



# NAFEST NEWS

NAFEST...the festival that unites the Nation

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• FREE

LET US THEREFORE REMAIN A UNITED AND PEACEFUL PEOPLE SO AS TO ENABLE GOVERNMENT CONCENTRATE ON ITS PURSUIT OF ITS DEVELOPMENT AGENDA FOR THE STATE

## Full Text of the Chief Servant's Speech @ the Closing Ceremony of NAFEST 2009

HIGHLIGHTS OF REMARKS BY THE CHIEF SERVANT, DR. MU'AZU BABANGIDA ALIYU, OON (TALBAN MINNA), THE GOVERNOR OF NIGER STATE ON THE OCCASION OF THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF ARTS AND CULTURE (NAFEST 2009), IN MINNA; ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

PROTOCOL:

Let me express gratitude to Allah (SWT) for bringing us to the successful end of the 23<sup>rd</sup> National Festival of Arts and Culture (NAFEST)

I would like to acknowledge and appreciate the roles played by the office of the Honorable Minister of Tourism, Culture and National Orientation, as well as the National Council of Arts and Culture towards the hosting of the event.

We also acknowledge and express delight at the encomiums by many speakers since the commencement of NAFEST 2009 on the organization of the event. We are encouraged by such comments and promise to do even better whenever we have the opportunity to host an event of this magnitude.

We wish to reiterate our call to Nigerians to support efforts at rebranding the nation through the packaging and presentation of our enormous arts and culture potentials to the outside world.

I Undoubtedly, the arts and culture industry has a lot of promise for the sustainable economic growth and development of this country if the potentials are effectively exploited and managed.

We wish to reaffirm that the Niger State Government remains committed to promoting the arts and culture industry within the context of our Vision3:2020. Particular attention will be paid to the development of the numerous tourist sites in the State to meet international standards, viz the Gurara Water Falls, Zuma Rock, Zungeru colonial ruins, the Baro Empire Hills, Mungo Park cenotaph, Jebba, Bida Brass works and others.

At this juncture let me challenge the Ministry of Arts and Culture to sustain the tempo and height attained by the NAFEST, by providing the atmosphere for relaxation and cultural regeneration with attendant economic gains for the societal progress of Nation.

I urge participants to sustain the good lessons, ideas and experiences learnt from the cultural interactions during NAFEST. For instance, the Calabar kitchen should not leave the menu list of families in Niger State even after NAFEST.

Let me appreciate the people of Niger State for their support and understanding throughout the NAFEST. I therefore reiterate call on them all Nigerlite to continue to support Government in all activities.

Let me reassure Nigerlites of the sincerity and commitment of this administration towards the transformation of the State and the people.

May I also remind you however that progress and development only comes from unity of purpose, mutual trust and peaceful co-existence. Let us therefore remain a united and peaceful people so as to enable Government concentrate on its pursuit of its development agenda for the State.

I wish to express special thanks to our sponsors and collaborators for their overwhelming support towards the success of this event.

Once again, I thank all distinguished Nigerians for their support of NAFEST Minna 2009.

Thank you and May Allah bless us all.

### Wrestling: Niger State Defeats Ogun in Final Bout

In an apparent show of tact and stamina, the finals of bouts have been held, with Niger State emerging winner in the Senior category.

The fight described as the mother of all bouts in the 23<sup>rd</sup> edition of NAFEST, was the wrestlers going beyond the conventional three rounds.

After several efforts by both wrestlers to out wit each other, with loud cheers from the spectators urging them on, the Niger State representative triumphed over the daring Ogun representative. The judges who had a difficult time deciding on the winner, given the neck-to-neck bout, had to resort to technical scoring to decide on the winner - Niger State.

Highly elated Chief Executive of National Council for Arts and Culture and Festival Director, Mr. Mwajim Malgwi Maidugu presented a carton of Lucozade boast to the winner on behalf of the makers of the energy drink - Glazosmithkline.



The Deputy Chief Servant of Niger State Hon. Ahmed Musa Ibeto presenting the Presidential Gong to the Overall Winners at NAFEST 2009 - Nasarawa State



NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND CULTURE (NCAC)

The Voice of Arts and Culture in Nigeria

# RESULTS @ NAFEST 2009

## Competitive Events

S/N	Traditional Wrestling	Traditional Dance and Music	Moonlight Games	Traditional Circus	Exhibition of Nigeria Dress Culture/Live Presentation on State
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## States Showcase Unique Cuisines at Food Fair

Six states: Niger, Zamfara, Jigawa, Gombe, Nasarawa and Benue exhibited their unique Cusines to the delight of spectators and guests at the Food Fair, a feature of NAFEST designed to celebrate Nigerian food and boost local economy.

Dignitaries at the occasion were the Honourable Commissioner of Culture and Tourism, Niger State, Alhaji Abubakar Chika Adamu, who declared the event open and the Chief Executive Officer NCAC and Festival Director, Mr. Mwakim Malgwi Maidugu.

Also in attendance was the Executive Director of Niger State Council for Arts and Culture, Mallam Kabir Mohammed Dan'asabe.

According to the host state, Niger, its cuisine exhibitions is meant to tap from the abundant local food source and create balance diet menu that use peculiar traditional culinary skills of production.

"The contingent" vision is to expose and promote these peculiar culinary skills of the people of Niger State to national and international acceptable levels.

The state exhibited Eyan Boci (Nupe Rice Meal) with yikan kansanan in Nigbanan and chicken in kandalo soup among others.

