



NAFEST NEWS

NAFEST...the festival that unites the Nation

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• FREE

FIRST LADY LISTS GAINS OF NAFEST '09



L - R: Hajiya (Dr.) Turai Umaru Yar'Adua, Hajiya Jummai Babangida Aliyu and Chief Servant, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu (Talban Minna) at the Opening Ceremony of NAFEST 2009.

Niger State Offers Warm Atmosphere - Minister

The Honourable Minister of Tourism, Culture and National Orientation, Senator Bello Jibrin Gada has disclosed the reason that informed the choice of Minna, Niger State capital, as the host of the 23rd edition of National Festival of Arts and Culture (NAFEST).

The reasons, according to the Honourable Minister are; attraction of the historical and cultural antecedent that the state is known for, as well as the warm and the peaceful atmosphere that exist in the beautiful capital city of Minna, under the leadership of the Chief Servant, Dr. Babangida Aliyu (Talban Minna) supported by the well meaning and good people of Niger State.

Tit Bits

Brisk Business

No doubt, the volume of business in the state capital reached a fever pitch as NAFEST 2009 officially kicked off yesterday. Okada riders, taxi drivers, dealers in textile materials, crafts and other businesses have been counting their gains given the inflow of visitors from all over the country and beyond to Minna. Hotels, restaurants and relaxation spots are witnessing a boom of all time.

Display of colour

The opening ceremony can be described as an excellent show of colour and choreography, tagged voice on the Rock and the participating states and FCT. From the colourful costumes to the dance formations, spectators were held spell bound, so much so, guests at the state box could not help but applaud the efforts of the dance presentations.

The First Lady Hajiya (Dr.) Turai Yar'adua yesterday said the annual National Festival of Arts and Culture (NAFEST) provides a platform where stakeholders from diverse backgrounds interact and showcase their rich cultural heritage in a creative, friendly and celebrative mood. She said this yesterday while declaring open the 23rd edition of the cultural fiesta held at the Bako Kontagora Memorial Stadium in Minna, Niger State. According to the First Lady, such interactions lead to the building of bridges of understanding, harmony and peace, which is very dear to us in the nation's efforts to grow as one strong and indivisible nation.

On the theme of the festival: "Culture and the Challenges of our Time: Cultural Industries and Wealth Creation", Hajiya Turai described it as apt and serves as a platform towards re-awakening the nation's consciousness on the need to look inwards with a view to mitigating some of the challenges of the time and would help in the actualization of the 7-Point Agenda and Vision 2020 of Mr. President.



Lady of Songs and Chairman Imo State Council for Arts and Culture Board Onyeka Onwenu, leading the Imo State contingents during the Opening Ceremony



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURE (NCAC)

The Voice of Arts and Culture in Nigeria

UPDATE

TODAY'S MENU (Wednesday 14th October, 2009)

NIGER THRILLS SPECTATORS AT NAFEST 2009 COMMAND PERFORMANCE

The NAFEST 2009 command performance kicked off at 8.45 pm at the UK Bello Arts Theatre. The performance which had in attendance the Chief Servant of Niger State and the Governor of Benue State, Gabriel Suswam was well packaged. It was a mélange of choral music, poetry recitation and comedy.

The high point of the command performance was the rendition of the National Anthem in the three languages of Niger State: Hausa, Nupe and Gwari. Also worthy of mention was the performance by Peace Meanat tagged "Welcome to Niger State", NAFEST 2009 Anthem tagged "epistle" and Princess Racheal of Kin-Kin International.

There were also performances from Enugu State: Ikorodo, Atilogu and Igede (dance of the Ruling class) and Kaduna State. The command performance came to an end with a performance from the Gwape International Troupe.

Other dignitaries present at this well attended command performance include, the Deputy Chief Servant of Niger State, Alhaji Ahmed Musa Ibeto, Deputy Governor of Gombe State, NCAC Board Chairman Chief Ebenezer Babatope, OON and other members of NCAC Board, the Festival Director Mr. Mwajim Malgwi Maidugu, Chairman LOC NAFEST Minna 2009 Umar Nasko and the Commissioner of Culture and Tourism Niger State.



Kabulu Dancers from Kuta at the Command Performance of NAFEST '09

- 10:00am - Official Opening Ceremony of NAFEST 2009 Colloquium and Book Fair - Hydro Hotel, Minna
- 11:00am - Official Opening Ceremony of Traditional Wrestling
Venue: Open Space, UK Bello Arts Theatre, Minna
- 12noon - Official Opening Ceremony of Herbal Medicine Fair
Venue: UK Bello Arts Theatre, Minna
- 2:00pm - Official Opening Ceremony of Traditional Music and Dance
Venue: UK Bello Arts Theatre, Minna
- 7:00pm - Official Opening Ceremony of Moonlight Games
Venue: Open Space, UK Bello Arts Theatre, Minna

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Depiction of Zuma Rock with dancers during the Opening Ceremony of NAFEST '09



A locally made sandals worn by Nasarawa State contingent

PARTICIPATING STATES AND THEIR CONTINGENTS

1.	Zamfara	-	65	18.	Niger	-	919
2.	Gombe	-	12	19.	Delta	-	75
3.	Oyo	-	66	20.	Adamawa	-	38
4.	Bauchi	-	44	21.	Ogun	-	74
5.	Kebbi	-	45	22.	Yobe	-	45
6.	Ebonyi	-	66	23.	Rivers	-	73
7.	Kaduna	-		24.	Enugu	-	70
8.	Plateau	-	80	25.	Cross River	-	85
9.	Imo	-	50	26.	Ondo	-	44
10.	Anambra	-	60	27.	Akwa Ibom	-	170
11.	Ekiti	-	45	28.	Borno	-	87
12.	Osun	-	309	29.	Katisina	-	32
13.	Kogi	-	68	30.	Kwara	-	81
14.	Nasarawa	-	243	31.	Edo	-	
15.	Taraba	-	65	32.	Benue	-	
16.	Jigawa	-	30	33.	FCT	-	
17.	Kano	-					

STATES YET TO ARRIVE AT NAFEST 2009

Lagos State

Abia State

Bayelsa State

Sokoto State