

*HAPPY NEW
YEAR & BEST
WISHES FOR 2018*



Chioma Mensah-Bonsu

Dear All, I wish you, your families and loved ones a very Happy 2018!! Another year ends and we welcome 2018 with hope of greater things. I wanted to take this opportunity and edition to share some of the activities of the last few months. Of course, we share much more, real time, information through our Whatsapp group. Our goal is to use media to share and bring information that matter fast!

You will remember that we welcomed our Ambassador, Her Excellency Ms Nonye Udo; many of you had the opportunity to meet and chat with her at our Peace and Unity day annual event.

NIDO Europe AGM was held in November of 2017.

A big thank you to all of our readers and contributors for their support.

In 2018, we are looking forward to activities that will help us deliver on our objective of contributing to the socio-economic development of Nigeria.

We also look forward to the election for the next Executive committee which will be held in May 2018.

The Editor



Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation

Belgium & Luxembourg

Dear Colleagues,

**Holiday Message from the
Chairperson**

With the holiday season upon us, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your hard work and commitment over the past year to the modest achievements of our organisation in 2017.

Holiday season is the time to take stock of past achievements and challenges and so prepare for the coming year. As a leading diaspora organisation, NIDOEBelLux have faced challenges and overcome them because of your dedication and commitment. However, there is still some work to be done, not least apathy and the lack of commitment from Nigerians in Belgium & Luxembourg to the organisation.

On the plus side, we have made

some notable progress in raising awareness of the objectives and mission of our organisation to Nigerians and friends of Nigeria in BeLux. We reached out to sister organisations in BeLux and found common ground to enable simultaneous advancement of our organisation's objectives whilst enjoying the ideals of equality and fraternity of one people from our great nation, Nigeria. Our flagship summer BBQ and annual Peace & Unity Day was hugely successful and raised awareness of our organisation's objectives to stakeholders. The executive committee appreciate all of your efforts.

The New Year will bring its own mix of successes and challenges, but our direction is clear and we know what we must do. Our job is to con-

tinue to focus intently on what we can control; providing our members and friends of Nigeria in BeLux a platform to contribute to the socio-economic development of our country, Nigeria; working closely with our partners and the Nigerian embassy to further rebrand our country. Our long-term value will come through over time if we do these successfully.

Finally, I appreciate all of your great work in 2017 and because we know we can do so much that I have such great confidence in our future. Please enjoy some well deserved rest with family and friends during this holiday season and let's get right back to it in 2018.

Dr Chinedu Madichie

Inside the last few months of 2017.....

4th Annual NIDOE Belux Peace & Unity day

Top of the list was our 2017 Peace & Unity day entitled '**Peace and Stability as an enabler for the Socio-Economic development of Nigeria**' was our most successful get together and engagement with Nigerians in Diaspora from Belgium & Luxemburg to date. In attendance, was Her Excel-

lency Ms Nonye Udo and her staff in joining us to toast Nigeria's 57th year of independence. Her Excellences' message articulated succinctly the night's theme and importantly, it was the same night that our national soccer team beat Zambia & secured the ticket to Russia 2018. Also in attendance

were Nigerians from across Europe, the NIDO Swiss Chapter

chair, President of the Association of Nigerians in Belux, Nigerian entertainment talents including Queensie Li, Uniekgrace, D-Large, B-Cross and Cnik Ree as well as the latest Naija vibes from DJ Babakayone.

So let us continue to work together, successfully for our great country, Nigeria.

By Chioma Mensah-Bonsu

Nigeria tourist map 2018

Introducing our unique, newly and meticulously developed Tourist Map of Nigeria that can also promote your business among 21 million Nigerians in the Diaspora and other nationals travelling to Nigeria for visit or business. Our map is first of its kind as there is no other Nigeria map detailing current information on transport infrastructure, and tourism locations as well as being aesthetically pleasing.

Our pocket-size map (100cmx64.3cm) when unfolded provides a wealth of practical and detailed information for all travelling. The map will equally be produced as a wall Map. The Main Features of the Map include but not limited to:

1. Accurate and marked Road and Rail networks

2. International and Domestic Airports and Airstrips

3. Relief and Nature - highlands, lowlands and water bodies

4. Forest and Game Reserves

5. Cultural and Historical Sites

6. Recreation and Parks

7. Zoos and Museums

8. Spot-on location referencing with accurate colour coding

9. Capital, City, Towns, etc.

10. Administrative Boundaries such as states and country.

11. Map project initiative in support of the Nigerian Tour-

ism Development Drive - NTDD.

The map will be made available at all Nigerian Embassies, Nigerians in Diaspora Organization's office and events, International Airports' Stationery Outlets, Major Bookstores and News Outlets in Europe, Designated Vendors and Online Internet Stores.

The cost of advertising your business on the map is €200 only for a complimentary card size advert. For a prototype of map further information, visit

http://www.sgmmaps.com/nigeria_tourism_map.html

By Kolade Ayorinde

May 2017 - Conference held at Dortmund

INTRODUCTION

The summit was not a NIDO event but was a sponsored and organised event named AfricanTide Union e.V with NIDO Europe collaborating and gave funds towards the event.

SUMMIT

The summit itself kicked off with different presentation of projects. From solar powered generators, both for industrial and private use, clean water purification projects, housing and development projects and contributions from Director of the Federal Housing Authority.

The details of the projects presented at the summit can

be obtained from NIDO Europe.

Presentations were also made by Hon Collins Nweke and myself.

My presentation was about a project aimed at reducing the number of accidents on Nigerian roads and can be implemented quite quickly once approved.

Hon Collins presented a paper on the issue of Migration to and from Europe, the benefits and funding available for voluntary returnees and projects in third world countries. He showed a video of his past interviews about migration and made an elaborate case of how NIDO can tap into the EU-funds and funding available for migrants and would be returnees.

The director of the Federal Housing Authority provided a detailed report on the FHA Diaspora city. It is a City intended to be built with the full participation of diasporans both in the provision of expertise, raw materials and other facilities to the standards of the 1st world environment to which we are all currently accustomed.

Credit however must be given to the organisers for their vision and managing to pull the summit through — It is one of the positive outcome I have encountered in my over 10 years with NIDOE. They need to be encouraged and the various projects and activities needs to be followed up.

By Yemi Adeluosa



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OUR CHILDREN'S THEIR INSPIRATIONAL CORNER The glassescontinues

My friend Ian and I, are off to Aspire Academy at 8.30am sharp! We usually arrive at school fifteen minutes before the bell rings. We usually meet in the park which is a block away, then walk to school together. We had set a time for meeting up but Ian was fifteen minutes late!! I texted him that I was going to school and that we will talk later. I ran as fast as my legs would carry me I didn't want detention.

I sat down at my seat just as Miss Janice marched in, I sighed in relief and said to myself....." YES" I am off the hook!! Too soon..... I knew it was too good to be true.....just too soon Miss Janice asked "Who came in just before me"? Of course everyone turned and the whole class looked at me. Miss followed my classmates' gaze and 2 guesses what that got me? Yep! detention in her office during lunchtime the next day. I didn't think it was fair but I gotta use my head and kept my big mouth shut.

It was already third period and still Ian wasn't in school. I am worried as I haven't heard from him in a few days. In boring lessons like Geography... I asked to use the toilet and quickly texted Ian. He replied and me that he was at the hospital. My heart dropped, I asked him what happened. He said "On Saturday I was walking down the stairs in our new

house and took a tumble down the stairs, cut my chin on the edge of the steps and got a nasty hole under my chin..... there was so much blood, I apparently past out". OMG...I am so sorry, I responded. I asked "When will you get out of hospital?" He said that the doctor told his parents that he will miss a month of school. He said Imitating the doctor's voice. I laughed but then it hit me..... "A MONTH! What am I going to do without you? I already have a detention tomorrow with Ms Janice staring at me like a hawk waiting for its kill!" Ian said..." Sorry, I tried to text you but nurses just wouldn't allow me" I told him it was ok and I have to get back to Geography before Mr. Oliver detects anything. Oh and when can I come over to see you?" "Oh right for a few weeks I can only have relatives sorry" "Ok talk soon then, bye!" "BYE!" said Ian. I checked the time and realized I had been in there for over fifteen minutes. I told Mr Oliver that I had a few issues in the cubicles and it was now ok.... no need for details.

My glasses is weird, it had been a long day and I couldn't wait to ask mum for a pair of new glasses. I could've sworn the glasses talked this morning. How I wish Ian was here. When I get a bit older, I'm planning to sue Ms Olivia, no joke!

I want to be a 5-Star celebri-

ty chef when I grow up, and today I decided to make my Grannies special Pizza and yes my Granny is Marry Berry and my Grandad is Paul Bocuse. My family always appreciates it when I cook. Also don't even think about asking for my grannies special recipes! Oh did I forget to mention I am making lemonade and mini chocolate lava cakes for dessert after putting two large, one medium and on extra small homemade pizzas in the oven I started whipping up dessert and yes I like to multi-task so I made Lemonade at the same time as my mini lava cakes. I took the pizzas out and find....

Its charcoal...GOTCHA! Just kidding, anyways like I was saying I have the title of England's first Junior Masterchef, so I want to build up my level of cooking techniques so I can put different, harder and maybe more outrageous things on my show so people keep watching. After eating our delicious food that I do say so myself and I went to bed thinking something very crazy might happen again tonight....

When I heard a voice....."Elizabeth what is this message? You got a detention scheduled for tomorrow?" ... Oh boy....my mum is going to throttle me.....

Original story created & written by Alexandra Mensah-Bonsu (11 years old) - Please do NOT copy without prior permission