



THE NIGERIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION

NAF News

Source of current events, important information, dates to remember and many more...



From the President's Desk

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With more than 177 million, Nigeria is Africa's most populous country. It is inhabited by more than 250 ethnic groups, including the Hausa and Fulani (29%), Yoruba (21%), Igbo (18%), Ijaw (10%), Kanuri (4%), Ibibio (3.5%), and the Tiv(2.5%) and Edo state. English is the official language although Nigeria boasts of more than 500 indigenous languages, including Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo.

Remittances from about 18 million Nigerians in the diaspora, about 12% of whom are United States-based, constitute the country's second largest source of income. In 2007 Nigerian Americans accounted for much of the \$17.9 billion (about 6.7% of GDP) remitted to the homeland, followed in pecking order by their counterparts in the United Kingdom, Italy, Canada, Spain and France, according to data from the International Organization for Migration.

As Nigerian Americans, we have the responsibility of caring for our extended families at home in addition to investing in the local economy to facilitate economic development, hence the high level of remittances. To keep up the momentum, however, we need to hone our skills and become more empowered economically and politically with the American firmament. The Nigerian American Foundation intends to be a more proactive actor in creating the enabling environment for our community to prosper and earn the respect that we deserve.

We have a number of programs lined up to harness the innate energy, creativity and talents of our people for a more consequential presence in South Florida. We have already started with the NAF Forum which debuted last month with a great presentation on how to enter the manufacturing pipeline in South Florida presented by Broward College's Robin Swanson; an aggressive recruitment and email mining drive; as well as an initiative to amend our constitution to make it reflective and inclusive of all components of the 4000 strong Nigerian community in South Florida.

While you will learn about various components of our agenda in this newsletter and other media, we invite you to be part of the change we seek: A strong and respected Nigerian voice in the tri-county area of South Florida, a thriving, unified and progressive community that is culturally aware, professionally and economically equipped, and politically potent.

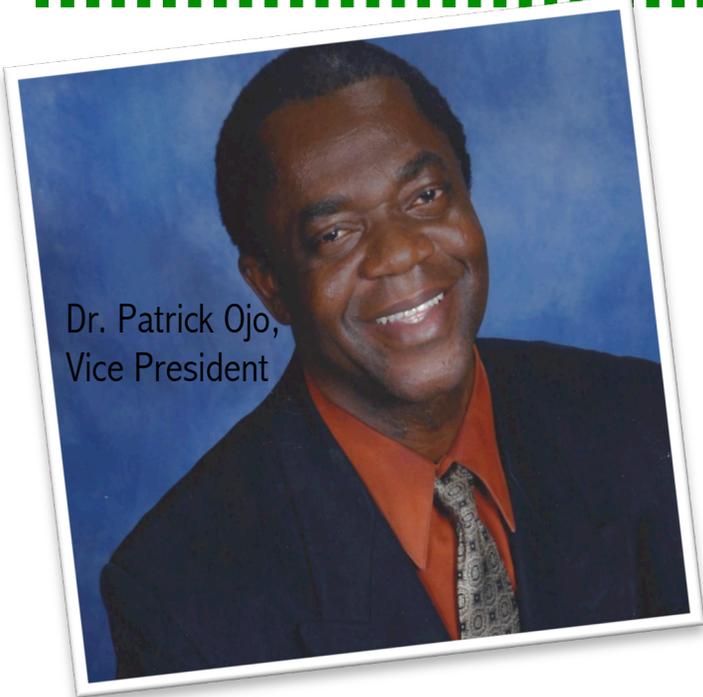


Nigerian Fact:

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and the 8th most populous in the world with a population of more than 160 million people. The next African country to come close is Ethiopia with a population of 84 million.

New members of NAF executive board

Welcoming a new president, vice president, general secretary, public relations officer, and board of directors member.



Dr. Patrick Ojo,
Vice President



Charlotte Uruejoma-Watkins,
Public Relations Officer



Dr. Ibanga Ikpe,
General Secretary



Mrs. Nse Essiet,
Board of Directors Member



African Museum of Art and Culture (AMAC) Nigeria House



On May 7th, 2013 the Miami Dade Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved an item presented by District 1 County Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan to allocate a parcel of land (\$1/year lease with options to renew for up to 100 years) located at NW 207th Street and NW 32nd Avenue to the Nigerian American Foundation for the development of a museum and cultural center in Miami Gardens.

Our goal is to develop a multi-purpose facility that would house a museum of art/artifacts from Nigeria and the African Diaspora, dance theatre, banquet hall, wellness center, classrooms and offices for the parent entity.

A coalition that includes Nigerians, friends of Nigerians and interest groups from the African Diaspora is being established to create awareness, fundraise, manage and oversee the entire project, which must be completed within 5 years otherwise the land resorts back to Miami Gardens.



**The time is
ticking and the
time to act is
now!**



NAF ROUNDTABLE CONTINUES MARCH 1ST WITH IMMIGRATION FORUM

THE NIGERIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION

ROUNDTABLE

Are you or your family members going through immigration issues? Do you own a business and want to learn more about the labor certification processes? Do you want to learn more about non-immigrant visa categories or simply want to network with other South Florida professionals of African origin? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, do join us at the NAF Roundtable, Sunday, March 1, 2015 from 5-6pm:

“Family Petitions, Labor Certification and Non-Immigrant Visa Categories”

**Venue: 900 Park Centre Blvd. Suite 458 (Believers of Christ Ministries)
Miami Gardens, Fl. 33169**



Ruben N. Gottlieb (Facilitator)

Ruben is a shareholder in Gray Robinson's Miami and Fort Lauderdale offices. With over 30 years of experience, Ruben has an extensive background in international estate tax law; domestic estate planning and pre-immigration tax planning. He was a former associate general counsel for the Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service. He has worked in the tax and immigration departments of leading law firms in Washington, D.C. and Miami as well as the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C. Ruben has given numerous lectures globally in both English and Spanish.

Congratulations
are in order to...



**OUR FORMER
PRESIDENT, DR.
ERHABOR IGHODARO,
WAS
OVERWHELMINGLY
ELECTED AS
COUNCILOR FOR
DISTRICT 6 ON THE
MIAMI GARDENS CITY
COUNCIL. HE IS THE
FIRST NIGERIAN-BORN
PUBLIC OFFICIAL TO
ATTAIN THIS STATUS.**

**WE WISH DR.
IGHODARO THE BEST
AS HE CONTINUES HIS
TRADITION OF
EXCELLENT SERVICE
TO THE COMMUNITY.**



Broward College is one of 12 colleges across the state participating in the Florida TRADE Advanced Manufacturing grant consortium to develop and deliver short term manufacturing technical training for individuals to earn nationally recognized manufacturing certificates to develop a skilled manufacturing workforce. This grant was implemented in response to a shortage of skill manufacturing labor. Broward College is focused on delivering training to earn the OSHA 30 - General Industry credential via online training and the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council Certified Production Technician (MSSC CPT) credential. The grant provides these training at a reduced cost. In addition, the Florida TRADE team provides job readiness and placement assistance to grant participants.

NAF CHURCH FELLOWSHIP AT BELIEVERS OF CHRIST MINISTRIES





RESUME BUILDING WORKSHOP

SUNDAY, MAY 3rd

5:00p to 6:00p

BELIEVERS OF CHRIST MINISTRIES
900 Park Centre Blvd. Suite 458
Miami Gardens, Fl. 33169

THIS ONE HOUR WORKSHOP WILL PROVIDE TIPS AND INSIGHT ON DEVELOPING A DYNAMIC RESUME TO HELP **YOU** LAND YOUR NEXT JOB.

THE WORKSHOP WILL BE CONDUCTED BY
JOB DEVELOPER | FORTIN JEAN-PIERRE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION (INCLUDING NAF ROUNDTABLE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES), CONTACT DR. OLUYINKA TELLA, PRESIDENT, NIGERIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION (NAF) AT OLUUYINKA@HOTMAIL.COM

What is NAF?

NAF is a secular, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to the economic, social and political empowerment of Nigerians and Nigerian-Americans in South Florida. Our mission is to provide for Nigerians and friends of Nigeria a forum to express themselves in the service of our communities in the United States of America (USA) and in Nigeria. Become a member of Nigerian American Foundation (NAF) and start making a difference. We welcome individuals and their families. Meetings for this quarter will hold on Sunday, March 1, 2015 & May 3, 2015 from 6-8pm at 900 Park Centre Blvd. Suite 458 (Believers of Christ Ministries) Miami Gardens, Fl. 33169.