

PRESS RELEASE

TAFIDA HOSTS BRITISH COUNCIL FOR AFRICA (WEST & SOUTHERN)

H.E. Dr. Dalhatu Sarki Tafida, OFR, the High Commissioner of Nigeria to the United Kingdom on Thursday 10th June 2010 at his Campden Hill residence – Abuja House, in London hosted dinner in honour of the British Council for Africa (BCA) (West & Southern). The occasion was part of a year long programme lined up by the Mission since September 2009 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Nigeria's independence in the United Kingdom.

2. The dinner was well attended. Guests present included Peter Banner, OBE, Chairman, BCA; Mr. J. A. McGregor, CBE, MC Director-General BCA; Mr. Clive Carpenter, Vice Chairman, BCA and Nigerian Desk Officer; Mr. Peter Walker, Chairman, Nigeria – Britain Chamber of Commerce, Ms Penny Smith, Head of Nigerian Desk, Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Also in attendance were West African Heads of Mission in London; Captains of Industry; members of the Diplomatic Corps; Retired expatriate staff of British colonial administration in Nigeria; senior staff of the Mission; Nigerian elites from all works of life and members of British-Nigerian Education Trust (B-NET).

3. In his remarks, Dr. Tafida commended the effective partnership of the British Council for Africa with the Mission in the area of attracting investors to Nigeria, particularly, since the inception of his Administration as High Commissioner in April 2008. The High Commissioner recalled the business conferences sponsored by BCA to address the business community in the United Kingdom on political, business and investment climate in Nigeria. He described such platforms as having afforded him the opportunities to interact with the larger host business community, as well as sensitising the various business communities on the need to consider Nigeria as one of the best foreign investment havens in Africa.

4. Dr. Tafida seized the opportunity to thank the members of the BCA and former British expatriate staff in Nigeria, whose pioneering works in the field of Administration, Medicine, University Education, Commerce and Politics contributed to the modernization and development of postcolonial Nigeria. In this particular regard, Dr. Tafida poured encomium on retired Prof. Harry, his teacher and mentor as a young medical doctor for his invaluable assistance in the establishment of the School of Medicine, Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria.

5. Responding, Prof. Harry described Dr. Dalhatu as a brilliant and resourceful medical doctor with whom he worked closely in the establishment at the School of Medicine, Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria. He also expressed some nostalgic feelings he had when in the 1980s, he decided to retire from Nigeria and return home. In the same vein, Chief David Griffin, Vice Chairman, B-NET, on behalf of his organisation pledged to continue to support the growth and development of education in Nigeria.

6. The dinner hosted by Dr. Dalhatu Tafida indeed was successful in the sense that it achieved its dual purpose, mobilised Nigerian nationals in the UK, as well as Nigeria's development partners in the United Kingdom for the Golden Jubilee celebrations. The Planning Committee has promised a historic celebration at the crown jewel of Nigeria's Diplomatic Service, the Nigeria High Commission.

Information Section,
Nigeria High Commission,
London.

11th June 2010.