



NAFEST NEWS

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

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BELOW IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE MINISTER'S SPEECH AT THE OFFICIAL CLOSING CEREMONY OF NAFEST 2011 HELD ON FRIDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2011 AT 4:25PM

I welcome you all most heartily to the Official Closing Ceremony of the 25th edition of the National Festival of Arts and Culture (NAFEST) 2011 hosted by the Government and good people of Cross River State.

I am particularly delighted that in pursuance of the Transformation Agenda of Mr. president, the National Festival of Arts and Culture (NAFEST) has provided us yet another platform to further deepen our interaction as stakeholders in the culture and tourism industries towards enhancing the sectors contribution to the economic development.

Specifically, I wish to commend all participants for their collective spirit, zeal, efforts, initiatives and the display of creative excellence which saw to the remarkable spectacle and success of NAFEST 2011 which we are already celebrating.

The high packaging and standard of all the events of this festival, especially the conceptualization and finishing of the documentaries and exhibits, attest to the fact that the sector has a unique ability to enhance economic development through job creation and wealth generation.

Our special guest of honour distinguished ladies and gentlemen, this years theme **"Nigerian Traditional Music: A Vehicle for Economic Transformation and Unity"** is chosen to utilize and

explore the multifaceted ways culture contribute in concrete terms to our collective quest for economic empowerment and national development. This, I am sure, the festival has achieved through a thorough examination of both the theme and sub-themes which were manifested through in



Chief Edem Duke, Hon. Minister, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and National Orientation, delivering his remarks at the Official Closing Ceremony of NAFEST 2011

all events of the festival via Exhibition of Arts and Crafts, Traditional Wrestling, Music, Food Fair, Traditional Furnished Apartment, Drama, Essay Competition and, of course, the Colloquium Component.

Furthermore, this festival has attempted to draw attention to the need for e-marketing with a view to attaining the standard of modern practice in packaging our cultural products to enable us compete favourably at the global market.

The Specialized Exhibitions, the Craft Expo, the Traditional furnished Apartment as well as the Documentary Component are part of the campaign which we need to sustain towards advancing our local products to meet our demands rather than relying on inferior imported goods and services.

Our distinguished special quest of honour, ladies and gentlemen what we have attempted to demonstrate through the various events that made up NAFEST 2011 is that culture could be one of the potent tools for driving our development goals and aspirations if appropriately tapped.

In this direction, I wish to hereby reiterate my call on the private sector to step up efforts towards exploring investment opportunities in this sector which has a great future and is emerging as the most prospective sector the world over.

May I hasten to say that the standard achieved at NAFEST 2011, coupled with facilities provided by the hosting state and the peaceful atmosphere experienced made this edition to stand out as one of the most successful and unique in the history of the festival.

For this, I congratulate and thank the Executive Governor of Cross River State, Senator Liyel Imoke and members of his Executive Council.

In concluding these remarks, I wish to specifically express my sincere thanks to Mr. President Commander-In-Chief of the

(Continued on page 2)



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



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Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR for his efforts towards developing all the sectors of our national life, of which the Culture sector is one.

With all the support we are getting, I wish to re-assure Mr. President that the sector will be re-engineered and re-focused with a view to contributing significantly to Government's effort at diversifying the sources of economic generation and our march towards achieving the Vision 20, 2020 development strategy.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, once again, I congratulate all the participants, officials and contingents from the various States of the Federation and FCT for their wonderful performances. I must also commend the supportive role played by the Non-Governmental Organizations, the Press and all those that have contributed in making the Festival a success. I thank you and wish you safe journey back to your various destinations.



Chief Edem Duke, Hon. Minister of Tourism, Culture and National Orientation with his wife at the Official Closing Ceremony of NAFEST 2011

SIDE ATTRACTIONS:

The 25th edition of the National Festival of Arts and Culture NAFEST held in Calabar, Cross River State from Saturday 22nd to Friday 28th October 2011

Below are sights at the Traditional Furnished Apartment Competitive Event at NAFEST 2011



Nassarawa State, Winner of the Traditional Furnished Apartment



Akwa Ibom State, second position, Traditional Furnished Apartment



Ogun State, Third position, Traditional Furnished Apartment



FCT, Fourth position, Traditional Furnished Apartment



Lagos State, Entry, Traditional Furnished Apartment



Gombe State, Entry, Traditional Furnished Apartment



Benue State, Entry, Traditional Furnished Apartment



Niger State, Entry, Traditional Furnished Apartment



Bauchi State, Entry, Traditional Furnished Apartment



Bayelsa State, Entry, Traditional Furnished Apartment



Oyo State, Entry, Traditional Furnished Apartment



Jigawa State, Entry, Traditional Furnished Apartment



Cross River State, Entry, Traditional Furnished Apartment and Host State NAFEST 2011



An aerial view of the Cultural Centre Complex, Calabar, Cross River State, venue for all the Competitive Events



Main Bowl, Cultural Centre Complex, Calabar, Cross River State, venue for all the Competitive Events