives. Africa countries have been described as "developing, poor and stagnant economies". The devastating is Nigeria in spite of her vast resources in human and natural resources is still listed among the poor nations.

George Zimmermann said, 'knowledge is truly the mother of all resources'. The entrepreneur knowledge of what success is has eluded our minds as Nigerians, our society have ravished our knowledge of true success with false success, we believe in wealth rather than good virtue, development in Nigeria is only a nightmare! While we run to developed nations we have forgotten the saying, 'east and west, home is the best.

As observed by Otokiti, (2006). Entrepreneurship is an economic process of creating incremental wealth by individuals who assume the major risks in terms of equity, time or, career commitment or providing value for the same product or service.

The global economy has shifted towards a mode of production in which knowledge has become a key input for economic prosperity. At this point it is worth understanding the factors underpinning the shift to an entrepreneurial economy in which knowledge plays a key input for sustainability.

.....continue on page 40



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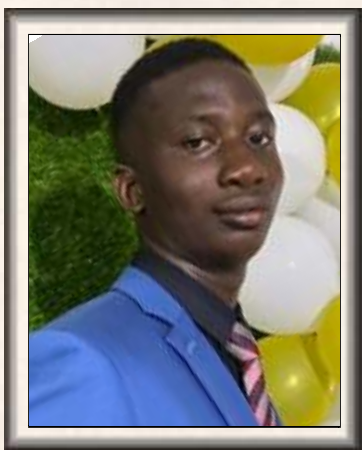
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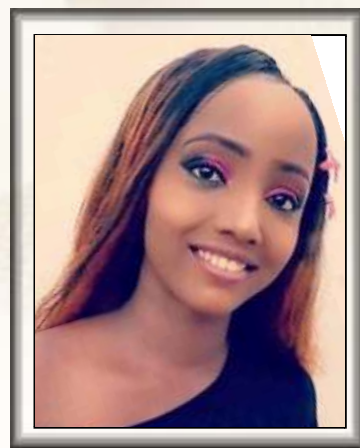


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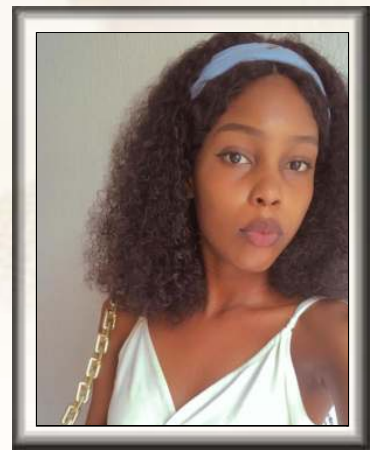


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Best Friend: Myself and I

ISRAEL JOY



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REAL JAY



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Otunba AKANDE, Kazeem Babatunde

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DECISION MAKING

As a small child, I was very selfish, always grabbing the best for myself.

Slowly, everyone left me and I had no friends. I didn't think it was my fault and I criticized others. But my father gave me 3 sentences to help me in life.

One day, my father cooked 2 bowls of noodles and put them on the table. One had an egg on top while the other bowl had none on top. Then he asked me to choose a bowl of noodles. Because eggs were hard to come by those days, I chose the bowl with egg! I was congratulating myself on my wise choice/decision and decided to wallop the egg. To my surprise, I saw that my father's bowl of noodles had two eggs at the bottom beneath the noodles! With much regret, I scolded myself for being too hasty in my decision. My father smiled and taught me to remember that what your eyes see may not be true.

He added that, if you make a habit of taking advantage of people, you will end up losing.

The next day, my father again cooked 2 bowls of noodles: one bowl with an egg on top and the other bowl with no egg on top. Again, he asked to choose the bowl I wanted. This time, I felt smarter so I chose the bowl without any egg on top. Hmmmmmm, to my surprise, there was not even a single egg at the bottom of the bowl! Again, my father smiled and said to me, my child, you must not always rely on experiences because sometimes, life can cheat you or play tricks on you. Never be too annoyed or sad, with situations, just treat experience as learning a lesson that cannot be gotten from any textbooks.

The third day, my father again cooked 2 bowls of noodles, one bowl with an egg on top and the other with no egg on top. He asked me to choose the bowl I wanted. But this time, I told my father, Dad, you choose first. You are the head of the family and you contribute the most to the family. My father was very happy and he chose for me. He chose the bowl with one egg on top. But as I ate my bowl of noodles, to my surprise, there were two eggs at the bottom of the bowl. My father smiled at me with love in his eyes. He said, my child, you must remember that when you think for the good of others, good things will always naturally happen to you.

I always remember these 3 sentences of my father.

Prayerful Preparation Prevents Poor Performance and if you are not yet reigning, it only means you are still in training. When your vision is vivid and your passion is avid, whatever you pursue will succeed. Do not mind the pressure, consider the pleasure, do not mind the opposition, consider the position, do not mind the cry, consider the crown. Thank for reading!!! God bless you all.

Dr Akande is a Certified Public Administrator (CPA), Fellow Africa Institute of Public Administration (AIPA), Fellow International Academy for Gender & Peace (AIGP) also the Zonal Coordinator (South-West), Fellow Chartered Institute of Arts Professional (FCIAP) and Fellow Institute of Strategic Customer Service and Trade Management (FICSTM).

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FROM THE STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE

Do you think attending school and doing projects for your college is a waste of time? If you do, you might want to reconsider that claim as education is a key part of a society's growth and progress. When people are educated, they can significantly contribute to their families and society in various aspects and fields, thus creating a stable and stimulating community. Why is education important to society? Let's take into account some reasons.

One of the benefits of education is that the educational system teaches us how to obtain and develop critical and logical thinking and make independent decisions.

Education has always secured respect from society. In order to ensure a comfortable lifestyle, people should educate themselves and obtain a well-paid job to be successful and satisfied. It helps gain a better reputation and increases the chances of climbing the career ladder more easily and faster. In turn, it provides financial resources for stable lives.

How does education benefit society? Educated people understand how valuable it is to live in a stable and secure community.

They are more prone to taking part in projects that help improve not only their neighborhood but society, as well. In addition, when people are able to afford their own home, they are more likely to take part not only in improving their homes but in solving local problems, as well. After all, it is quite important to get involved and give a hand to the less fortunate ones in order to build a better place for all of us to live in.

Education is of key essence for modern society. One needs to learn about culture, history and other important aspects so that they would be able to contribute to modern society. Education molds people into leaders not only with knowledge about (college) subjects, but it also shows them how to lead with emotions and true values. Educated people can easily differentiate between right and wrong, thus education helps reduce the crime rate. Bad events are happening around the world – only competent leaders can help guide us down a good and right path.

Digital education helps connect with people and organizations around the world. Borders are no longer there. Being able to communicate and share opinions with people from other countries and cultures widens horizons and helps us understand and appreciate each other.

The importance of education in society has always been great as it is irrespective of caste, race, gender, religion. Educated people are treated as equals on the basis of their knowledge and competence. In addition to this, educated people are open-minded and are able to listen and accept other people's views regardless of the fact of how different they are. Education offers a possibility to live independently and thus be free. It is our shelter against financial storms and wrong decisions.





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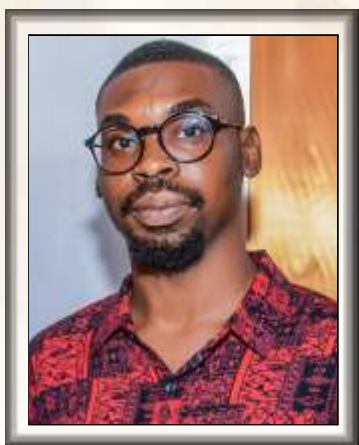
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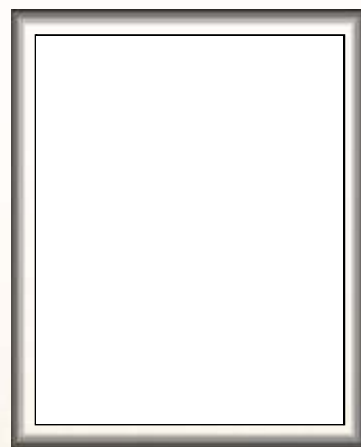
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"Although no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending." – Carl Bard

CONFERNMENT OF PhD DEGREE AND INDUCTION CEREMONY AS CHANCELLOR OF ESPAM FORMATION

HRH QUEEN DR HALIMAT ADENIKE TEJUOSHO

Cotonou, 6th August 2021

OPENING PRAYER

Lord I entrust you the present ceremony, I give you all the glory for whatever you are doing for ESPAM FORMATION University. Everything should happen not according to our will but according to your good pleasure. Thank you my Lord for the transformation our university is undergoing now specifically that concerning the new leadership, the rules and regulations to govern our behavior in this institution. I ask you Lord to have a thought for our students and alumni, to provide them good jobs. I also ask God to give ESPAM more students for the upcoming sessions, to replenish the pockets of the parents to be able to pay school fees for their children. O Lord, I ask you to protect ESPAM for all kinds of enemies to ensure that our

University is a real fortress, free of any demon or satanic spirits, I ask you to put our university under your heavenly protection and also lead our management. I entrust you the Queen, Dr Halimat ADENIKE TEJUOSHO who comes to ESPAM FORMATION to be officially inducted as chancellor of this citadel of learning'. That after her arrival nothing will be as before, O



Lord, give her the wisdom and the capacity to use her position to bring prosperity and reinforce academic excellence to ESPAM. Our dream is that ESPAM FORMATION permanently takes off and becomes a university of international standard like Harvard and other renowned schools in the world. I dream of an African university like the Myriam ABACHA University in Niger under her chancellorship. May this day of her induction be the day when we will have planted a seed which will grow, which will have branches everywhere and which will bear many fruits for Africa as a whole but more specifically for Nigeria and Benin. O Lord make this meeting be fruitful, historic and unprecedented. In the mighty name of Jesus, I have prayed.



CÉRÉMONIE D'INSTALLATION EN TANT QUE CHANCELIER DE ESPAM FORMATION DE LA REINE DR HALIMAT ADENIKE TEJUOSHO

Cotonou, le 6 août 2021



PRIÈRE D'OUVERTURE

O Seigneur je te confie la présente cérémonie, je te rends toute gloire pour tout ce que tu fais pour l'Université ESPAM FORMATION. tout doit arriver non pas selon notre volonté mais selon votre bon plaisir. merci mon seigneur pour la transformation que subit actuellement notre université, en particulier celle concernant la nouvelle direction, les règles et règlements qui régissent notre comportement dans cette institution. Je te demande Seigneur d'avoir une pensée pour nos étudiants et anciens élèves, de leur offrir de bons emplois. Je demande aussi à Dieu de donner à l'ESPAM plus d'étudiants pour les sessions à venir, de renflouer les poches des parents pour pouvoir payer les frais de scolarité de leurs enfants. O Seigneur, je te demande de protéger ESPAM de toutes sortes d'ennemis pour faire en sorte que notre université soit une véritable forteresse, libre de tout démon ou esprit satanique. Je vous demande de mettre notre université sous votre protection céleste et également de diriger notre gestion. Je vous confie la Reine Dr Halimat ADENIKE TEJUOSHO qui vient à ESPAM FORMATION pour être devenue intronisée



chancelière de cette citadelle du savoir'.

Qu'après son arrivée rien ne sera comme avant. O Seigneur, donne-lui la sagesse et la capacité d'utiliser sa position pour apporter la prospérité et renforcer l'excellence académique à ESPAM. Notre rêve est qu'ESPAM FORMATION décolle définitivement et devienne une université de niveau international à l'image de Harvard. prié d'autres écoles renommées dans le monde. Je rêve d'une université africaine comme l'Université Myriam ABACHA au Niger sous sa chancellerie. Que ce jour de son intronisation soit le jour où nous aurons planté une graine qui poussera, qui aura des branches partout et qui portera beaucoup de fruits pour l'Afrique dans son ensemble mais plus spécifiquement pour le Nigeria et le Bénin. O Seigneur, fais que cette rencontre soit fructueuse, historique et sans précédent. Au nom puissant de Jésus, j'ai prié.

Professor Martial Lipeb



THE SONGHAI FARMS

History of Songhai:

The idea of the creation of Songhai Centre came from Father Godfrey Nzamujo, who is a Dominican priest with doctorate degrees in electronics, microbiology, and development science. Father Nzamujo joined forces with a group of Africans and friends of Africa, who shared the vision of giving back to Africa its dignity, which has been scorned for far too long.

During 1982-1983, the media provided abundant images of African famine and severe drought, which struck Ethiopia in particular. These images portrayed Africa as a continent ravaged by bloody wars, famine, crisis, and poverty -- a continent where hope was not permitted. Father Nzamujo, who was then a university professor in the United States, landed in Africa with the firm conviction to change things. "At first, nobody believed it, neither my religious order, nor my family and friends. But I was convinced that tomorrow would be different, because God was going to help them and that injustice could be pushed away." ("Songhai When Africa stands up", p.28).

Of all the countries he has traveled, including Nigeria, his country of origin, only Benin fully embraced Father Nzamujo's vision and believed in the project. An acre of land was bestowed by the Benin government to implement the project at Ouando (a neighborhood of Porto-Novo). Thus Songhai was created in October 1985 in Porto-Novo, borrowing its name from a powerful and flourishing West African empire of the fifteenth century. This prestigious empire inspired members of Songhai Centre with pride and hope for a dignified and prosperous Africa. They noted that the core values that have contributed to the emergence of the brilliant civilization of West Africa, namely vision, courage, creativity, sense of community, discipline, and solidarity, had tended to disappear from the habits of the African peoples. Father Nzamujo and his followers took on the challenges of reviving the values rooted in traditional African civilizations and transforming the continent's countless comparative advantages into competitive advantages that would effectively enhance the opportunities available. Their specific target was the African youth.

Four years after its creation, Songhai began to train young agricultural entrepreneurs. Long duration training began in Porto-Novo in 1989. The Centre expanded its mission throughout Benin and western sub-region of Africa.

In 1993, Lokossa-Kinwédji Songhai Centre was created; centers in Parakou and Savalou followed in 1999. In Nigeria, the Songhai model center at Amukpe in Delta State was created in 2002; Songhai model centers in Bunu Tai in Rivers state and Adani in Enugu State were added in 2010. Nigeria took the lead in the replication of the Songhai model! In 2011 and 2012, the Songhai model was implemented in several Nigerian states: Enugu (Henke); Lagos (Avia); Katsina (Dutsinma, Sabke and Mairuwa), Cross River (Abi), Ebonyi (Abakaliki). Liberia and Sierra Leone are currently joining within the movement. A Songhai model was created in each of these countries in 2011.

Meanwhile, the network of Songhai farmers was launched in 1993 and Songhai Association - France Lyon was born the same year. The Songhai model has been replicated in 15 African countries with the support of UNDP (UN Development Program) and Songhai was recognized as a Regional Centre of Excellence for Africa by the United Nations in 2008. It is within this framework that Songhai models were established in Kétou and Zangnanado in southern Benin in 2012 and 2013, respectively. Fr. Godfrey Nzamujo was admitted to the rank of "Grand Officer of the Order of Benin" in 2013. Songhai Centre Ouando now covers more than 22 hectares of land and is mainly used as headquarters and an experimental site.

SONGHAÏ: an NGO of broad-based and inclusive development

The non-governmental organization (NGO) "Songhai" is an association of development and innovation. With its integrated approach, it aims at dramatically and systemically addressing multiple challenges (agriculture/food security, demographic transition/youth employment, health and environment) that African countries face in their efforts to achieve a sustainable economy and rural growth.

The Songhai initiative is an expression of "regenerative social economy: an economy at the service of man and every man." This initiative, while strongly reaffirming and reactivating the central position of solidarity in social construction, goes further to ensure the sustainability of this value.

A central tenet of the Songhai initiative is that the only way to effectively fight poverty is to make the poor productive. Socio-economic initiatives are necessary in order to provide a critical mass of young men and women who are capable of providing leadership and have the skills necessary to create wealth through more humane and sustainable businesses.

With its multi-partnership initiatives that include governments, international organizations, development associations, communities, and individuals, Songhai has emerged as a catalyst for the promotion of men and women of Africa becoming a little more in control of their future.

GOALS OF SONGHAI

The NGO Songhai aims at the emergence of new socio-economic structures and new socio-economic developments such as "Green Rural Cities" through:

- The development of technology and production systems to develop local resources;
- The creation and development, production, and research for sustainable development;
- The creation and development of business incubation centers, particularly in the agricultural sector;
- The development of an entrepreneurial culture and work ethic;
- The creation and development of service centers;
- The installation and management of agricultural enterprises, including the development of private, municipal, and government farms;
- The introduction
- The facilitation of networks by providing services such as marketing, input supply, hospitality services, networking, financial loans, and advisory services;
- The development of renewable energy platforms;
- The conduct of all income-generating activities in accordance with legal provisions;
- The establishment of partnerships with all similar associations and any commercial in accordance with legal provisions.

The governing bodies of the association are:

- The General assembly
- The Board of Directors
- The Think Tank (framework for technical and prospective thinking)

VISION AND MISSION:

Just like a compass, a vision that is clearly translated into a mission to be achieved, helps an organization move forward. Every action and every achievement of Songhai, and what they mean to live and promote, stems from their vision and their mission. They are at the service of life and its dynamics.

THEIR MOTIVATIONS

Songhai is motivated primarily by happiness! The desire for happiness is the impetus for sustainable socio-economic development. There is no happiness in food insufficiency, the current African rural exodus and brain drain, an import-dependent economy, environmental degradation, loss of hope for the future among young people, subsistence agriculture, and devaluation of the opportunity that comes with excessive population growth.

This constant and permanent desire for happiness has always driven us. They are participating in the search for happiness, not only selfishly for their selves, but for the greatest number of humans in Africa and elsewhere.

WHY DO THEY EXIST?

Each of us is a unique treasure, full of capabilities. Songhai aims to develop and share all of these talents in order to become more efficient.

Songhai is there to overthrow the world order that seems set where Africa is always the last of the class and the poor are treated with compassion in the best of cases, but most often with disdain when one feels on the winner's side.

They want to help restore the dignity of the Black Man, restore confidence and hope, and offer Africa a new image by taking it out of the cycle of poverty and placing it in charge of its own destiny.

WHAT DO THEY SUGGEST?

The future of Africa lies in its lands, its climate, and its agricultural work, which is so poorly appreciated in the continent today. At Songhai, they want to restore nobility to farm work that helps young people choose not to suffer and to provide service in creating wealth for their families, their countries, and their continent, through a functional training based on knowledge, skills, and a value system. They aim to produce a critical mass of men and women with a new entrepreneurial culture and who are equipped morally, technically, and spiritually with organizational skills. They provide technologies and methods that enhance local resources and improve production, while respecting the environment and society.

WHAT DO THEY HAVE?

They have the ability to drive the momentum of growth, the levers to control the future, and wealth to acquire resources and develop in order to reverse the misery:

- Bio-environmental capital, the first treasure.

- Human resources that are the second lever for genuine and sustainable development.
- The social force debate, talking to resolve conflict, and recognition of the importance among people.
- Technologies and techniques--the skills to produce and process are the fourth capital.
- The capital of finance, commerce, trade, not a speculative finance but that related to production, at the service social and technological innovations.

THEIR APPROACH

Their approach is systemic, as for them everything is interconnected. They believe in the synergies that develop from several relations. So, livestock, crop production, energy production, and aquaculture energize each other. They can go even further with their services -- marketing, innovation, research -- and thus appear green rural cities. Linking together makes an incredible effectiveness and that is what they experience daily through the Songhai Integrated System.

QUALITY, NATURAL ORGANIC PRODUCTS



Songhai thru the years has built a reputation on producing quality food products using nature friendly processes. Songhai does not use any harsh chemicals in the production of foods, neither to control pests nor to fertilize the soil. Songhai uses only organic products and practices to control pests. Microorganisms that deter pests and natural medicinal plants that keep products safe are used.



Songhai natural fertilizers (composts) are derived from organic materials, namely RCW (Ramial Chipped Wood), a wood product used in cultivation for mulching, fertilizing. It is also noteworthy that at Songhai, in the processing of foods (transformation) juices, jams and other products and made without the use of additives or chemical preservatives.

BIO-PROCESSING



Primary production without further processing minimizes value. This is an important obstacle for economic development. To overcome this obstacle, at Songhai, they have invested in agribusiness, mechanical and machinery manufacturing as forms of secondary production.

They process, by themselves and on site, the products of agricultural production using simple and natural processes and effective technologies that are easily accessible. Palm-nuts, for example, are processed into palm oil and palm kernel oil that they use for various purposes, such as making soap. They reuse the cake residue from their feed mills by mixing it with other materials to make feed for animals and livestock. They accomplish this through the ingenuity of their technicians in the Machinery Department, who develop and manufacture all kinds of machines that are adapted to their needs and various products (rice, palm oil, fruit juice, palm kernel oil, gari [from cassava tubers], animal feed, drying, etc). But they do not manufacture these machines only for their own needs. They make them available for sale, at reduced cost, so they are affordable and others are able to acquire them to boost their own production. In order to preserve the environment, most of the pieces they use to build their machines - aluminum or other materials - are the

result of recycling and fusing together metal objects that they have collected. This is the creative work of the Songhai Foundry.

In addition to their mini-food production industries, some years ago they installed a new factory for producing fruit juice and drinking water. Based on what they have learned and implemented, they have developed a reputation for high-quality products. Products such as tomatoes, mangoes, and pineapples which are marketed under the Songhai label have been preserved in accordance with the highest standards.

Their industrial zone also includes facilities for manufacturing unit packaging such as bottles for juices, and other plastic products. To make these products, they collect plastic wastes from the environment and process them for use in their plastic recycling unit. The latest achievement in their industrial park is a new factory for producing floating pellets for fish. They can produce one ton of these pellets per hour.

At Songhai Center, synergy and recycling is not just speech. It is concrete and effective way of life and doing business

BIO-CONSUMPTION



Purchasing imported products impedes development. To avoid this, they market and sell their products and services. At the same time they are helping people to eat healthy. Their agricultural products are marketed locally in Porto Novo, as well as at other Songhai Centers and shops in Benin and countries in which they operate. Their products also are available on the shelves of many supermarkets in Benin, thus they are available to customers outside Porto-Novo. They also offer home delivery services (on order 24 hours in advance).

They have noticed a high level of loyalty for all of their products from their customers. Every day there are lines of customers at their stores and service centers. This shows that people really are aware of the need to consume what is produced locally and in conditions they know.

They open their production facilities to all users and visitors to their center, in this way people have the opportunity to see where their purchases are grown and produced.

Visitors who wish to eat in their restaurants are able to enjoy the all-organic African and European dishes that they prepare. Their variety of accommodation facilities enable those who stay with them to enjoy the wonders of nature and obtain all the services they need without having to exit the center. They have a call center/office; offer communication, internet, and currency exchange services; and have entertainment, a swimming-pool, chapel, as well as meeting and conference rooms. They also offer training in all areas of their activities. For travel needs, they have cars and other vehicles that provide safe and dependable transportation services.

BIO-ENERGY



Access to plant and animal wastes and the rich environmental assets of Africa produces an extraordinary result: abundant organic energy. This form of energy offers their rural areas access to a broad-based and inclusive development. They have embraced this situation from the beginning of the creation of the Songhai Centre. As a result, they have taken on many initiatives that all visitors cannot help but admire.

From animal waste and plant residues, they are able to produce domestic biogas that they use to help prepare the meals in the kitchen for of their trainees. This helps them not only reduce costs, but also contributes to the fight against deforestation. Cutting down trees and other plant species for firewood and charcoal not only contributes to deforestation and its adverse environmental effects, the smoke from using this fuel source also plays an important role in climate change. Today, their proven experience in the field of biogas is sought by both institutions and individuals for the installation of domestic biogas units especially in rural areas.

But they do not limit their actions to biogas production. They also invest in other forms of renewable energy. An example is their gasified, which helps them to get gas, power, and heat from biomass - residual collected after pruning trees, rice husks, palm kernel cake, etc. Photovoltaic (solar) energy is also one of their priorities and one can observe solar panels around their production areas. With the energy they get from this source, they pump water to irrigate their crops in their garden and provide light in their layer pens, as well as several roads in their farm. Since they are not too advanced in the field of wind energy, there are reasons to boost their biofuel production. From the jatropha they grow, they produce biofuel for powering small engines on some of their agricultural machinery. Their ambitions in the energy sector are large. Soon their "Songhai energy project" will reach its active phase and they will be producing power not only for them, but also for other communities - especially those in rural areas. This will help reduce the rural exodus and the worsening "slumification" of their urban areas, and have a positive impact on development. Where there is will, there is a way.

SONGHAI IN ACTION

In Benin, the Songhai model of green rural cities extends beyond the capital city of Porto Novo. To control production in different agro-ecological zones, three other sites were created Savalou (Centre) on 214 hectares, in Parakou (North) on 250 hectares, and in Kinwedji (South West) on 30 hectares. The Songhai model has also been exported. It has started replication in other countries in the region:

NIGERIA

State initiatives

1. Abi (Cross River): 500 ha
2. Avia (Lagos): 250 ha
3. Meruwa (Katsina): 200 ha
4. Makera (Katsina): 150 ha
5. Sapkhé (Katsina): 100 ha
6. Bunu Tai (Rivers): 310 ha
7. Heneke (Enugu): 200 ha

Private initiatives

1. Abakaliki: 3 ha with extension on 100 ha
2. Awka: 5 ha

LIBERIA:

Bensonville: 500 ha

SIERRA LEONE:

Newton: 150 ha

CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE:

Otsendé, Louvakou

TRAINING

Four years after the creation of Songhai, they began to train young agricultural entrepreneurs with a clear goal: these men and women are trained to be stewards of development for the African continent.

The idea is to train young entrepreneurs who are capable of replicating the Songhai model everywhere, starting mainly in their own community or village. They can contribute to the sustainable development of their communities by creating jobs and thus preventing the rural exodus; by ensuring food self-sufficiency of the region and contributing to the well-being of the people who will become more aware of the components of the products they consume; by training other young people willing to work in the field, and who thus contribute to the education of the youth of their village; and by providing services such as electricity and gas for the happiness of all. This therefore means that replicating the Songhai model in every city and town in African countries can only bring happiness and, therefore, develop the entire continent. And this is their commitment to Songhai. All of their training is focused on this logic. This explains the spiritual dimension and the value system they hope to instill in trainees, beyond the knowledge and skills they acquire during the training. All these ingredients make them leaders -- true leaders.

A framework also has been created to monitor and support some trainees after program

completion, particularly young women, who can benefit from micro-credit to culture. Set up their farms.

WHO CAN TAKE THE TRAINING?

Their training is open to anyone who wishes to receive or to deepen his/her knowledge in the field of agricultural entrepreneurship. The duration and the cost vary depending on the selected option (internship or full training). Special preference is given to Benin nationals in full-time training: they are exempted from training fees and are offered accommodations and food.

Yahya Mohammed Kabir

.....continue from page 17

From the African perspective, becoming an entrepreneur is a matter of dignity and self-reliance, a matter of creating opportunities that will empower individuals and society and taking charge of your future.

Indeed African entrepreneurs are lucky with the vast population, vast resources in country like Nigeria, you are lucky! There is a great prospect for Africa entrepreneurs, according to the World Bank Africa provides the greatest return from Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), with our knowledge we can exploit our resources for our betterment. We have African who have compete well in African turbulent business environment and survived people such as Aliko Dangote an industrialist who started selling sweets in primary school to building the biggest conglomerate in Africa and whose net worth as at 2021 is US\$11.3billion, Mike Adenuga who started by selling soft drinks and now with a net worth of \$7.7billion, Folorunsho Alakija she is the richest female entrepreneur in Nigeria also the likes of Tony Elumelu, Jim Ovia and the likes.

In fact as a student of this great citadel of knowledge, you have every reason to be proud, the knowledge you have acquired especially in Entrepreneurship Development will equip you for a better tomorrow I am very sure that I have trained entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

And finally, I will say congratulations to the graduating class of 2021!

I strongly hope one day I will look back and smile to see your name among the great African Entrepreneurs once more I say congratulations!

Thank you.

Dr. (Mrs.) Omolewa Egor Ese
ENTREPRENEURSHIP COORDINATOR

THE ESPAM ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR (2020/2021)



TRIP TO VENICE OF AFRICA

Ganvie Lake Village
Cotonou, Benin

Ganvie is a lake village in Benin, Africa, lying in Lake Nokoué, near Cotonou. With a population of around 20,000 people, it is probably the largest lake village in Africa and is very popular with tourists. The village was created in the sixteenth or seventeenth centuries by the Tofinu people who took to the lake to avoid Fon warriors who were capturing slaves for sale to European traders. Making the shallow waters and islands of Lake Nokoué a haven, the Ganvie villagers are often referred to as "water men" and the area itself is often called the "Venice of Africa."





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EXCURSION TO SHONGAI

Out of our desire to acquire new knowledge and skills, and my quest to understand the nitty-gritty of integrated farming systems, I and my colleagues recently embarked on a sojourn to Songhai Integrated Production and Training Centre. This is a farm nestled in a 22-hectare parcel of land in the Ouando neighborhood of Porto Novo, the Republic of Benin.



Established in 1985 by Father Godfrey Nzamujo, a Dominican priest and native of Nigeria, the Songhai Regional Center has been recognized as 'Centre of Excellence' by the United Nations (UN) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The farm has a staff strength of about 2,000 workers which allows for efficient operations at the training and administrative units of the center, as well as on production fields and at sales points.

The center is responsible for training more than 500 students and receives over 20,000 visitors every year. This contributes to Agro-tourism and Agripreneurship. In addition, Songhai Centre operates as a decentralized business model underpinned by sustainable agriculture and integrated farming systems with four additional centers in Benin Republic and many others spread across Africa including Nigeria, DRC Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, amongst others.

On arrival, the center looks serene from the outside, but a walk down the entrance leads to a beehive of activities in the various functional units of the center including workshops, a supermarket, an agro-shop, processing ventures, industrial zones, as well as research and training farms.



At exactly 8:00 AM (GMT+1) my colleagues – like many other visitors from within and outside Benin – got ready to begin a technical tour of the production and industrial facilities. We started with an introductory session about the history of Songhai Regional Center including its core philosophy, vision, and key achievements over the past 34 years. With guidance from a staff of Songhai our team visited different sections and units of the farm including poultry, fishery, a section for pastry, and crop production units. Other units visited included the juice processing, palm oil processing, feed mill, compost preservation and biogas system units.

On the margins of the visit, a training session was held at the poultry section of the center which houses different types of livestock including chicken (both layers and broilers), guinea fowls, turkeys, geese and ducks, and quail birds. According to one of the poultry trainers, Mr. Shittu, the three-story building at the center could accommodate about 5,000 livestock. The other training areas equally handled by Songhai's skilled and experienced instructors focused on the preparations of compost manure (organic manure), renewable energy (biogas), mushroom production and management practices for fishery production.



At Songhai, there are three levels of production namely: primary, secondary and tertiary. Primary level of production involves the cultivation of cash crops, vegetables, poultry, fishery and livestock. While the secondary level of production, involves the conversion of raw materials produced at the first level into finished products through the various units such as food processing (juice, dairy and pastry productions), bio-gas production, mechanization and palm oil processing. For example, palm kernel oil obtained from oil palm, is further processed for soap making at the center. The final level of production, the tertiary level includes the training, finance, partnerships and administration units which consist of agro-shop, restaurant and the supermarket; where finished products

are sold.

What still amazes me is the fact that Songhai operates an integrated system that emphasizes on 'zero waste' aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change, as well as protecting the natural environment. Each production section is made up of different units and specialists who work in



synergy. After every production, the finished products/byproducts obtained are sent to another production unit in a sequential manner; where they are further transformed into other useful products for human use. It is a continuous circle and consequently, promotes sustainable economy.

Indeed, the Songhai experience provided precious lessons for me on my agrarian journey. I have learned about human and natural resources development, sustainable and organic production, processing and marketing; as well as entrepreneurship and leadership development in rural communities. In addition, the importance of empowering local communities with the needed skills and capacities for agricultural production cannot be overemphasized.



Without a shred of a doubt, Songhai's integrated agricultural system demonstrates that agricultural production in an environmentally sustainable manner is not only possible, but also has the potential to bring about social and economic prosperity through a holistic value-chain approach that ensures higher incomes for farmers, processors, as well as other agro-actors in Africa, and thus consequently transform the continent.

Ismail Mustapha Dallatu

EXCURSION TO SHONGAI





PHOTO SPLASH

EXCURSION TO SHONGAI





VICTORY DAYS

Signing Out Day



Graduation Ceremony



SUG WEEK EVENTS

Back To School Day



Cultural Day



Old School Day





SUG WEEK EVENTS

Old School Day



Sports Day



Sports Day



SUG Dinner



SUG Dinner





FINAL YEAR DINNER AND AWARD NIGHT



48

THE EDITORIAL CREW



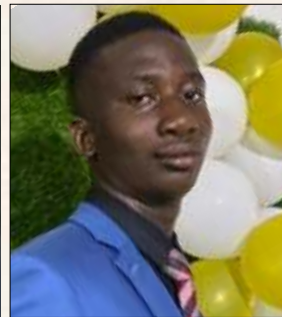
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