

AFRICA IN AMERICA



Lookman Sulaimon at airports in Charlotte and Atlanta; with friends and MJoTA Publisher in Atlanta.

Atlanta Nigerian Muslim Wedding

MJoTA Managing Editor Mr Lookman Sulaimon MJ has long been mentored by the father of the bride, Prince Murphy Adetoro, and the idea of spending the spring equinox dancing to African drums in Atlanta was irresistible to the MJoTA Publisher.

We flew from New York before dawn, and walked through the permanent Zimbabwean sculpture exhibition through the airport at Atlanta. MJoTA Publisher got to work immediately, photographing stone sculptures, before quickly changing into Nigerian clothes and driving to the first part of the

wedding we had come to witness.

Atlanta has a large Nigerian population, and Nigerian Muslims came from all over the United

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States, and indeed, from all over the world, to celebrate the wedding over 3 days. The parents of the bridal couple flew in from Nigeria. The parents have done well, and the wedding was a celebration of their prosperity.

Friday night was the wine-carrying, also known as the African wedding ceremony, which continued until after 1am. The wine-carrying is common-law marriage in Nigeria. Frequently this is the only ceremony the couple goes through. Saturday was the formal Muslim wedding, which started with a religious service that went on from early afternoon until evening, and then the formal reception that MJoTA Publisher and Mr Sulaimon left after dawn on Sunday, after 6am, after giving out copies of a short-lived New York newspaper, which guests at right can be seen reading. The drums had started at midnight, and did not stop until 5am.

We flew back to New York late on Monday night. Before we left, we went back to the house where Mr Sulaimon's mentor was staying, to show the family the pictures and talk about our initiatives in media that celebrate successes in African professionals in Africa and the United States.

By MJoTA Publisher

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