

LERC attends Nigeria's 51st Independence Day Anniversary Celebrations

Monday 3rd October 2011, Coral Beach Hotel, Beirut

Reported by Elie Nabhan

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center at NDU was represented at Nigeria's 51st Independence Day celebrations by LERC's Mr. Elie Nabhan and LERC's Chief Indexer and Archivist Mrs. Liliane Haddad.

Dignitaries at the event included H.E. Yassine Jaber, distinguished representative of the Government of Lebanon; H.E. Marwan Charbel, Minister of the Interior, representing the President of Lebanon H.E. Michel Suleiman; a distinguished representative of the Foreign Minister; other heads of diplomatic and consular missions including the ambassadors of the United States and Canada, and International Organizations accredited to Lebanon; and members of the Board of Trustees of the Lebanese Nigerian Friendship Association (LENIFRA).

Also present were members of the Nigerian-Lebanese community and Nigerians living in Lebanon. Nigeria's Independence Day is on 1st October but the celebrations were held a couple of days after to ensure optimal attendance.



LERC's Mrs. L. Haddad (left) and Mr. E. Nabhan pictured with H.E. Idowu at Nigeria's 51st Independence Day celebrations (Oct 2011).

After refreshments for the guests, the recently appointed Nigerian Ambassador to Lebanon, H.E. Amos Oluwole Idowu, who presented his credentials on 25th August 2011, and H.E. Yassine

Jaber approached the podium, where they stood as both the Lebanese and Nigerian anthems were played.



Presenting the anniversary cake: H.E. Idowu is flanked to his right by his wife Mrs. A.O. Idowu and to his left by H.E. Y. Jaber and H.E. M. Charbel (Oct 2011).

In his speech H.E. Idowu explained about Nigeria’s redefined foreign policy initiative that focuses on “Economic Diplomacy”.

“This would entail deploying our foreign relations instrument to propel our economic and industrial programs,” he said.

The organized private sector will be involved in future diplomatic engagements within and outside Nigeria so as to assist in economic growth and development, he explained while calling on the Lebanese business community “to seize the moment and strengthen the existing trade relations with their Nigerian counterparts and conclude all outstanding agreements.”

H.E. Idowu pointed out the achievements of the government of President Goodluck Jonathan especially in the fields of Information Technology, in the fight in partnership with the United Nations against poverty, child mortality, and Aids, in Nigeria’s ambitious Eight Point Plan to transform the country, and in presidential elections of 2011, widely regarded as free and fair.

The Ambassador described Nigeria as a unique nation, home to 160 million people, speaking 400 languages, with diverse cultures, and adhering to the two main world religions.

After cutting the anniversary cake, designed in the white and green of the Nigerian flag, the guests were invited to enjoy traditional Nigerian cuisine as well continental and Lebanese food.



A cultural troupe entertained the guests with Nigerian folklore dancing (Oct 2011).