

AFRICA IN AMERICA

NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA GROUP EGBE OMO HOLD ANNUAL PICNIC IN NEW YORK

On July 10, 2010, the cloud swirling on the skyline of Staten Island Wolf Pond Park beach was filled with potential rain that never came.

Families and friends of the 2 cooperative chapters of the New York State's Nigerian ethnic organization Egbe Omo Yoruba came together for their annual picnic.

Late in the evening Ms Janet Fashakin RN, Esq, whose membership was terminated by Egbe Omo executives in both chapters within 2 years of joining each one sequentially, served summonses on Egbe Omo executives in the New York, NY Chapter. This did not dampen the celebrations.

Ms Fashakin served President Mr Sola Oladapo, General Secretary Mr Oluseyi Ogunyinka, Vice President Mr Yinka Belo and your reporter, Egbe

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Pictures were taken by Chief Lookman and M J o T A Publisher at the New York summer picnic, at a monthly meeting of Egbe Omo New York at the Brooklyn headquarters of Greater Caribbean Representati(Austin Tuitt standing). All other pictures were taken at a North American meeting of Egbe Omo in Vancouver, Canada.



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Omo New York Public Relations Officer Chief Mr Lookman Sulaimon Arounfale. This is my second summons from her. In June 2010 she served a summons for a jury trial in Federal Court in a suit listed for hearing in August 2010, where she is demanding US\$20 million.

The picnic began around 10.30 am with the children playing soccer and basketball and their fathers preparing barbecue grills, drinks and other congeries for the enjoyment of the families, guests and well wishers.

Honorable Ogunyinka, Honorable Olubukola Oreofe tended barbecue grills while Vice President Honorable Mr Bello, President Mr Oladapo, and your reporter set up tables with July 4th celebratory assorted picnic food. Meanwhile Honorable Mr Jide Onigbinde drove back and forth for things the organizers and guests had forgotten, and Honorable Mr Abiodun Bello collected guests from Brooklyn.

Yeye Mrs Afin Olufumbi Oladapo and other wives were the glue that made the event successful. They prepared all the dishes and set them out.

At about noon guests and other members including Honorable Mr Dare and wife, Honorable Barrister Ms Alade and family, Honorable Semako Gbenu and family, Honorable Dr Mr Oluwagboyega Dada, Honorable Mrs Oluwafunke Lawson, Honorable Bukola Shonuga and Honorable Princess Tosin Mustapha came in a crowd.

Everybody enjoyed themselves in the gorgeous July day, told each other news from Nigeria, and from Nigerian communities in the United States. We chatted, ate, drank, told jokes until about 7 pm when your reporter in his function as public relations officer announced the birthday of President Mr Oladapo

and invited attendees to come to the table where a birthday cake in his honor was cut and shared with rendition of "Happy Birthday Song".

"I thank everybody for joining me to celebrate my husband's birthday, especially, Honorable Mr Yinka Belo and New York, New York Egbe's Chapter who had been extremely supportive of my husband's leadership," Yeye Mrs Afin Oladapo said.

Group and other photographs were taken to remember the event, some are shown here.

"This is the most enjoyable picnic I ever attended, I laughed myself out ... It's full of fun," said the Honorable Princess Tosin Mustapha who publishes AfroHeritage magazine. She is being courted to join the Egbe Omo.

Yeye Mrs Afin Olufunmbi Oladapo, who is also the New York, New York Egbe Chapter's matron and the wife of President Mr Oladapo, Queens Esther Band, Omo Oba and Mrs Ogunleye gave us generous donations to further Egbe's mission.

As all continued enjoying the summer day that was turning into a perfect summer evening, the mosquitoes started buzzing and service was made of Ms Fashakin's summonses claiming that Egbe executives hijacked the organization. Both your reporter saw as minor annoyances, the summonses are only to be expected in a country where freedom of speech is elevated to an almost sacred status.

The timing of the summons-serving and the mosquitoes had no debilitating effect on the enjoyment of the day, and as the fireflies lit our paths at nightfall, all departed to their homes with stories of pleasantries, cooperation and cohesiveness between the 2 formidable Egbe Omo Yoruba Chapters in New York State.

By Chief Lookman Sulaimon Arounfale MS

Chief Lookman trained in graphic design and marketing in England, and in journalism in New York. He runs The Lookman Group (which publishes New York Echo newspaper). He is additionally the public relations officer for Egbe Omo New York, a chapter of Egbe Omo, which is an international organization promoting good works and good fellowship in Yoruba communities. He is shown in insert at left at right of Egbe Omo North American President. The North American women's president is seated facing the camera at left.

