

PRESS RELEASE

TAFIDA HONOURS NIGERIAN- BORN 2009 COMMONWEALTH AFRICAN REGIONAL LITERARY AWARD WINNER

Dr. Dalhatu Sarki Tafida, OFR, High Commissioner of Nigeria to the United Kingdom, at a reception on Thursday, March 11th 2010, honoured **Kachi Ozumba**, Nigerian-born winner of the 2009 prize of the *Commonwealth Short Story Competition*. The event was in furtherance of the High Commission's policy of according special recognition to Nigerians in the UK who excel in their professional callings and with the objective of encouraging, inspiring and re-branding Nigeria's image abroad.

Dr. Tafida presented Kachi Ozumba with a Certificate as a symbol of recognition of his outstanding literary achievements by the High Commission. He urged him to continue to excel and win greater laurels for himself and Nigeria. He also urged Nigerian youths in the UK to emulate the shining examples of Kachi and the likes of him who continued to bring honour and glory to Nigeria through their hard work and quest for excellence.

The High Commissioner also seized the opportunity of the occasion to recognise the outstanding academic achievements of **Paula and Peter Imafidon**. He recalled that the twins had passed their 'A' Level Mathematics at the age of seven. He also recalled that their admission into secondary school, thereby making them the youngest in Britain.

In his response, Kachi Ozumba declared that no recognition counted as much as one bestowed by one's Fatherland, Nigeria. He thanked the High Commissioner and all those who made the day possible. He concluded that the day was one he would always remember.

A prolific writer, Kachi is also the winner of the 2006 British Arts Council Decibel Penguin Short Story Prize. His stories have been published in many journals and anthologies, as well as, broadcast on BBC Radio 4. He has also featured amongst others, on arts programme on BBC World Service and BBC Radio 3. While his debut novel, ***The Shadow of A Smile*** (Alma Books), published last September, was featured in the Observer's Books of the Year 2009, where it was described as 'a brilliantly funny and gripping novel'.

A recipient of the Hawthornden Fellowship, Kachi is currently a PhD student at the School of English, Newcastle University, United Kingdom.

Eminent Nigerians in attendance at the reception were Dr. Mark Abani, Chairman, Central Association of Nigerians in the United Kingdom, Ambassador Ayo Oke of the Commonwealth Secretariat, Dr. Alistair Soyode, Chairman, Nigerians in the Diaspora (Europe), Mr. Kayode Ogunsola, Chairman of Nigerians in the Diaspora (UK South), and others.

**INFORMATION SECTION
NIGERIA HIGH COMMISSION LONDON
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