



REMARKS

BY

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

AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE BOOK ON

**FIFTY YEARS OF TELEVISION IN NIGERIA
DR OLUYINKA ESAN
UNIVERSITY OF WINCHESTER**

**AT THE NIGERIA HIGH COMMISSION
LONDON**

ON WEDNESDAY, 16TH DECEMBER 2009

PROTOCOL

On Friday, 3rd July 2009, we gathered in this very Hall, to launch a book on **Contemporary Nigerian Cuisine** written by Mrs Funke Koleosho. On that occasion, I recall charging my compatriots in this country to join hands with the Government in projecting what is good about Nigeria and Nigerians in the United Kingdom.

Once again, we have assembled to witness and celebrate one of our own, **Dr Oluyinka ESAN**, who has devoted precious time and resources to put together a book on the golden jubilee of the advent of television in Nigeria.

As chronicled in the book, it was precisely on Saturday, 31st October 1959 that history of television began in our country with its introduction in Western Nigeria. This made Nigeria the very first nation in Africa to witness this epoch-making technological revolution.

Prior to this, radio was popular, but television was something different. Nigerians were therefore marvelled at the instantaneous nature of television broadcasting that captured both voice and images at the same time across a wide area far afield.

With those humble beginnings, television has expanded in leaps and bounds in Nigeria with over 100 television stations across the country. The Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) as a central network covers over 95% of the country. This has been reinforced by the operations of private television stations in Nigeria, thereby offering a wide variety and choice of programmes. Even in the UK, the advent of BEN-TV as a private station

owned and managed by Nigerians is a great testimony to the entrepreneurial spirit of the Nigerian, totally worthy of celebration and emulation.

Without doubt, television has immense potentials as a means for mass mobilisation for development. It is also a veritable tool for democratic empowerment, popular participation, good governance, national unity and integration. This is why the promotion of information and communications technology as well as effective information dissemination are essential components of the transformation agenda of the Federal Government of Nigeria. They form critical ingredients in our quest to make Nigeria one of the top twenty leading economies by the year 2020. As the Federal Government remains strongly committed to the realisation of this objective, I would like to seize this opportunity to, once again, urge all Nigerians in this country and friends of Nigeria, to collaborate with the Nigerian Government in the actualisation of this goal.

**Distinguished Ladies
and Gentlemen,**

Let me end these few remarks by congratulating the author, **Dr ESAN**, on behalf of the Federal Government, the High Commission and indeed, all Nigerians in the UK, for doing us proud with this publication. The book, **Nigerian Television: Fifty Years of Television in Africa**, (2009), is, indeed, a major and unique addition to the corpus of scholarly publications that currently exists on Nigeria television industry.

I also thank our guests for coming to celebrate with us on this occasion. I would like to assure all Nigerians in this country that the High Commission

stands ever ready to partner with any one who is prepared to deploy his or her expertise, intellectual and other resources in raising the profile of our country in the UK and the world.

It is now my great pleasure and honour to present to you, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, Nigerian Television: Fifty Years in Africa. I commend this book to my fellow Nigerians and friends of Nigeria, including scholars, researchers and media practitioners and experts in communication arts and to all those interested in a bit of Nigerian history. May I ask you to invest in copies of the book as I am doing this evening by purchasing five copies for Five Hundred Pounds (£500.00).

I thank you for your attention.