

REPORT PRESENTED ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TELEGRAM PLATFORM OF THE ST LOUIS GIRLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL OWO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BY YEMI JIMI-SALAMI (MRS) AT ITS FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE ON 25TH JANUARY, 2018.

Ladies

It is with great pleasure and gratitude to the almighty God that I welcome you all to this august occasion in January. What culminated in today's meeting is a journey of a little over a year. It started as an idea in the mind of an alumna, Mrs. Monisola Esan (Akinrosotu), which she shared with her friend Simi Asekun and some other friends. Having seen the willingness of some of these friends, she started a WhatsApp group for St. Louis Owo (SLO) old girls, they reached out to some members of the older generation who were on the Facebook platform of the school earlier created by Mrs. Aderinsola Oloye Ogunleye. They were requested to send their telephone numbers and the WhatsApp group became enlarged. Many Old girls began to send in the contacts of others and so it went on, until words spread to a lot of SLO old girls, from the very first set of SLO graduates (1968/69) to the very recent ones.

In the course of discussion on the WhatsApp group, it was discovered that there was actually in existence, a SLO Old Girls' Association. A hand of fellowship was extended to the President, Mrs. Margaret Adare, and Mrs. Dora Alabi who gladly accepted, bringing into the fold members of the Old Girls' Association. When the number on the WhatsApp platform hit the maximum, two hundred and fifty six (256) and we could not add anymore, the group was moved to the Telegram in order to accommodate more members. Currently, we have two hundred and twenty six (226) members on the WhatsApp platform and 133 members on the Telegram platform. It is my hope that many more members will migrate and or join the Telegram forum. Aside from the WhatsApp and Telegram groups; we were successful in birthing the North America, United Kingdom, and all other SLO in Diaspora sub groups.

Besides promoting solidarity, fellowship and comradeship among old students, the main objective of gathering together the wonderful ladies that had passed through this great Citadel of Learning was to give back to the school that gave so much to us. The success story of each and every one of us will not be complete without the very strong foundation that SLO gave to us. It was on that foundation that we have all built on, and are called successful today.

Discussion started on what could be done for the school and what the immediate needs of the school were. Some members were sent to SLO on a fact finding mission, to look around, make enquiries and give a situation report; and so they did. In their report, it was noted that the Library, the Computer room, and the Food and Nutrition department were all in need of revamping. There was an uncompleted classroom building project which the Old Girls' Association commenced during the school's golden jubilee, and there was also the portable water situation in the school, which had not improved since the 1990s. On enquiry from the school's authority, it was learnt that water was the immediate need of the school, as students still used the 'green water' otherwise known as 'Olotu stream'.

After much consideration, it was agreed that a mechanized borehole would be suitable for the need of the school. In order to embark on this project, an annual due of ten thousand naira (N10,000.00) per old student was introduced and an account in the name of SLO Old Students' Association was opened with Sterling Bank Nigeria PLC. It was imperative that the Association had a Constitution; so,

the Admin team of the platform put together a Draft Constitution which will be presented for amendments and ratification today.

A Borehole Drilling Engineering Company, Sule Sagmakk Nigeria Limited was commissioned to carry out a feasibility study and drill a borehole, construct a steel stanchion for 2 tanks of 5,000 liters capacity and 6 distribution/fetching points for the school at the cost of (...). The work was done and handed over to the principal. The principal, Mrs. B. A. Anya sent in a message of appreciation on behalf of the School's Board of Governors, Management, PTA Executive, Staff and Students on 3rd November, 2017. She acknowledged in the message that the project was completed and handed over. God has been faithful to us. We give all the glory, honor and adoration to God, for He alone deserves them all. He who began a good work in us will be faithful to complete it. *Phil. 1:6*. I say a very big thank you to all alumni members that made this a success story. God bless us all.

According to our drafted constitution, the founder's day of our great Alma Mater is a day worthy of celebration; and the one way to bring all alumni together to celebrate this day is to fix our Annual General Conference (AGC) to coincide with that date. This year's program has been scheduled as a one day event. As time goes on, I'm sure we shall consider dedicating more than one day for our AGC, as a lot of events had to be cramped into today's program. Earlier in the morning, a thanksgiving mass was held to commemorate our founder's day. One of the objectives of our Association is the:

Promotion and advancement of Education, Continuing Education and Vocational Training for successive students of the School

In line with this objective, we had organized for the students, a motivational talk which was delivered by Prof. (Mrs.) Veronica Falaye (an alumnus), held earlier today. We also commissioned the borehole and toured the school for assessment. We are now settled for our annual meeting, and the elections will hopefully, hold shortly.

Before now, a few sisters had been working behind administrativeng stabilized the group, it was agreed that it was time to elect executive officers to steer the ship of the Association in accordance with our drafted constitution. God willing, should the constitution be ratified, the election and inauguration of the new elected officers shall take place today.

Thank you all for being here and I wish us all journey mercies back to our various destinations.