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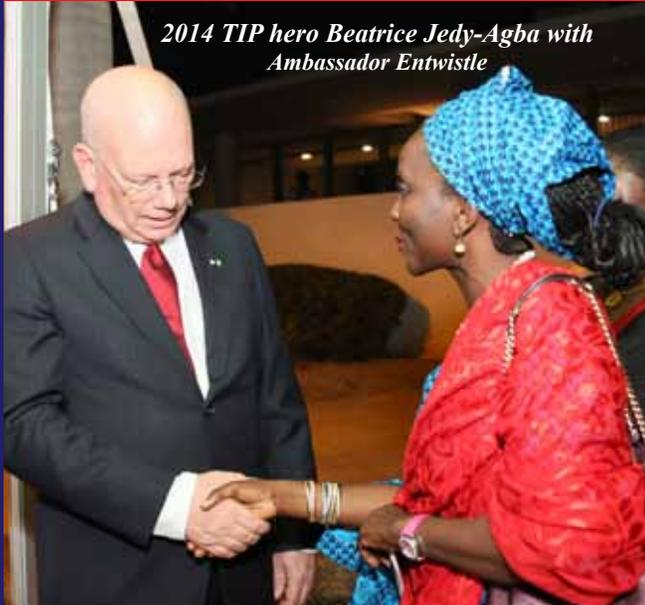
A Newsletter of the U.S. Mission in Nigeria

Partnership in Achieving Peace and Security

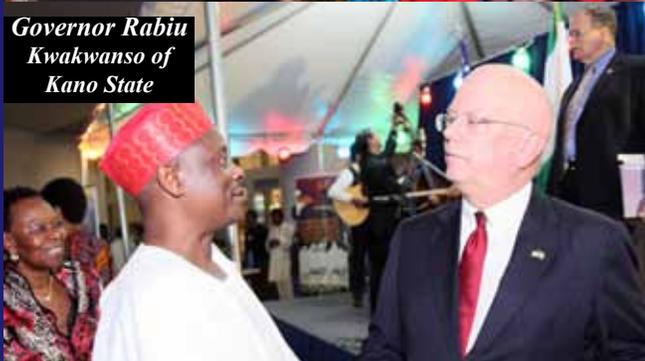


"You have many friends and partners who want Nigeria to succeed, and the United States stands at the front of that line." - Amb. James F. Entwistle

Celebrating Fourth of July



2014 TIP hero Beatrice Jedy-Agba with Ambassador Entwistle



Governor Rabiu Kwakwanso of Kano State



Ambassador Entwistle raises a toast for July 4

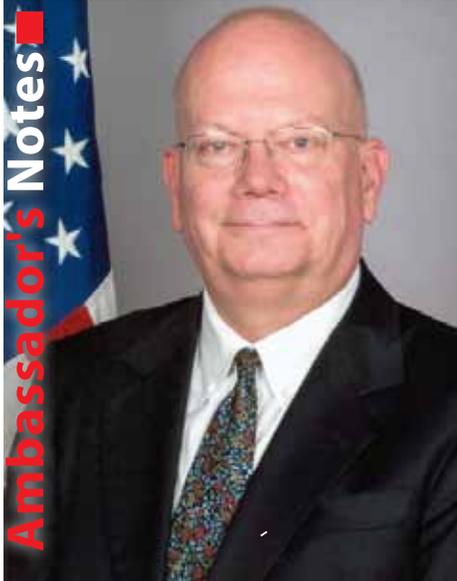
To mark the 238th Independence Anniversary of the United States in Nigeria, Ambassador James F. Entwistle hosted a cross section of Nigerians, Americans and members of the diplomatic community to a reception on July 4 with a talented musical group --The Henhouse Prowlers -- performing. The July 4 celebrations later moved to Lagos where Ambassador Entwistle joined the Consul General Jeffrey J. Hawkins, Jr, in hosting guests at the residence of the Consul General on July 5. Here are some of the photos from both events. *(July Fourth photo credit -- Idika U. Onyukwu and Ayo Durodola).*



Parade of Colors by Marine Security Guards.



U.S. Consul General Jeffrey Hawkins performing with the Prowlers during July 4 celebration in Lagos.



Ambassador's Notes

*James F. Entwistle
U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria*

Dear *CROSSROADS* Readers, I have just returned from the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington D.C. during which our two countries advanced our bilateral discussion on counter-terrorism (among many other issues). As I have said many times,

the United States wants Nigeria to win its war on terrorism. We are committed to partnering with and supporting Nigeria in its ongoing efforts to restore peace and security to all of Nigeria. This edition of *CROSSROADS* highlights these efforts.

Boko Haram has established itself unquestionably as a morally reprehensible organization with no regard for human life. We condemn the group's campaign of terrorism in the strongest terms and convey our deepest sympathies over the atrocities committed against Nigerian citizens and security forces. Our recent designation of Boko Haram as a foreign terrorist organization is a testament to our concern and our commitment to see an end to this organization's activities.

Over the last decade, the United States has also learned that defeating terrorism requires more than just military power. It requires working to develop impoverished

areas where extremism takes root. It requires ensuring that education is accessible to all. It requires empowering a free and fair press that reports openly and without fear of reprisal. And, perhaps most importantly, it requires engaging the growing youth populations that are being swayed towards extremism due to lack of economic opportunities, education, and trust in government. In other words, it requires a comprehensive, whole-of-government approach. And the work we're doing with the Nigerian government and people addresses all of these concerns.

Other stories in this edition include the extraordinary U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit hosted by President Barack Obama with its announcement of more than \$33 billion in new trade and investments to Africa. Each story is compelling. Enjoy!

Ambassador James F. Entwistle

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Working Together to Achieve Peace and Security

“The kidnapping of hundreds of children by Boko Haram is an unconscionable crime, and we will do everything possible to support the Nigerian government to return these young women to their homes and to hold the perpetrators to justice. I will tell you, my friends, I have seen this scourge of terrorism across the planet, and so have you. They don't offer anything except violence. They don't offer a health care plan, they don't offer schools. They don't tell you how to build a nation; they don't talk about how they will provide jobs. They just tell people, You have to behave the way we tell you to, and they will punish you if you don't.”

--Secretary of State John F. Kerry



Left, Brigadier General James B. Linder, commander, U.S. Special Operations Command Africa, being received by Major General John Ewansiha, chief of Army Training and Operations (CTOPS), at Nigerian Army Headquarters in Abuja.

Why Nigeria is Important

Nigeria is a key strategic partner in Africa. Nigeria has the continent's largest population and largest economy, and it plays a vital role in efforts to resolve crises and promote

stability and prosperity in West Africa and beyond. In the midst of rapid economic growth, however, Nigeria faces security challenges, notably Boko Haram (BH), a violent Islamist movement that has staged

regular attacks in northern Nigeria since 2010. Given Nigeria's importance as a regional political and economic leader, the United States has a vital interest in helping to strengthen Nigeria's democratic institutions, boost Nigeria's prosperity and security, and ensure opportunity for all of its citizens. The United States and Nigeria also work closely together in multilateral fora, including the UN Security Council, where Nigeria is serving a term as a non-permanent member for 2014-2015.

The U.S. government designated Boko Haram as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) and as a "Specially Designated Global Terrorist" under Executive Order (E.O.) 13224 on November 14, 2013. BH commander Abubakar Shekau, Khalid al-Barnawi, and Abubakar Adam Kamar were designated on June 21, 2012, as specially designated global terrorists under section 1(b) of E.O. 13224. (A fact sheet about FTO and E.O. designations can be found here: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2014/01/219520.htm>.) Since June 2013, the State

Department's Rewards for Justice Program has advertised a reward offer of up to U.S. \$7 million for information leading to the location of Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau. ❖

U.S. Counterterrorism Support to Nigeria

Counterterrorism support to Nigeria focuses on building critical counterterrorism capabilities among Nigeria's civilian and law enforcement agencies. This supports the larger U.S. objective of encouraging Nigeria to develop and implement a comprehensive approach to counter Boko Haram (BH) that upholds and enforces the rule of law, provides civilian protection, respects human rights and international norms, and addresses the underlying grievances that BH exploits (including economic development and responsive governance).

Based on our longstanding concerns about Boko Haram, we have a robust security dialogue and assistance relationship with Nigeria. As part of the Bi-National Commission framework, we hold regular regional security working group meetings focused on the Boko Haram threat and ways our two governments can collaborate on a holistic approach to countering the group.

Our security assistance is in line with our efforts to ensure Nigeria takes a comprehensive approach to countering Boko Haram. We are working to build Nigerian law enforcement capacities to investigate terrorism cases, effectively deal with explosive devices, and secure Nigeria's borders, while underscoring that the most effective counterterrorism policies and practices are those that respect human rights and are underpinned by the rule of law. We are also focused on enabling various Nigerian security services to fuse multiple information streams to develop a better understanding of Boko Haram.



Recently, the U.S. transferred to the Nigerian Army non-lethal transportation, communication and force protection equipment in support of the Nigerian Army's battle against terrorism.

Our military assistance supports the professionalization of key military units and improves their ability to plan and implement appropriate steps to counter Boko Haram and ensure civilian security.

The U.S.'s Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) Program enhances Nigerian law enforcement's capability to prevent, detect, and investigate terrorist threats, secure Nigeria's borders, and manage responses to terrorist incidents. ATA's primary partners are the Nigerian Police Force (NPF), Customs Service, Immigration Service, and National Emergency Management Agency. ATA represents the only donor assistance to Nigerian law enforcement on identifying, diffusing, and the safely disposing of improvised explosives devices (IEDs). ATA curriculum has been integrated into NPF training curriculum, supporting its ability to respond to IED attacks

in Abuja and to deploy to the northeastern part of the country where Boko Haram attacks are the most frequent.

Countering violent extremism (CVE) aims to limit recruits to BH by reducing sympathy and support for its operations, through three primary means: (1) building resilience among communities most at risk of recruitment and radicalization, (2) countering BH narratives and messaging; and building the CVE capacity of government and civil society. Such efforts include promoting engagement between law enforcement and citizens, and elevating the role of female civil society leaders in CVE.

The Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications (CSCC) has developed a strong partnership with the government of Nigeria, and in conjunction with other international partners has

provided assistance on developing a comprehensive communications strategy.

Nigeria is an active member of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), and the United States has used the multilateral platform the forum offers to introduce justice sector officials from Nigeria and neighboring countries to a series of judicial tools to investigate and prosecute terrorism cases in conformity with their domestic and international human rights obligations. As part of this effort, the United States and Nigeria have co-hosted a series of experts' workshops in Abuja on these issues. In addition, Nigeria will join the United States as one of the founding members of the International Institute on Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ), which opened its doors in June 2014 in Malta and provide rule of law based training on how to counter terrorism and other transnational criminal activity

within a rule-of-law framework. As a founding member, Nigeria will be expected to ensure its police, prosecutors, and prison officials are regular participants in IIJ trainings.

Nigeria is a member of the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership (TSCTP), a U.S. government-funded and implemented effort designed to enhance regional security sector capacity to counter violent extremism, improve country and regional border and customs systems, strengthen financial controls, and build law enforcement and security sector capacity. TSCTP provides counter-IED and civil-military operations training to the Nigerian military and crisis management and border security training to Nigerian law enforcement agencies. Nigeria also participates in larger regional training opportunities such as combat medical, military intelligence, communications and

logistics training with other TSCTP partner nations (Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, and Tunisia).

Nigeria has also agreed to become a pilot country to the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), a GCTF-inspired initiative announced by Secretary Kerry at the September 2013 GCTF ministerial. This will enable community-based organizations in Nigeria to receive grants from the GCERF to carry out grass-roots CVE projects.

The State Department's Counterterrorism Finance (CTF) Program provides training that aims to restrict Boko Haram's ability to raise, move, and store money. CTF's current focus provides Nigeria with cross border financial investigations training to work effectively with counterparts in neighboring countries on critical CTF cases. ❖

Atrocities of Boko Haram

Among its most lethal attacks, Boko Haram (BH) was responsible for a January 14, 2014 attack. At least 31 were killed and 50 injured by a suicide bomber in Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria.

On February 16, 2014, BH raided Izghe village, Borno State, killing an estimated 115 people.

On February 25, 2014, over 59 teenage boys were killed in an attack on Federal Government College, Buni Yadi, Yobe State, Nigeria.

On April 14, 2014, BH attacked a girls' secondary school in Chibok, Borno State, Nigeria, with 16 killed and approximately 300 girls kidnapped.

Also on April 14, 2014, a



Survivors of March 12, 2013 suicide attack by Boko Haram at St Fimbarr's Catholic Church in Jos pose with U.S. Congressman Christopher Smith -- Photo by Idika Onyukwu

morning rush hour bomb killed at least 71 on at a bus depot on the outskirts of Abuja.

On May 5, 2014, an attack

lasting 12 hours on the towns of Gamboru and Ngala in Borno State, Nigeria, killed an estimated 300 people.

Also, there were indiscriminate attacks in Benisheikh in September 2013 that killed more than 160 civilians, many of them women and children. Other major attacks that have been claimed by or attributed to BH since 2011 have included:

An August 26, 2011 bomb attack on the UN building in Abuja that killed at least 21 (all but one Nigerian) people and injured more than 120.

On November 4, 2011, multiple vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) and improvised explosive device (IED) attacks in Yobe and Borno States targeted security force offices and the Military's Joint Task Force (JTF) offices, as well as several markets and 11 churches. More than 100 people were killed, including nearly 70 bystanders at a major traffic circle in the center of Damaturu, Yobe State.

On January 20, 2012, multiple near-simultaneous attacks in Kano State were carried out on at least 12 targets, including police stations, an immigration office, and the residence of an assistant inspector general of police. More

than 150 persons were killed, and hundreds were wounded.

In April 2012, assailants attacked the Theatre Hall at Bayero University, Kano, with IEDs and gunshots, killing nearly 20 persons.

On April 26, 2012, VBIEDs simultaneously exploded at the offices of *ThisDay* newspaper in Abuja and Kaduna, killing five persons and wounding many others.

On June 17, 2012, attacks on three churches in Kaduna State killed worshippers and instigated violence throughout the state. At least 10 people were killed and an additional 78 were injured in the riots that ensued.

On February 8, 2013 nine Nigerian women working in a polio vaccination campaign in Kano were killed by gunmen riding in three-wheeled motorcycles; several other polio workers were injured.

On March 18, 2013, a VBIED attack on two luxury buses at a motor park in the Sabon Gari neighborhood of Kano killed more than 20 persons and wounded scores.

On July 6, 2013, more than 50 students were killed in their

dormitories at Mamudo Government Secondary School in Yobe State.

On August 11, 2013, gunmen killed approximately 44 persons praying at a mosque outside Maiduguri and another 12 civilians in a near-simultaneous attack at a nearby location in Borno State.

On September 29, 2013, gunmen killed more than 40 students in the dormitory of an agricultural technical school in Yobe State.

In November 2013, BH members kidnapped a French priest in Cameroon.

On December 2, 2013, a coordinated and complex attack by violent extremists on the Maiduguri airport and air force base killed more than 24 persons, wounded dozens, and destroyed a large amount of military equipment, including several military helicopters.

On December 20, 2013, violent extremists assaulted the Nigerian army barracks in Bama, southern Borno State, in a well coordinated attack that killed approximately 20 military personnel and numerous civilians. ❖



Displaced children from Yobe State sheltering in Jos after a Boko Haram attack -- photo by Idika Onyukwu

FBI Provides Nigerian Law Enforcement Officers Crime Scene Training



A group photo of participants with FBI instructors, and FBI assistant legal attaché.

By Ahamdi Uche

The United States Government, through the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Legal Attaché's office in Nigeria, provided "Crime Scene Investigation Training" for 30 law enforcement officers from the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, (EFCC) and Gendarmerie and National Police partners from the Republic of Benin. The training took place at the EFCC training center in Ikoyi, Lagos from August 4-8, 2014.

The training provided crime scene investigation techniques and practical exercises in a wide variety of topics including crime scene photography, sketching, search techniques, trace evidence collection, latent prints, and DNA preservation.

Law enforcement officers were taught to properly document, package and preserve evidence. To emphasize the

importance of preparation of case files and proper evidence handling procedures participants were required to defend their practices in a courtroom exercise prior to graduation. ❖



A class in session during the training.



U.S. Consul General Jeffrey Hawkins, addressing participants in Lagos.

U.S. Navy Delivers Project Handclasp



U.S. Naval Ship Captain Marc Lederer, center, and the civilian captain Douglas Cassavant with Information Specialist Joke Omotunde from U.S. Consulate General Lagos, inspecting Project Handclasp humanitarian items.

Ahead of Exercise Obangame Express, a multinational naval exercise co-hosted by the Nigerian Navy and U.S. Naval Forces Africa, the *USNS Spearhead* conducted a port call in Lagos harbor. Aboard the *Spearhead* were 46 pallets of humanitarian items donated from charities within the United States to recipient charities within Nigeria. These pallets are being delivered courtesy of the U.S. Navy's program Project Handclasp.

Project Handclasp accepts and transports educational and humanitarian materials donated by America's private sector on a space-available basis aboard U.S. Navy ships for distribution to partner nation recipients. The program started in 1962 and has since been a regular feature in many U.S. Navy port calls around the world.

This shipment includes more than 30,000 pounds of personal mobility handcarts, wheelchairs, and medical supplies for local charities. The shipment overall is worth \$2.6 million. These shipments are arranged between the donors and recipients and then forwarded to the U.S. Navy through the Project Handclasp office and coordinated for delivery to the appropriate ports on a space available basis worldwide aboard U.S. Navy ships. Donations were received from Personal Energy Transport (PET) International, Hope Haven International, and AERObridge International.

PET International is a private charity that constructs and distributes Personal Mobility Carts

to organizations that help people who can't walk and has donated a supply to the Assembly of God Nigeria. Hope Haven International is donating a shipment of wheelchairs to Hope for Independent Living, and AERObridge is donating medical supplies to Deseret International, for distribution to various relief organizations. ❖



U.S. Navy supporting Nigeria's efforts to increase maritime safety and security

U.S. AFRICA LEADERS SUMMIT

2014 • WASHINGTON, DC

U.S. AFRICA LEADERS SUMMIT

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Investing in Africa's Future

U.S. President Barack Obama, hosted the first ever U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit with the largest gathering ever of African heads of state and government from August 4-6, 2014 in Washington, D.C. Below, the president highlights some of the important decisions taken at the summit. Excerpts.

As I have said, this summit reflects the reality that even as Africa continues to face great challenges, we're also seeing the emergence of a new, more prosperous Africa. Africa's progress is being led by Africans, including leaders here today. I want to take this opportunity again to thank my fellow leaders for being here. Rather than a lot of prepared speeches, our sessions today were genuine discussions—a chance to truly listen

and to try to come together around some pragmatic steps that we can take together. And that's what we've done



President Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama and President Goodluck.

this week.

First, we made important progress in expanding our trade. The \$33 billion in new trade and investments that I announced yesterday [on August 4] will help spur African development and support tens of thousands of American jobs. With major new commitments to our Power Africa initiative, we've tripled our goal and now aim to bring electricity to 60 million African homes and businesses. And today I reiterated that we'll continue to work with Congress to achieve a seamless and long-term renewal of the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

We agreed that Africa's growth depends, first and foremost, on continued reforms in Africa by Africans. The leaders here pledged to step up efforts to pursue reforms that attract investment, reduce

barriers that stifle trade—especially between African countries—and to promote regional integration. And as I announced yesterday, the United States will increase our support to help build Africa's capacity to trade with itself and with the world.

Ultimately, Africa's prosperity depends on Africa's greatest resource—its people. And I have been very encouraged by the desire of leaders here to partner with us in supporting young entrepreneurs, including through our Young African Leaders Initiative. I think there's an increasing recognition that if countries are going to reach their full economic potential, then they have to invest in women—their education, their skills—and protect them from gender-based violence. And that was a topic of conversation this afternoon. And this week the United States announced a range of initiatives to help empower women across Africa.

Our New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition continues to grow, aiming to lift 50 million Africans from poverty. In our fight against HIV/AIDS, we'll work with 10 African countries to help them double the number of their children on lifesaving anti-retroviral drugs. And even as the United States is deploying some of our medical first responders to West Africa to help control the Ebola outbreak, we're also working to strengthen public health systems, including joining with the African Union to pursue the creation of an African Centers for Disease Control.

I also want to note that the American people are renewing their commitment to Africa. Today, *InterAction*—the leading alliance of American NGOs—is announcing that over the next three years its members will invest \$4 billion to promote maternal health, children's health, and the delivery of vaccines and drugs. So this is not just a government effort, it is also an effort that's spurred on by the private sector. Combined with the investments we announced yesterday—



and the commitments made today at the symposium hosted by our spouses—that means this summit has helped to mobilize some \$37 billion for Africa's progress on top of, obviously, the substantial efforts that have been made in the past.

Second, we addressed good governance, which is a foundation of economic growth and free societies. Some African nations are making impressive progress. But we see troubling restrictions on universal rights. So today was an opportunity to highlight the importance of rule of law, open and accountable institutions, strong civil societies, and protection of human rights for all citizens and all communities. And I made the point during our discussion that nations that uphold these rights and principles will ultimately be more prosperous and more economically successful.

In particular, we agreed to step up our collective efforts against the corruption that costs African economies tens of billions of dollars every year—money that ought to be invested in the people of Africa. Several leaders raised the idea of a new partnership to combat illicit finance, and there was widespread agreement. So we decided to convene our experts and develop an action plan to promote the transparency that is essential to economic growth.

Third, we're deepening our security cooperation to meet common threats, from terrorism to human trafficking. We're launching a new

"Security Governance Initiative" to help African countries continue to build strong, professional security forces to provide for their security. And we're starting with Kenya, Niger, Mali, Nigeria, Ghana and Tunisia.

During our discussions, our West African partners made it clear that they want to increase their capacity to respond to crises. So the United States will launch a new effort to bolster the region's early warning and response network and increase its ability to share information about emerging crises.

We also agreed to make significant new investments in African peacekeeping. The United States will provide additional equipment to African peacekeepers in Somalia and the Central African Republic. We will support the African Union's efforts to strengthen its peacekeeping institutions. And most importantly, we're launching a new African peacekeeping rapid response partnership with the goal of quickly deploying African peacekeepers in support of UN or AU missions. And we'll join with six countries that in recent years have demonstrated a track record as peacekeepers—Ghana, Senegal, Rwanda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Uganda. And we're going to invite countries beyond Africa to join us in supporting this effort because the entire world has a stake in the success of peacekeeping in Africa.

In closing, I just want to say that this has been an extraordinary event, an extraordinary summit. Given the success that we've had this week, we agreed that summits like this can be a critical part of our work together going forward, a forging mechanism for decisions and action. So we agreed that the U.S.-Africa Leaders' Summit will be a recurring event to hold ourselves accountable for our commitments and to sustain our momentum. And I'll strongly encourage my successor to carry on this work because Africa must know that it will always have a strong and reliable partner in the United States of America. ❖



A group photo of YALI finalists from northern Nigeria posing with U.S. Embassy officials, including Deputy Chief of Mission Maria Brewer during a predeparture orientation in Abuja -- photo by Idika Onyukwu

On July 28, 2014, in front of 500 exceptional young leaders, President Obama announced the renaming of the Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders in honor of Nelson Mandela. He also announced that the United States intends to double the number of annual participants in the Mandela Washington Fellowship to 1000 by the summer of 2016.

Forty six Nigerians were among the 2014 Mandela Washington Fellows. These exceptionally talented young leaders represent Nigeria's greatest asset, which Ambassador James Entwistle spoke about on July 18, in Kano.

Selected from more than 5,000 applications, the 42 Nigerian Mandela Washington Fellows are examples of the extraordinary promise of an emerging generation of entrepreneurs, activists, and public officials. These are young Nigerians between 25 and 35 years old with proven track records of

leadership in public, private, or civic organizations. They have demonstrated strong commitment to contributing their skills and talents to building and serving their communities.

As the U.S. first lady, Michelle Obama, said to the fellows at the Young African Leaders Summit in Washington, "Leadership is about creating new traditions that honor the dignity and humanity of every individual. Leadership is about empowering all of our people—men, women, boys and girls—to fulfil every last bit of their God-given potential."

The Mandela Washington Fellowship is the flagship program of the President's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) and embodies President Obama's commitment to invest in the future of Africa. The first class of Mandela Washington Fellows arrived in June 2014 for six weeks

of intensive executive leadership training, networking, and skills building, followed by a Presidential Summit in Washington, DC. Through this initiative, young African leaders are gaining the skills and connections they need to accelerate their own career trajectories and contribute more robustly to strengthening democratic institutions, spurring economic growth and enhancing peace and security in Africa.

The first class of fellows represents all 49 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and includes equal numbers of men and women. Despite their youth, more than 75 percent of fellows already hold a mid-level or executive position, and 48 percent have a graduate degree. Twenty-five percent of fellows currently work in a non-governmental institution, and 39 percent of them operate their own business. ❖

"Dawn in the Creeks" of Niger Delta



From right: President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Goodluck Jonathan, Assistant Secretary Rick Barton, and Ambassador James Entwistle. (Photo by News Agency of Nigeria)

Saturday, April 26, was an extraordinary day in Bayelsa State, Nigeria. “This is a historic visit to our creeks for American diplomats,” said Bayelsa State Governor Seriake Dickson in his welcome remarks to a U.S. delegation led by Assistant Secretary for Conflict and Stabilization Operations Rick Barton and U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria James Entwistle. The governor was alluding to the troubled Niger Delta creeks that were off-limits to visitors for decades due to the presence of militants who destabilized the region. Residents from marshy Nembe Community provided the delegation with the most spectacular welcome, an honorary display

featuring a multi-boat cultural performance and several cannon gun shots. The delegation also received a fortuitous welcome from a prominent Bayelsan, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, who happened to be in Yenagoa, the state’s capital and his hometown.

Nembe is home to one of the three youth film crews participating in the Niger Delta Legacy Engagement. This Nigerian-led and U.S.-supported initiative offers an alternative

non-violent narrative to millions of Nigerians nationwide through mass media and enhanced engagement between communities and government. Dawn in the Creeks, a documentary-style reality TV show,

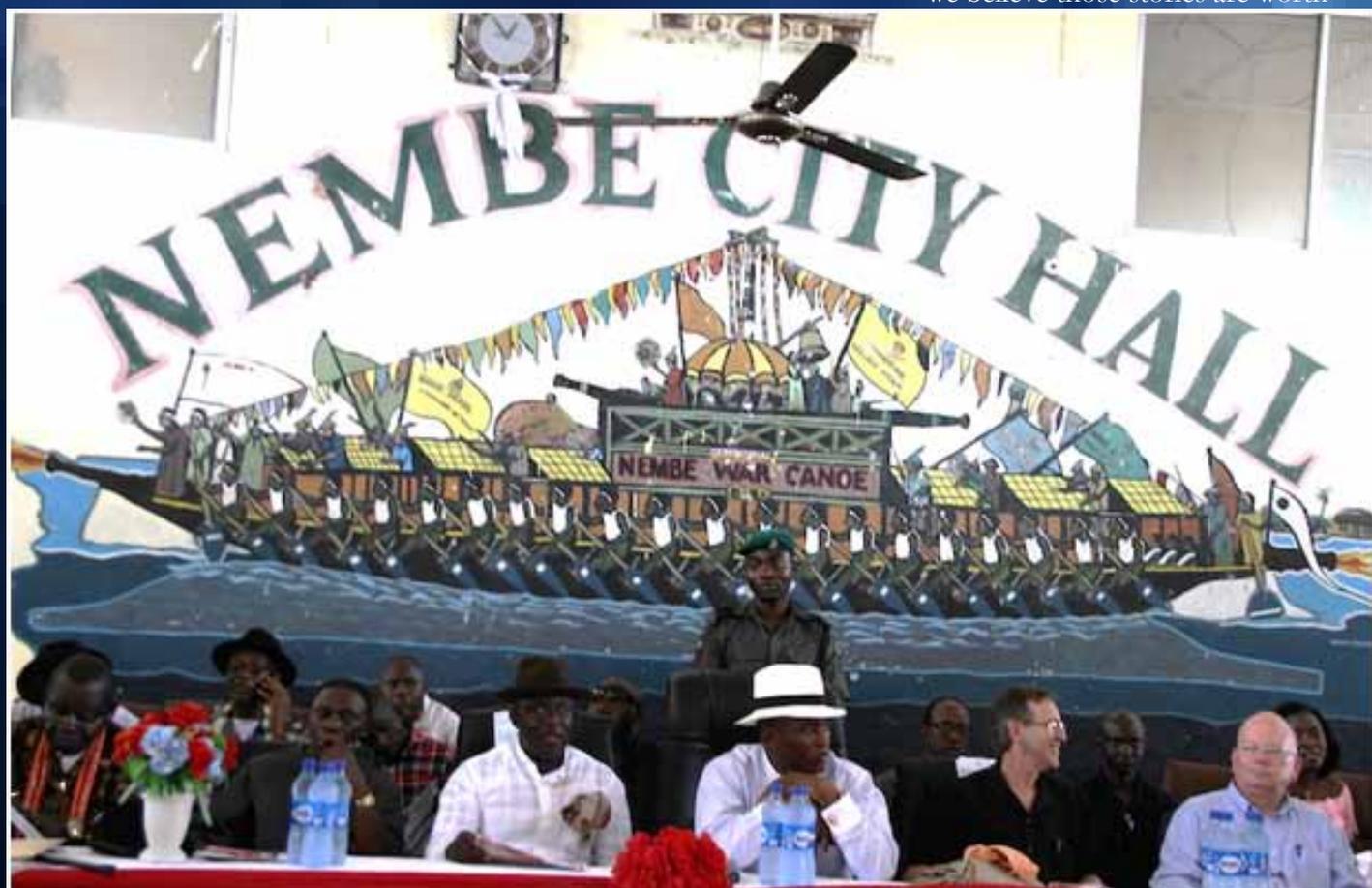


A cultural regatta that included cannon gun shots on the Niger Delta creeks.

is the centerpiece of the media effort and the vision of the Niger Delta Legacy Board of Advisers and acclaimed Nollywood/Hollywood filmmaker Jeta Amata. The reality show, set to air in July across Nigeria, follows teams of Niger

is the wave of the future for their region. To mitigate conflict leading up to the 2015 Nigerian general elections, the Department's Bureau of Conflict Stabilization and Operations, in partnership with U.S. Consulate Lagos, initiated this

filmmakers will have captured that beauty in their film, as well as the challenges that Nembe has faced throughout its history. We are proud to be supporting their work; we are inspired by the stories of non-violent problem solving; and we believe those stories are worth



From right: Ambassador Entwistle, Assistant Secretary Barton, Deputy Governor Gboribiogha John Jonah, and other officials -- photo by PAS, Lagos.

Delta youth and their journeys to be the voice of their communities and supports the making of films in the Nollywood style. Their films tell gripping stories of non-violent transformation and challenge the narrative that violence is the only legacy for the Niger Delta.

The aspiring filmmakers from Rivers, Bayelsa, and Delta States will participate in screenings and dialogues across the Delta to persuade others that non-violence

innovative project over one year ago.

At the packed Nembe Town Hall, Ambassador Entwistle told the audience, "Today is not about the United States or the U.S. Mission, but about seven young filmmakers here with us and the community story they have captured on film for all of Nigeria to see.

On our journey here through the creeks and during my short walk to this town hall, I was struck by the beauty around us. I know your

sharing with all of Nigeria. It is our sincere hope that their voices are heard and that they will chart a positive legacy for the Niger Delta." To augment the media campaign, the Niger Delta Legacy Board of Advisers and the U.S. Mission will launch diplomatic, community, and government outreach activities that build on the momentum generated by "Dawn in the Creeks." Efforts will seek to amplify existing civic advocacy and non-violent problem-solving initiatives to catalyze long-lasting, positive change in the Niger Delta. ❖

Nigeria Taps into 'Power Africa' Signs Memorandum of Understanding

The U.S. government and the government of Nigeria have agreed to work together to increase access to and availability of electricity in Nigeria. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed on Thursday July 24, 2014, to coordinate the implementation and support of institutional reforms, privatization, and regulation of the power sector.

U.S. President Barack Obama recognizes the importance of electricity to the economic development of emerging economies. Last year, he launched Power Africa to bring the combined expertise of 12 U.S. government agencies to partner with the private and public sectors to significantly increase the amount of electricity available in sub-Saharan Africa, including Nigeria.

In Nigeria, Power Africa supports the strengthening of the energy sector through credit enhancement, grants, technical assistance, and investment promotion efforts. Power Africa is working to mobilize affordable and long-term financing for capital and operational expenditure requirements to generation and distribution companies to accelerate electricity market development.

Minister of Power Professor Chinedu Nebo, signed the MOU on behalf of the government of Nigeria, while U.S. Ambassador James F. Entwistle signed on behalf of the United States government.

Also as part of the agreement, U.S. company Global Edison, led by its President Rod Johnson and the company's senior Vice President Peter Nwangwu, signed an MOU with Minister of Power Professor Nebo as part of the Power Africa initiative.



Ambassador James F. Entwistle and Power Minister Prof Nebo sign MOU on power, July 24 -- photo by Idika Onyukwu

Ambassador Entwistle stated that Nigeria is well positioned to reap the rewards of this increased focus on the energy sector. He added, "It is

Nigerians and serve as a role model for other African countries whose implementation of energy sector reform is nascent." Also present at the ceremony were the Ministry of Power's Permanent Secretary Ambassador Godknows Ighali, USAID Mission Director Michael T. Harvey, and other senior officials.



(L-R), Senior Vice President Peter Nwangwu, and Rod Johnson, President Global Edison sign MOU.

The Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Department of Energy, the Department of the Treasury, the Export-Import Bank, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the U.S. African Development Foundation, the Department of Commerce, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are providing the tools needed to strengthen Africa's power sector and its economic growth and development. ❖

U.S. Mission observers pose with the Ondo REC during the Ekiti Election



Observing Elections

By Brant Beyer

In order to help the United States government better understand and support democracy in Nigeria, the U.S. Mission in Nigeria sends teams to observe elections across Nigeria. Through its observers, the mission can witness the electoral process in action, yet are as their name implies—observers, not monitors or participants. The observers' job is to watch the election and be impartial, but not to interfere in the electoral process, its outcome, or support any candidate.

The U.S. Mission deployed observers across Nigeria for the April 2011 general elections. In the past two years, the mission has observed off-cycle gubernatorial elections in Edo, Ondo, Anambra, and Ekiti states, as well as local government elections in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and Kogi state. We plan on fielding

observers for the August 2014 Osun gubernatorial election.

For the June 21 Ekiti election, the U.S. Mission sent 32 observers from our embassy in Abuja and consulate general in Lagos to the state. These observers visited more than 180 polling units in 11 of Ekiti's 16 Local Government Areas (LGAs) on Election Day. Across the state, the mission employees noted the enthusiasm displayed by the Ekiti electorate. Many voters were already standing in line for accreditation even before the process officially began at 8:00 a.m. Throughout the day we watched voters patiently wait in line, first to be accredited in the morning and then to choose their next governor in the afternoon.

Once voting had finished, our observers witnessed voters intently watching the ballots being counted in public at their polling units. At the polling units we visited, many Ekiti residents cheered

when the polling officials announced that the candidate these voters supported received the most votes. Afterwards, joyful crowds paraded through the streets of at least one Ekiti town. Every Nigerian over 18 years old has the right to cast his or her vote, without fear of intimidation or violence. Mission Nigeria was encouraged to see many eligible voters exercise their franchise and cast their ballots.

Both the State Department and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) work to foster democracy in Nigeria. Our Public Affairs Sections train journalists on how to report on elections. USAID and its partners support the training of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) officials, party agents, and

civil society election monitors. At most polling units we visited in Ekiti, we met political party agents from key Nigerian political parties. We also saw many domestic observers who volunteered to monitor the democratic process on Election Day.

In addition to visiting polling units, the mission teams stopped at state and local INEC offices prior to the election and on Election Day. We observed INEC officials and ad hoc election staff working hard the day before the election to organize materials and plan for the election in order to ensure that all logistics were in place for Election Day.

On Election Day, observers noted the professionalism of INEC permanent and ad hoc staff. We watched these staff, many of whom were Nigeria Youth Service Corps volunteers, followed INEC's procedures, carefully explain the electoral process to voters and work to conduct a well run election. ❖



2014 Trafficking-in-Persons (TIP) hero Beatrice Jedy-Agba receives her award from U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

The 2014 TIP Report lists Nigeria under “Tier 2”, which states that “The government of Nigeria does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. During the reporting period, the government demonstrated an increase in anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts by increasing the number of trafficking investigations, prosecutions, and convictions and by providing extensive specialized anti-trafficking training to officials from various government ministries and agencies.”

The report also stated that NAPTIP increased protection efforts by developing a formal referral mechanism for victim

The Global fight Against Modern Slavery

The State Department in June this year named “10 Trafficking-in-Persons (TIP) Report Heroes,” among them the executive secretary of National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Mrs. Beatrice Jedy-Agba. During the unveiling of the 2014 TIP Report on June 20, Mrs. Jedy-Agba was personally honored by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry for her outstanding work to combat trafficking in persons.

Additionally, Mrs. Jedy-Agba and the other TIP heroes participated in a 10-day International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) that includes

meetings with their American counterparts who are working to combat trafficking in the United States.

Each year the Department of State honors individuals around the world who have devoted their lives to the fight against human trafficking. These individuals are NGO workers, lawmakers, police officers, and concerned citizens who are committed to ending modern slavery. They are recognized for their tireless efforts—often despite resistance, opposition, and threats to their lives—to protect victims, punish offenders, and prevent human trafficking in their countries and abroad.

protection, increasing the capacity of its shelters, and identifying and providing services to a larger number of victims. Despite these efforts, the government has yet to pass draft legislation that would restrict the ability of judges to offer fines in lieu of prison time during sentencing and, with the exception of receiving training from NAPTIP, the Ministry of Labor did not make any new efforts to address labor trafficking during the reporting period.

Additionally, despite the growing number of Nigerian trafficking victims identified abroad, the government has yet to implement formal procedures for repatriating these victims. ❖

Empowering Local Communities

Fourty-six Nigerian community-based organizations received grants totaling \$352,696 under the Ambassador's Small Grants Program. An award ceremony was held at the U.S. Embassy compound on Monday, August 4, 2014.

"These grants are for projects benefitting communities around the country under the PEPFAR Small Grants Program and the Ambassador's Self-Help Program," said Chargé d'Affaires ad interim Maria Brewer.

The grants projects signed by the recipients from all the geographic zones of Nigeria will benefit more than 160,000 Nigerian men, women,

projects structured to be self-sustainable.

Several of the Self-Help projects will assist Nigerian children to access educational facilities and acquire new skills. These include the construction of classrooms and classroom furniture, the purchase of library books, and the installation of sporting facilities.

Other projects will construct a community pharmacy and provide communities with clean drinking water to improve health and living conditions. Some provide communities with food processing machines, such as rice and cassava processing machines and root



Recipients of the U.S. Ambassador's Self-Help Project pose in a group photo with U.S. Embassy Charge d'Affaires Maria Brewer -- photo by Idika Onyukwu

and children.

For over two decades, the U.S. Mission in Nigeria, through its small grants program, has partnered with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) throughout the country to fund small community-based development projects that include significant local contributions in land, labor, and capital.

Embassy Chargé d'Affaires ad interim Maria Brewer said these community-driven grants "encourage communities to undertake similar activities on their own in the future."

She said The Special Self-Help Program involves small development

grinding mills, that will help generate income and stimulate economic growth.

The Ambassador's PEPFAR Small Grants Program provides funding assistance to communities with innovative projects that provide care and support to orphans, vulnerable children, and their households. These grants assist communities to improve the standard of living of children (with ages ranging from infants to 17-year olds) through community-led projects.

The PEPFAR Small Grants Program focuses on community-initiated initiatives for the welfare of children living with or affected by HIV/AIDS.

Ambassador's Special Self-Help Grant: How to Apply

The American Ambassador to Nigeria's Special Self-Help (SSH) Program provides small grants to community development activities in Nigeria. It is designed to help communities help themselves. Under this program, projects must originate in the community, and the community must make significant contributions to the success of the project, such as land, labor, money, materials, ongoing supervision, and other resources. Currently, the American contribution to any one project ranges from USD\$3,000 to \$USD10,000. Smaller requests are also welcome. All funds under the SSH Program are disbursed in Naira.

To request the application form, please send an e-mail to: AbujaSH@state.gov

CONTACT INFORMATION

Special Self-Help Coordinator
U.S. Embassy, Abuja
Plot 1075, Diplomatic Drive
Central Area
Abuja, FCT, Nigeria
Email: AbujaSH@state.gov

When sending e-mail, please write "Special Self-Help application" in the subject line. ❖



An awardee receiving a grant.

American Bluegrass Meets Nigerian Hi-life Music

Bluegrass music from the United States converged with Nigerian popular hi-life music on Saturday, June 28th at the second annual Abuja Music Festival. The showcase of song and dance took place at the FCT Pavilion, next to the International Conference Center and across from the Radio House.

The musical fiesta was open to all and sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in collaboration with FCTA and the Ministry of Culture. Throughout the afternoon, Henhouse Prowlers, a Chicago-based bluegrass band, performed with a number of local talents.

Nine years in the making, the Henhouse Prowlers have built a reputation for hard work and non-stop touring, playing music inspired

by the roots of bluegrass while branching out into a sound uniquely their own.

Last year, the group toured Mauritania, Niger, Liberia, and Congo-Brazzaville. They completed a one-month tour of Europe in May this year.

From lightning fast picking,



to sentimental ballads—playing storied original material, traditional songs, and contemporary covers—the Prowlers' live show leaves no one wanting. The Prowlers continue to push the envelope with their highly original song writing, tight arrangements, and electrifying stage presence.

The July Fourth performance with "P-Square" in Abuja marked the high point of the Prowlers' playing tour in Abuja. The capacity crowd at the Embassy compound cheered and went wild when P-Square joined the Prowlers to sing "Chop My Money," a very popular number with Nigerian audiences.

Before the group left for the United States, the Prowlers organized music classes for primary and secondary school children in Lagos and Abuja. ❖

Photos: Top, Peter Okoye P-Square, pairs with the Henhouse Prowlers at the July 4 celebration in Abuja. Below, school children cheer the Prowlers after a music class in Lagos -- Photos by Idika U. Onyukwu and Ayo Durodala.



EducationUSA/Information Resources

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Do You Want to Study in the United States?



The *EducationUSA* Advising Centers in Abuja and Lagos provide quality, timely, accurate, unbiased information about all accredited U.S. higher education institutions for persons wishing to study in the United States. For more information about *EducationUSA* and study opportunities in the United States, please visit:

<http://www.educationusa.state.gov>

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Plot 1075 Diplomatic Drive, Central District Area,
Abuja. Telephone: 234-09-4614251/4241/4257;
Fax: 234-09-4614334/4010; E-mail: eacabuja@state.gov. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/educationusa.abuja>

Lagos:

U.S. Consulate General, Public Affairs Section,
2 Walter Carrington Crescent; Victoria Island-Lagos.
Telephone: 01-460-3400/2724/2725/3801/3802
E-mail: lagos@educationusa.info

EducationUSA at Elite Basketball Camp



On Thursday, June 26, 2014, *EducationUSA* Abuja, conducted a general orientation session for 43

members of the Wings Elite Basketball at their basketball camp which took place at the National Stadium indoor basketball court. Read more at: <https://www.facebook.com/EducationUSA.Abuja>

The resources highlighted below are available at the Information Resource Centers in Abuja and Lagos. To register as a member, please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/ircregistration> and for all enquiries, please write to: ircabuja@state.gov (North) and wylagos@state.gov

Remarks by the President at Fourth of July Celebration



“On July 4, 1776, a small band of patriots declared that we were a people created equal, free to think and worship and live as we

please; that our destiny would not be determined for us, it would be determined by us. And it was bold and it was brave. And it was unprecedented, it was unthinkable. At that time in human history, it was kings and princes and emperors who made decisions.

But those patriots knew there was a better way of doing things, that freedom was possible, and that to achieve their freedom they'd be willing to lay down their lives...Read more: <http://1.usa.gov/1njhZey>

Nigerian Contingent to Washington Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI)



In the month of March, the U.S. Mission interviewed and recruited 45 leaders from more than 15,000 applications submitted from Nigeria. 26 candidates were finally selected

as YALI finalists from northern Nigeria. Another 19 fellows were also selected from the southern region of Nigeria. In addition, eight of the 45 finalists were selected to participate in internships. These successful leaders represented Nigeria in the U.S... read more at: <http://nigeria.usembassy.gov/06132014.html>

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