

The Presidents' address to the 51st Nigerian National Independence Day celebration in Dallas / Fort Worth Metropolitan area.

Mr. Chairman, special guests and fellow Nigerians, on behalf of the Organization of Nigerian Nationals DFW (ONN DFW Inc.), I will like to welcome you to this special occasion (Nigerian Independence Day Celebration 2011) here in Dallas. This day marks a new beginning in the political, economical and social life of our beloved Country Nigeria. It will be worthy to note that the battle for Nigeria's Independence was fought and won so that you and I will have a better life.

We are thousands of miles away from Nigeria and here in a foreign land, obviously faced with numerous challenges. The mass exodus to a foreign land became pronounced in the 80s when it became obvious that we must go for the greener pastures. Prior to this period, the notion was to travel overseas for academic pursuit and return home thereafter. It has certainly become a reality that we found ourselves serving self exile. Reason being that we have not been able to take advantage of countless opportunities created and left behind by our past leaders like the Great Zik of Africa, Obafemi Awolowo, and many others.

Nigeria in recent time has chosen to improve on our travel documents. Hence they commenced the changing of our Passport to the ECOWAS called the E-Passport. This is intended to alleviate some of the social and economic barriers we encounter in moving around. To this effect, the Federal Government of Nigeria mapped out reasonable resources to help Nigerians in Diaspora transit to the new document by way of Passport intervention Program.

The able leadership of Nigerians in the State of Texas and Dallas in particular grabbed the lion Share by ensuring that the groups made 3 visitations to Dallas since the program commenced in October of 2010. Please note that the team were in Dallas in the Month of November 2010, April 2011 and has just completed the 3rd visitation in Sept 2011. I am proud to announce that Organization of Nigerian Nationals with it's able leadership was successful in issuing about 2500 Passports to new applicants and their families thereby alleviating the hassle or difficulties of dealing with the Atlanta Georgia consulate office.

Permit me to say that the passports of those of you who had their biometrics done here in Dallas recently has just arrived and will get to you on or before October 4th 2011. This is intended to make life easier for those traveling home for Christmas holidays.

A common saying has it that in unity lie`s our strength. The one and the only Organization that we call Nigerian Organization devoid of politics is calling on you and your various organizations (Parochial, Professional, or social groups) to register with ONN DFW Inc. and attend meetings during which we will have the opportunity to talk about the challenges that we are faced with today both at home and in the Diaspora. Nigerians could do a lot better by coming together under one umbrella like Organization of Nigerian Nationals.

Very recently, the United Nation building in Nigeria was attacked by the so called terrorist (Al-quada). In that process many innocent lives were lost. They have also in the recent past been disturbances in the Northern Nigeria during which Innocent lives were lost too. In each case, Organization of Nigerian Nationals DFW Inc. was vocal and up-front in condemning the bastardized wicked and cowardly act of these groups through press releases.

We have also in the past condemned the viciousness and senseless attacks and or killing of our fellow Nigerians in Dallas area. It appears to me that we are doing well but could do a lot better. Fellow Nigerians, I invite you to join hands with ONN and build a stronger and more vibrant Organization for all Nigerians. Finally, I will like to thank you on behalf of my Executives, Board members and the general membership for coming.

Long Live the Organization of Nigerian Nationals DFW Inc.

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria

Long Live the United State of America

Mazi Felix Okereke
President