



ADDRESS

BY

**DR DALHATU SARKI TAFIDA, OFR
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF NIGERIA
TO THE UNITED KINGDOM**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCHING OF THE BOOK ON
CONTEMPORARY NIGERIAN CUISINE
BY MRS FUNKE KOLEOSHO
NIGERIA HOUSE, LONDON, FRIDAY, 3RD JULY 2009**

Excellencies, High Commissioners and Ambassadors

**Your Excellency, Ambassador Dozie Nwanna, OON,
Deputy High Commissioner of Nigeria to the United Kingdom**

Members of the Diplomatic Corps

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I am greatly delighted to welcome you to this occasion of the launching of a book by one of my compatriots, a young and dynamic Nigerian lady by the name **'Funke KOLEOSHO (Mrs)**, on **Contemporary Nigerian Cuisine**.

The launching of this publication today is, indeed, a celebration of hard work, dedication and resourcefulness of an illustrious daughter of Nigeria, who has sacrificed her time and intellect to put together a unique publication on a major aspect of Nigerian culture. It is a book that showcases, in a very refreshing and engaging manner, an important aspect of Nigerian culture; the food and culinary traditions of our people.

Culture, as you will recall, is the way of life of a people. It is the bedrock of the history, progress and civilisation of a people. It is also a reflection of a people's identity. Nigerian food, culinary cultures and traditions constitute an essential component of who we are as a nation, and our identity as a people. For good measure, these deserve to be preserved, promoted and celebrated at all times. A people without a culture that is worthy of celebration and

documentation is a people without a noble past and, indeed, a glorious future. This is why, we as Nigerians and Africans, are very proud of our cultural history, as the solid basis of our hope for the present and optimism for a better future.

The publication we are launching today provides a good summary of various food types from Nigeria, ranging from *tuwo-shinkafa*, *masa*, *eba* (garri), *iyam* (pounded yam), *amala*, jollof rice, *suya*, *kilishi*, *akara*, to *moinmoin*, *dodo*, *boli*, *okporoko*, *akpu*, *nkwobi*, to mention just a few. Without doubt, the publication will make an invaluable contribution to the popularisation of these food items in the United Kingdom and the world at large. This will ultimately put Nigerian food in the same league as those of other countries whose food cultures have succeeded in penetrating societies other than their own and beyond their borders.

In this connection, I am pleased to note that Nigerian food has been accepted in many parts of Africa, beyond the West African sub-region, not to mention the Caribbean with which we share long-standing historical ties. I, therefore, urge my fellow countrymen and women to take this project further afield by joining the efforts at venerating and spreading what is good about our country, including the knowledge of our food, its nutritional values and the rich cultural heritage of Nigeria in your local communities and places of work.

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I will like, at this juncture, to express my hearty congratulations to **Mrs KOLEOSHO**, on this epoch-making publication, whose theme and timeliness could not have been more appropriate. As we seek to re-brand and change perceptions of our country abroad, this publication is sure to greatly enhance Government's efforts in this campaign. Having perused the unique publication, I have no hesitation in recommending it to all who are deeply interested in knowing more about Nigeria, and the rich culinary cultures and traditions of its people.

Let me end by expressing our appreciation to the publishers, JOK Publishing Company, UK, for their efforts in ensuring that this rare book hits the stands. I am aware that it is not usually an easy task to get publishers interested in ventures of this nature, unsure of its prospects as a commercial venture. But you can rest assured that your investments in time and resources will not go unrewarded.

With these brief remarks, it is now my distinct honour and privilege to launch the publication, **Contemporary Nigerian Cuisine** (2008), authored by **Mrs Funke KOLEOSHO** and published by JOK Publishing Company in the UK.

I thank you for coming and for your kind attention.