



# Kulture Courier



maiden edition

On-line newsletter of the Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilisation

June, 2009

## CBAAC Relocates



partly due to inadequate funding but more importantly as a result of the lack of a befitting office accommodation. This has to some extent affected the attainment of the corporate goals and objectives of the Centre.

It has also in a way consistently undermined the Centre's capacity to effectively discharge its statutory responsibilities.

The need for the Centre to relocate became more imperative following the Federal Government's moves to concede the National Theatre to private operators. On the Centre's request, an office accommodation was allocated to the Centre on Broad Street Lagos.

The movement of the Centre to its new office on 36/38 Broad Street, Lagos was in furtherance of the statutory responsibilities of the Centre, which is to promote public interest in, and understanding of Black and African Arts and Culture. The centralisation of its new office in the heart of Lagos reinforces the changing dynamics of the organization and its operations.

CBAAC took advantage of this relocation from the National Theatre Complex to Broad Street to recognise the contributions of professional artists to the promotion of African history and culture over the years. This relocation would among others reposition the Centre for greater challenges that would facilitate the promotion and propagation of African arts, Cultures and contribution to world civilization. The location of the Centre's on Broad Street would facilitate greater public access to the Centre's collection and activities.

Almost 30 years after its establishment, the Centre was located temporarily at the National Theatre, Iganmu, Lagos. For years that the theatre was unattended to, the Centre suffered

extensive damage to its rare and unique cultural holdings which include Audio-Visual and Archival Materials, Library books, Publications, Art Works and Museum artifacts as a result of roof leakages, poor ventilation and lightings to mention but few.

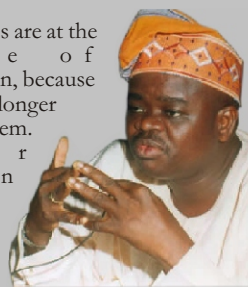
These materials need to be preserved and conserved in a better ventilated or at best under a functional cooling system.

This has not been possible,

### My Mission — Prof. Babawale

My mission in CBAAC is to redefine culture and reconstitute it in a way that is not going to be restricted to what I call antiquity want to lift culture beyond the realm of antiquity. And I want to define culture to include the totality and the way of life, not just of Nigerians but Africans And that would mean, the new definition of culture would include thoughts and thinking processes, our technology, our knowledge, our philosophy of life because history has shown that those countries that have made it today, are those that have identified and celebrated their culture.

languages are at the verge of extinction, because we no longer speak them. Our children no longer speak them. And part of the reason we are backward is because our children could no longer think in our languages; they think in other people's languages, they behave like them.



Therefore, we intend to ensure and elevate the Nigerian and African culture to a status in which we are going to make it inclusive to our indigenous languages and technology. I am convinced that many of our

No matter how you try to speak the Whiteman's language, you cannot out smart him. That's the problem we have been having with our children ,it defines their world views and their moral values. It defines their role models, their tastes and preferences.

### CBAAC Hosts the World

The Centre, in partnership with The Regional Centre for Research and Documentation on Oral Traditions and Development of African Languages (CERDOTOLA), Pan-African Strategic and Policy Research Group (PANAFSTRAG), and Observatory for Cultural Policies in Africa (OCPA) hosted the Summit of Agencies and Organizations responsible for the management and promotion of African arts and culture scheduled to held at Hotel Mont Febe, Yaoundé, Cameroon from 7 th to 10 th April, 2009.

The scheduled Colloquium

(SICADIA 2009) with the theme: "African Culture in the Globalized world of the 21 st Century" was a follow-up to the first summit held at the instance of CBAAC in Lagos on the 21 st to 23 rd of August, 2007 and a roundtable on African Cultural Institutions that was organized in Algiers in October 2008 on the sidelines of the 10th Conference of Ministers of Culture of the African Union.

This Summit was in furtherance of action on promotion of interest in and appreciation of African arts and culture and renews the sustainable platform for key stakeholders in the culture sector.

# Harvest of Titles at CBAAC

The Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization (CBAAC) was established by

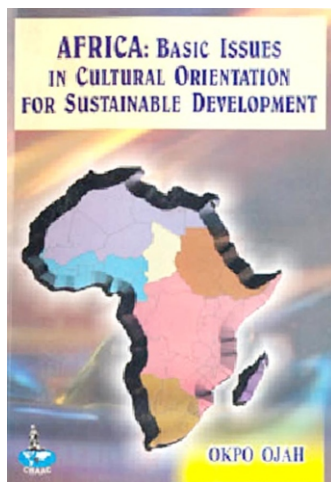
Decree 69 of 1979, following the successful and epoch-making hosting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture (FESTAC'77). The Centre houses all the materials, which constitute the core collections and those artifacts and rare cultural items that were used during FESTAC'77. The decision to hand over these materials to Nigeria was to reinforce and build upon the gains of the historic Festival. It was in fulfillment of Nigeria's pledge to keep the materials in trust for the 59 Black and African countries and communities which participated in the Festival that the Centre was established.

To achieve its set goals, CBAAC holds lectures, seminars, symposia, workshops and mounts exhibitions. CBAAC also has a library, an art gallery, a studio, and varied



collections of cultural and historical significance to Black and African people all over the world. The Centre also engages in other activities, which project the overall image of Black and African Peoples and enable their cultures to be appreciated globally. Statutorily, the Centre is charged with the responsibility of promoting and propagating Black and African Cultural Heritage in its totality.

Through its numerous programmes, the Centre has continued to contribute to the pool of universal knowledge on Black and African Peoples retrieval and restoration of the natural and cultural heritage of the Black and African peoples for the purposes of protecting, preserving and projecting them for enhanced understanding and appreciation.



## About CBAAC

The Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization (CBAAC) was established by Decree 69 of 1979, following the successful and epoch-making hosting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture (FESTAC'77). The Centre houses all the materials, which constitute the core collections and those artifacts and rare cultural items that were used during FESTAC'77. The decision to hand over these materials to Nigeria was to reinforce and build upon the gains of the historic Festival. It was in fulfillment of Nigeria's pledge to keep the materials in trust for the 59 Black and African countries and communities which participated in the Festival that the Centre was established.

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### VISION

To be the foremost Agency to encourage, initiate, facilitate and coordinate the retrieval and restoration of the natural and cultural heritage of the Black and African peoples for the purposes of protecting, preserving and projecting them for enhanced understanding and appreciation.

### MISSION STATEMENT

To promote public interest in, understanding and appreciation of Black and African Arts and Culture with a view to emphasizing the contributions of Black and African Peoples to world civilization.

## Announcements

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## Celebrates Black History Month

In celebration of the achievements of our heroic ancestors, promotion of interest in our own history and establishment of a sustainable working relationship with the Diaspora, CBAAC celebrate the year 2009 edition of the Black History Month in grand style. The event which was held at the Trenchard Hall of University of Ibadan, Ibadan on **February 26th, 2009**, featured a week-long exhibition and cultural performances among others.

In line with its pan-African mandate and in celebration of this year's Black History Month, CBAAC featured a public lecture titled: "**Advancing and Integrating African Values, Ethics and Norms in the Interest of Africans and the African Diaspora**". The lecture was delivered by Dr. Matlotleng Matlou, Executive Director, Africa Institute of South Africa, AISA.

This year's event was particularly designed to showcase

the vitality and richness of African culture, values and ethos. It also served as an avenue for effectively projecting Africa's immeasurable contribution to World civilization. The event was climaxed by the official Commissioning of the Centre's outreach office at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Ibadan.

The occasion had in attendance **Senator Bako Gassol**, Chairman, Senate Committee on Culture and Tourism, Hon K. G. B. Oguakwa, Chairman, House Committee on Culture and Tourism, Emeritus Prof. Ade Ajayi, Prof Adigun Agbaje, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, University of Ibadan among other principal staff of the University of Ibadan to mention a few.

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