



NAFEST NEWS

NAFEST.....the festival that unites the nation

VOL .2 No. 4

Tuesday 25 October, 2011

FREE

“CALABAR HAS BECOME A MAJOR HAVEN OF CULTURE AND LEISURE, A GENERALLY ACKNOWLEDGED TOURISM DESTINATION AND A SHOW PIECE OF WHAT THE AFRICAN CAN CONTRIBUTE TO CIVILIZATION”

BELOW IS THE FULL TEXT OF MR. PRESIDENT’S SPEECH AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF NAFEST 2011 HELD ON TUESDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2011 AT 4:25PM

As I stand today amongst you at the Official Opening Ceremony of the 25th Edition of the National Festival of Arts and Culture (NAFEST), my pleasure is greatly enhanced by the knowledge that it is holding in Calabar, the first Capital of Nigeria. In the years between then and now, Calabar has become a major haven of culture and leisure, a generally acknowledged tourism destination and a show piece of what the African can contribute to civilization.

This is not to say that we should wallow in self praise and pride. Rather, I want to remind us that this 25th edition of NAFEST leads us to the centenary celebration of the Amalgamation of Nigeria in 1914 which inspite of all odds makes us united, strong and a virile nation.

I want to use this occasion to acknowledge the role which the culture sector at both State and Federal levels and very specially this annual creativity fair, this unity forum (NAFEST) have been playing in moving us towards that goal.

More importantly, however, I want to remind us that there is a lot that

can still be done.

In my address to a similar gathering at last year’s edition, of this festival in Uyo, I commended the new thinking in cultural administration which puts culture beyond jamborees and festivities to focus on the role that culture and its associated industries can play in



Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR, President and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Grand Patron NAFEST 2011

the arrest of youth restiveness, job creation, citizenship empowerment and such national development vehicles.

I am delighted to note that the current Minister of Tourism, Culture and Na-

tional Orientation is not only continuing this trend but taking it to the next level. In this regard, I am encouraged to note the theme of this year’s NAFEST – **Nigerian Traditional Music: A Vehicle for Economic Transformation and Unity** - and that it links neatly with the themes of previous editions.

It is such consistency that we wish to see in the conception and execution of governmental policies and programmes at all levels. It is such consistency and tenacity that my administration has promised Nigerians and is intent on pursuing. It is such tenacity that will deliver to us the Nigeria of our dreams. Having celebrated 50 years of our independence last year, we have now stepped into the second half of our first hundred years as a nation. We must resolve to use all the cultural resources at our disposal to track down and solve every problem of our modern existence including our target of vision 20, 2020. This will facilitate our building a truly wealthy nation whose wealth reflects in the lives of its citizens, a nation that is founded on solid morality, national pride and proper application of our cultural heritage and values, a nation that

(Continued on page 2)



**National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC)
The Voice of Arts and Culture in Nigeria**



NAFEST NEWS

NAFEST The festival that unites the nation

black men in all lands can be proud of.

I urge all levels of government to pursue this credo. I equally urge the private sector to key into Culture and Tourism in the spirit of Private Public Partnership (PPP) such that the sector with its vast and sustainable resources could be developed and become a part of our economic backbone.

I cannot conclude this address without specially congratulating Your Excellency the Executive Governor of Cross River State, Senator Liyel Imoke for your efforts at delivering good governance, which has trans-

lated to an enduring peace and harmony in the State. These efforts are highly commendable and worthy of emulation by all.

Furthermore, I want to commend Your Excellency for accepting to host this year's festival which confirms your interest, zeal and determination to be ahead in driving your state to be the tourism hub of Africa.

I also congratulate the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Culture and National Orientation, High Chief Edem Duke, the Board, Management and Staff of the National Council for Arts and Culture for the wonderful synergy with the Government and good people

of Cross River State in packaging this very essential national festival.

Let me also commend the contingents from the 36 States of the Federation including the FCT, other participating groups, the artiste(s), festival officials, the audience and spectators and the good people of Cross River State for your efforts at making this festival a spectacular one. As we celebrate the highlights of our culture at NAFEST 2011, I wish you all a happy and enjoyable experience.

It is my honour to declare NAFEST 2011 officially open.

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria and God Bless you all.

CLIPS FROM THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF NAFEST 2011 HELD ON TUESDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2011 AT THE U. J. ESUENE STADIUM, CALABAR BY 4:25PM



● L-R wife of Duke, Duke, Imoke and Obasanjo at the Official Opening Ceremony of NAFEST 2011



● The maidens from Calabar thrill the audience



● The Fulani Milk maidens from Gombe State at NAFEST 2011



● FCT contingent as they thrill the audience



● NAFEST 2011! NAFEST 2011!



● NAFEST 2011! NAFEST 2011!

A publication of the National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC) Plot 1370 Ukpo Close, Garki II Abuja (Director) +2348035978622 email: info@cac.gov.ng. Website: www.ncac.gov.ng