

**APPLI/AFPLI REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY**  
**HELD AT TANTALIZER HALL EGBEDA – AKOWONJO LAGOS**  
**ON THE 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2009**

The International Youth Day (IYD) observation set up by the United Nation Organization in Lisbon, Portugal, 1998, was marked by African Foundation for Peace and Love Initiatives (AFPLI) for young people in Lagos State on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2009. The event took place at Tantalizer Hall, at Egbeda, Akowonjo, Lagos State. The theme for the 2009 IYD was **Sustainability, Our Future, and Our Challenge.**

The African Foundation for Peace and Love Initiatives (AFPLI) organized the one day public forum with the topic: **“The Role of Youths in Building a Peaceful Nation.”**

The speech of the president of AFPLI, Rev. Titus K. Oyeyemi, was titled **“The youths are the Heartbeats of the Nigerian Nation.”** In the speech, Rev. Oyeyemi observed that the promises and blessings of the new millennium included opportunities for creativity, community building, peaceful co-existence, that could guarantee flourishing life for the Nigerian children and the Nigerian youth. He wondered why the benefits of the new millennium, now in its 9th year, had not yielded anything substantial to Nigerian children and youths.

For a meaningful development, Rev. Oyeyemi challenged leaders in all strata of the society to insure that young people everywhere are provided with conducive and encouraging environment as agents of change. These include qualitative, affordable, and unhindered education as well as provisions of full, meaningful and commensurate employments after school.

Rev. Oyeyemi called for building new foundations and cornerstones that would sustain social security, economic opportunity, political stability and provision of essential amenities. He charged the young people to accept their position as agents of change, by embracing their responsibility, acquiring the desired knowledge and taking the needed actions. Dr. Oyeyemi enjoined adults and leaders to guide, educate, encourage and provide the necessary tools for the young people to rebuild the nation.

In her speech sent to the occasion, the Honourable Commissioner of Education and Deputy Governor of Lagos State, represented by Mr. Ajetunmobi and Mrs. Aduloju of Department of Private Education and Special Programme PESP), mentioned that the Lagos State Government has introduced peace studies into secondary school curriculum in the State. The Commissioner praised the efforts of APPLI at promoting proactive grassroots peace building in Lagos State and enjoined governments and community leaders to support the laudable efforts. Other ministries represented at the seminar include the Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development, and the Chieftaincy Affairs.

Mr Sam Akindele, a UN ambassador, and a Senior Lecturer of History from Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education, presented the first lecture of the day, titled **“The Role of Education in Laying a Solid Foundation for Young People.** Mr. Akindele, who is also the Staff Adviser to the KAIROS Peace and Love Club, Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education, advised the young people to choose the right association in whatever they do in life, emphasizing that evil association corrupts good manners.

The second lecture was by Mr. Lanre Arogundade of the International Press Centre, with the topic: **Positive Media Reporting as Catalyst for Economic and Society.** Mr. Arogundade challenged the young people to get involved in the media activities for National Development. The third lecture was delivered by Mr. Joseph Adeyanju, a Chartered Accountant, and a former member of KAIROS Peace and Love Club, with the topic **Encouraging the Young to Thread Professional Paths,** who enjoined young people to choose their careers carefully. The Pillar of Community Peace, the Baale of Dopemu, and a host of clergy men and women were also in attendance to encourage the young people to work hard and maintain a spirit of optimism for a better future.

Other highlights of the occasion were the singing of the National Anthem, the Nation Building Anthem and the presentation of play-lets and drama sketches by the members of the African Children of Peace and Youth Peace Alliance Clubs from the Six Education Districts of Lagos State. More than 100 youths were in attendance. During the interlude, the African Children of Peace Club (ACPC) from Brem Nursery and Primary School presented a drama in which they portrayed the need to involve young people in family and national issues.

(Reported by Mr. Okey Anyanwu - Chief Chaperone, African Children of Peace Clubs, Mr. Abiodun Salami, the Superintendent, New Peace Legacy Clubs, and Mr. Olatunji Oyeyemi, the Director of KAIROS Peace and Love Clubs.) For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.africanprojectsforpeace.org>. You can email us at [admin@africanprojectsforpeace.org](mailto:admin@africanprojectsforpeace.org). Contacts can also be made to +2348035793870).