

The Good Nigerian Series

NIGERIA'S NATIONAL HEROES

(Volume Two)



COMPILED BY MEMBERS OF THE GOOD NIGERIAN
SERIES READERS CLUB (GONSEREC)

Edited by:
Kelechi Nwabia

The Good Nigerian Series

NIGERIA'S NATIONAL HEROES

(Volume Two)



COMPILED BY MEMBERS OF THE GOOD NIGERIAN
SERIES READERS CLUB (GONSEREC)

Edited by:
Kelechi Nwabia

NIGERIA'S NATIONAL HEROES (Volume Two)

Copyright ©2013 **KELECHI NGWABA**

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in written form from the publisher.

ISBN: 978-978-935-616-4

Published by:

Nile Ventures

26, Michael Adekoya Street, Ilupeju Estate, Lagos.

Tel: 08023327260, 08068168909

Produced By:

THE GOOD NIGERIAN SERIES

1, Elkanah Street, Mangoro, Lagos State.

260, Aba-owerri Road, Abayi, Aba, Abia State

Tel: 08093000567, 08033000567

IN THIS VOLUME

CHUKWUEMEKA ODUMEGWU OJUKWU.....	1
YAKUBU GOWON.....	3
MURTALA MOHAMMED.....	5
OLUSEGUN OBASANJO.....	7
SHEHU SHAGARI.....	9
AMINU KANO.....	11
ALEXANDER EKWUEME.....	13
MOHAMMADU BUHARI.....	15
BABATUNDE IDIAGBON.....	17
CHINUA ACHEBE.....	19
IBRAHIM BABANGIDA.....	21
WOLE SOYINKA.....	23
M K O ABIOLA.....	25
ERNEST SHONEKAN.....	27
TAI SOLARIN.....	29

IN VOLUME ONE

SAMUEL AJAYI CROWTHER

HERBERT MACAULAY

JAJA OF OPOBO

FUNMILAYO RANSOME KUTI

EYO ITA

NNAMDI AZIKIWE

OBAFEMI AWOLOWO

AHMADU BELLO

MARGARET EKPO

ABUBAKAR TAFAWA BALEWA

JAJA WACHUKWU

ANTHONY ENAHORO

NWAFOR ORIZU

AGUIYI IRONSI

ADEKUNLE FAJUYI

CHUKWUMA NZEOGWU

IN VOLUME THREE

BENEDICT ODIASE

ABDULSALAM ABUBAKAR

EBITU UKIWE

GANI FAWEHINMI

CHUBA OKADIGBO

FELA ANIKULAPO KUTI

DELE GIWA

MUSA YAR'ADUA

GOODLUCK JONATHAN

NAMADI SAMBO

CHRISTIAN CHUKWU

GRACE ALELE WILLIAMS

STEPHEN KESHI

KANU NWANKWO

SAMUEL PETERS

**READERS ARE REQUESTED TO SUGGEST OTHER
HEROES FOR THIS VOLUME.**

SEND MAIL TO heroes@gntvseries.com

Or call GONSEREC SECRETARIATE on 08033000567.

WORDS THAT MAKE THIS VOLUME A MUST READ

Give your children bread---they will eat and thank you

Give them sweetsthey will eat and thank you

Give them too much love---they will feel insecure without you

Give them informationthey will rise UP and rule their generation

The choice remains yours.

Kelechi ngwaba

CHUKWUEMEKA ODUMEGWU OJUKWU



BY

**ABDULRASHEED
ADEOGUN**

Chukwuemekwa Odumegwu Ojukwu was born in Zungeru, Niger State on 4th November 1933.

EDUCATION

He attended Kings College Lagos where he was briefly imprisoned for slapping his British Colonial teacher who was ridiculing his seniors in the wake of a students uprising in the school. He also attended Epsom College, Lincoln College and Oxford University. He read History in the university.

WORK

He joined the civil service on his return to Nigeria and within a few months joined the Nigerian Military as the second Nigerian graduate to enlist into the Nigerian army. During the Nzeogwu coup of January 1966 he was a Colonel in charge of the 5th Battalion Kano.

THE GOVERNOR

The Nzeogwu coup ushered in the Ironsi regime which in turn appointed Ojukwu as Governor of the eastern region. He occupied this post when Ironsi was killed in the 1966 counter coup and there was mass massacre of Igbo's in Northern Nigeria. He rose to the defence of his people and questioned the credibility of Colonel Yakubu Gowon as head of state since he was not the highest ranking officer in the Nigerian army after the July 1966 counter coup. There were a lot of disagreements between Ojukwu and the Federal

Government and when the division became so wide Ojukwu and the eastern region declared that they were no longer part of the Nigerian Nation. They formed The Republic of Biafra.

THE HEAD OF STATE

Ojukwu thus became the head of state of the young Republic of Biafra but Nigeria would not hear of that. They wanted the east back into Nigeria. A civil war therefore ensued and for thirty months, brothers fought each other. By January 15 1970, the civil war ended but Ojukwu had run into exile in Cote d'Ivoire. He was later pardoned by President Shehu Shagari in 1982 and he returned home before the 1983 elections. On his return he had a brief stint into politics and was arrested by the Buhari administration for a few months. He then lived a quiet life till the return of democracy in 1999. By 2003 he contested for President under the ALL PROGRESSIVE GRAND ALLIANCE but was unsuccessful. His party however took over the rulership of his home state, Anambra State.

DEATH

He died in November 2011 in the United Kingdom. He was given a befitting burial with full military honours on March 2, 2012. His statue embraces you as you descend the Niger Bridge from Asaba into Onitsha.

YAKUBU GOWON



BY

**AHMED
SHOBOWALE**

General Yakubu Gowon was born in 1934.

EDUCATION & WORK

He joined the Nigerian army in 1954 and became a second lieutenant in 1955. He went to some of the best military academies in the world and was a gentle man officer.

HIS RULERSHIP

He came to lime light in 1966 when the Nzeogwu coup overthrew the civilian regime of Tafawa Balewa. He did not take part in the coup but was a beneficiary as he became the chief of Army Staff as a Lieutenant Colonel. Six months later during the counter coup of 1966 led by Murtala Mohammed he was elevated to the position of Head of State as he was then a full colonel and highest ranking Northern Nigerian officer.

His elevation to the position of Head of State, the Killing of General Ironsi by the coupists and the pogrom carried out on the people of eastern Nigeria living in the north made the regional government of the east led by Colonel Emeka Ojukwu to declare for secession under the name of THE REPUBLIC OF BIAFRA. It fell on Yakubu Gowon to keep Nigeria together and this he did. It however did not come easy as he had to withstand 30 months of civil war with a lot of deaths. In January 1970, the war ended and Gowon became a hero.

However he was humble in victory as he declared that in the NIGERIAN-BIAFRA Conflict there was NO VICTOR, NO VANQUISHED. He was accused of not wanting to hand over power back to democratic rule and in 1975 his regime was toppled by his close aides when he travelled out of Nigeria, He fled to the United Kingdom on Exile.

ACHIEVEMENTS

His achievements include the reintegration of the Igbo's into Nigeria, ensuring the unity of Nigeria and establishing the National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) scheme. He also created states.

He was pardoned by President Shehu Shagari and he returned to Nigeria and has since his return been playing the role of an elder statesman.

MURTALA MOHAMMED



BY JOY AGHA

Murtala Mohammed was born in Kano on the 8th of November 1938.

EDUCATION

He attended Barewa College Zaria and the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, England. He was commissioned into the Nigerian army in 1961. He was taught military tactics by Colonel Emeka Ojukwu.

WORK

He was a member of the UN led peace keeping force in the Congo. Murtala specialized in military signals and was posted to Lagos early in his career. At the wake of the Nzeogwu coup of Jan 15 1966, Murtala was among the officers who alongside Colonel Conrad Nwawo (Nigeria's military attaché to the United Kingdom) who escorted Nzeogwu from Kaduna to Lagos. He was also largely instrumental for the second coup of 1966 that toppled the regime of Major General Aguiyi Ironsi and installed Colonel Yakubu Gowon as Head of State. He played a prominent role in the Nigerian-

Biafran war of 1967-1970 and led so many military attacks (both successful and unsuccessful) against Biafra.

HEAD OF STATE

In 1975 he again was involved in another coup that this time toppled the Gowon administration and Murtala was made head of state.

ACHIEVEMENTS

As head of state he tried to instill discipline in the civil service and carried out several reforms in the civil service but his regime was short lived as he was killed by Lt.Col Bukar Sukar Dimka on the 13th of Feb 1976 at the age of 38.

The international airport in Lagos is named after him.

OLUSEGUN OBASANJO

BY

NSIKAK BEN



Olusegun Matthew Okikiola Aremu Obasanjo was born on the 5th of March 1937 in Ogun State. He is the only man to have ruled Nigeria twice- first as a Military General and later as a Civilian.

EDUCATION

He enlisted into the Nigerian Army in 1958 and trained at Aldershot and DSSC, Wellington. He commanded many divisions in the Nigerian army including the 3 Marine Command that effectively ended the Nigerian Civil War.

THE HEAD OF STATE

General Obasanjo was the second in command to General Murtala Muhammed when he was killed in 1976. He thus took over the reins of power and kept Murtala's promise of handing back power to civilians in 1979. He was the first Nigerian Head of State to successfully hand over power to a democratically elected government.

ACHIEVEMENTS

As Military Head of State, he carried out the Green Revolution aimed at ensuring food sufficiency for all. He also hosted the black festival of arts and culture tagged FESTAC '77. He also encouraged the growth of an indigenous middle class. On October 1 1979, he handed power to Alhaji Shehu Shagari.

THE PRESIDENT

With the annulment of the June 12 Presidential elections, the stepping aside of General Babangida, the Introduction of Shonekan's interim government and its overthrow by General Abacha, Nigeria was sliding gradually back to anarchy. The Abacha administration did not help matters as Nigerians were being jailed and assassinations became rampant. Kudirat Abiola, the wife of MKO Abiola was killed during this period as well as Pa Alfred Rewane. Elder statesmen like Obasanjo and Shehu Musa Yar'adua were imprisoned for treason. A lot of Nigerians especially those from the west ran into exile. Somehow, events occurred and General Abdulsalam Abubakar became Head of State and a political transition was fixed. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo riding on the back of the PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDP) won the presidential elections and became Nigeria's President for two terms 1999-2003 and 2003-2007.

ACHIEVEMENTS

He tried to depoliticize the military. He introduced the use of mobile phones which has changed the face of business in Nigeria. He introduced lexicons such as Due Process and Due Diligence in the award of government contracts. He also introduced us to the phenomenon of Banks consolidation thereby protecting depositors.

He handed power on May 29, 2007 to Alhaji Umar Yar'adua.

SHEHU SHAGARI



BY

NNENNA UWAKWE

Alhaji Usman Aliyu Shehu Shagari was born on February 25 1925 in Shagari Village and was Nigeria's first Executive President.

EDUCATION

He attended elementary school Yabo, Sokoto middle college and later Kaduna College.

WORK & POLITICS

He worked as a teacher and entered high level politics in 1954. Prior to this time he had been involved in political associations in his sokoto area. He was elected to the Federal House of Representatives. In 1960 he was appointed Minister of Economic Development by the Balewa administration. In 1962 he was Minister of Internal affairs and in 1965, he was Minister of works and survey. In 1970 he served Gowon's government as Minister of Economic affairs and later was made Minister of Finance.

THE PRESIDENT

In 1979 he became the flag bearer of the National Party of Nigeria (NPN). He won the presidential elections of 1979 and tried his best to steer Nigeria on the path of development but was not very successful.

The economy slid under his regime as oil prices went down in 1981. A lot of his ministers were also accused of being corrupt and on 31st December 1983, the military overthrew his government and General Muhammadu Buhari was appointed Head of State.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Shagari tried in the area of housing. He built estates across Nigeria commonly referred to as Shagari Estates. He also launched agricultural programmes to boost food production and exports. He completed the Delta Steel Complex in 1982. He also devoted funds towards the completion of the Ajaokuta Steel Rolling mill.

Today, Alhaji Shagari is seen as an elder statesman and is highly respected.

\

AMINU KANO



By

Ayomide Osho-Shina

Mallam Aminu Kano was born in Kano in 1920.

EDUCATION

He attended Katsina college and later went to University of London where he studied education.

WORK

He started teaching at the Bauchi training college where he spoke freely on political issues. He was later appointed head of the teacher training center in Maru, Sokoto State and was the secretary of the Northern teachers association.

POLITICS

He was devoted to fight for the less privilege and this formed the crux of his political career. He was a member of Northern Elements Progressive Union (NEPU) which was in alliance with Azikiwe's National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons and on this platform he won the Kano east federal seat in the Federal House of Representative. He later became Chief Whip of the house. In 1979 he founded the Peoples Redemption Party (PRP) and contested for President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. He was not successful in his bid to become President but his party won two Northern states in the Governorship elections. He was however seen as the most sincere

of the presidential candidates at that time.

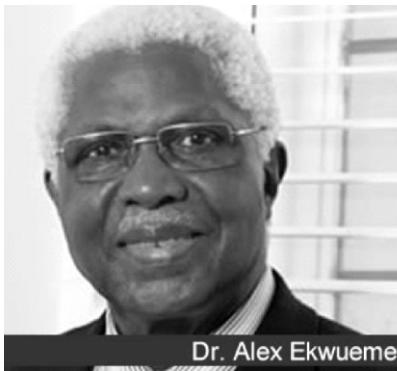
MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT

Mallam Aminu Kano lived his life in pursuit of a better life for the talakawas (commoners). He believed that every man had equal rights and should not be discriminated against.

DEATH

On April 17 1983, he breathed his last at the age of 63 years. The Aminu Kano International Airport as well as the Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital both in Kano are named after him.

ALEXANDER EKWUEME



Dr. Alex Ekwueme

By

Frances Ngwaba

Alexander Ifeanyichukwu Ekwueme was born on October 21, 1932. He hails from Oko in present day Anambra state. He was Nigeria's first Vice President and served as Vice President between 1979-1983.

EDUCATION

His primary school education started at St John's Anglican Central School, Ekwulobia. From there he went to King's College, Lagos. He also attended the University of Washington where he earned a Bachelor's degree in architecture. Chief Ekwueme also obtained a masters degree in Urban Planning as well as degrees in history, sociology, philosophy and law. He also obtained a doctorate degree in architecture.

WORK

Dr Ekwueme worked as an Assistant Architect with LEO A. DALY & ASSOCIATES, and later with NICKSON & PARTNERS. He joined ESSO West Africa, Lagos when he returned to Nigeria before forming EKWUEME ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS & TOWN PLANNERS. This became the first indigenous architectural firm in Nigeria. Dr. Ekwueme was also President of the Nigerian Institute of Architects and the Architects Registration Council of Nigeria.

POLITICS

In 1979 he ran as vice presidential candidate to Alh Shehu Shagari

and became Nigeria's first vice-president. He is remembered as a loyal vice president who had no friction with his boss throughout the duration of their presidency. He was also instrumental to Nigeria's present democracy as he set up the G-18 which later became the G-34 that fought the military regime of General Sani Abacha. At a time many Nigerian stalwarts ran into exile or were incarcerated it fell on the heroic shoulders of Chief Ekwueme and his group to tell Abacha that he must handover power to an elected government. This G-34 later formed the PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY that has won all presidential elections in Nigeria since 1999.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Apart from the formation of the G-18 & G-34, Dr Ekwueme recommended the breaking down of Nigeria into six geo political zones namely, South South, South East, South West, North Central, North East, North West which is being implemented today. He also recommended the five year single tenure rotational presidency amongst these zones for 30 years which has not been implemented.

MUHAMMADU BUHARI



By
Mirabel Yakubu

General Muhammadu Buhari was born on December 17, 1942. He hails from Daura in Katsina State.

MILITARY CAREER

He joined the Nigerian army in 1962 and had a quiet career until he was appointed Governor of North-Eastern State of Nigeria from 1975-1976. In 1976 he was appointed Federal Commissioner (Minister) for Petroleum and Natural Resources. In 1983 he became Nigeria's Head of State after the December 31 1983 coup.

THE HEAD OF STATE

As Head of State, he instituted the WAR AGAINST INDISCIPLINE CAMPAIGN. He also fought disorderliness and indiscipline and ensured that monthly sanitation exercises held across the Nation. His regime promulgated decrees with which they used to govern Nigeria. A lot of Nigerians still feel that the Buhari/Idiagbon regime was too harsh but a lot more feel that they meant well for the nation. His government was toppled in 1985 by General Ibrahim Babangida.

THE PTF CHAIRMAN

General Sani Abacha who ruled Nigeria from 1993-1998 appointed General Buhari as PETROLEUM TRUST FUND (PTF) Chairman as Buhari was seen as a symbol of transparency and accountability. This image has stuck to his name till date as a lot of Nigerians view him as an officer who was never corrupt. He performed well in the PTF job.

THE POLITICIAN

Since 2003 he has been the voice of the opposition in Nigerian politics having contested for the post of President of Nigeria unsuccessfully in 2003, 2007 and 2011. He however has been consistent in playing the balancing role by pressuring the ruling PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY to rule Nigerians well.

+

BABATUNDE IDIAGBON



BY
KINGSLEY OGBONNA

General Babatunde Idiagbon was born in Ilorin, Kwara State on September 14 1943.

EDUCATION

He attended United School Ilorin, Okesuna Senior Primary School, Nigerian Military School Zaria, Pakistani Military Academy and Nigerian Military training College Kaduna. He also went to the National Institute of Policy and strategic Studies, Kuru.

MARRIAGE

In 1970, he married Mrs Biodun Idiagbon and they are blessed with five children.

THE CHIEF OF STAFF

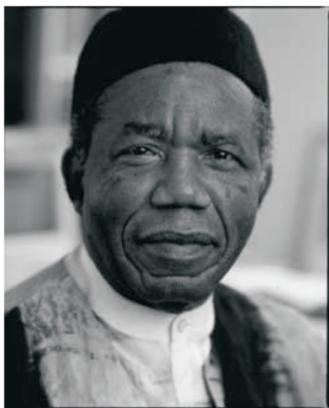
He came to national limelight in the wake of the December 31, 1983 coup when he was appointed as Chief of Staff Supreme Headquarters thereby making him the number two man in Nigeria. He was very supportive to his boss Geneeral Muhammadu Buhari and together they fought indiscipline and corruption in Nigeria. They also introduced the queuing order in public places as well as the environmental sanitation campaigns. Their regime also fought drug abuse and crime and approved the use of capital punishment.

General Idiagbon was away to Mecca on pilgrimage when the

government he served was toppled in a military coup led by General Ibrahim Babangida. He braved the odds and still came back home from Mecca and was placed under house arrest. He was later released and went back to Ilorin to live a quiet life before he died in 1999 after a very brief illness.

He is best remembered as that leader who tried his best to fight indiscipline in Nigeria.

CHINUA ACHEBE



BY

Gonserec Research Team

Chinuaolumogu Albert Achebe was born on November 16, 1930 in the present day Anambra State, South East Nigeria.

EDUCATION

He gained admission to study medicine in 1948 at the University College Ibadan. After one year of study, he changed his course to English and History. After University he taught in a secondary school in Oba before proceeding to work in the Nigerian Broadcasting Service (NBS).

WORK & MARRIAGE

While at NBS, he completed his first novel THINGS FALL APART which was published by Hienemann in 1958. In 1961, he married his colleague in NBS Miss Christie Okoli and they are blessed with four children. Apart from THINGS FALL APART, Achebe has authored many books amongst which are NO LONGER AT EASE, ARROW OF GOD, A MAN OF THE PEOPLE and ANTHILLS OF THE SAVANNAH. He has also written books for children such as CHIKE AND THE RIVER and HOW THE LEOPARD GOT ITS CLAWS.

AWARDS

He has won several awards for his impeccable writings such as the ROCKEFELLER FELLOWSHIP AWARD, UNESCO FELLOWSHIP FOR CREATIVE ARTISTS, MAN BOOKER

INTERNATIONAL PRIZE and THE DOROTHY & LILLIAN GISH PRIZE to mention a few.

POSTWAR ACTIVITIES

As Director of external broadcasting in NBS, he was among those assigned the task of establishing the VOICE OF NIGERIA radio. In the wake of the Biafran war, Achebe supported the secessionist republic and contributed his quota towards creating international awareness of the situation of things in the war torn republic. After the Nigerian civil war, he joined the University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN) and continued with his writings. He published two magazines namely OKIKE and NSUKKA SCOPE. He also published a book of short stories titled GIRLS AT WAR. In 1972, he was offered a Professorship at the University of Massachusetts and consequently moved to Massachusetts with his family.

He returned to UNN in 1976 and by 1982, he retired from UNN and joined the PEOPLES REDEMPTION PARTY (PRP) of Mallam Aminu Kano in 1982 and became deputy national vice president of the party. In 1983 he published THE TROUBLE WITH NIGERIA. In 1990, he was involved in a fatal road accident that affected his spinal cord and which required him to use a wheel chair for the rest of his life.

He rejected many National Awards form the Government of Nigeria citing Bad governance as his reason. His 2012 book titled THERE WAS A COUNTRY stirred up controversy in Nigeria upon its publication.

DEATH

Achebe died in the United States of America on March 21, 2013 and was buried on May 23rd 2013 in Anambra State, Nigeria

Achebe was indeed one of the best literary gifts to have come out of Nigeria and indeed Africa.

IBRAHIM BABANGIDA



By

Mariam Hussein

General Ibrahim Babangida was born on the 17th of August 1941 in Minna, Niger State. He joined the Nigerian Military at an early age and rose to become one of Nigeria's most intelligent military officers.

THE MILITARY PRESIDENT

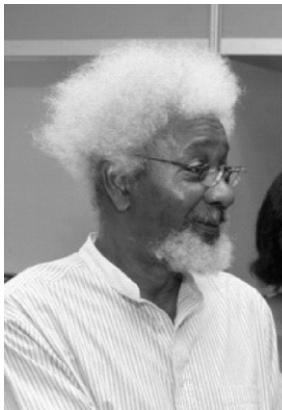
Babangida's rise to fame and power started with his role in quelling the Dimka coup that killed Murtala Mohammed in 1976. He became a member of the Supreme Military Council and when the military overthrew Alhaji Shehu Shagari in 1983, Babangida became the Chief of Army staff, a position he held till August 27th 1984 when he led a coup that overthrew the Buhari/ Idiagbon regime and became Head of State. He survived several coup attempts during his tenure prominent among which were the Vatsa and Orkar coups. He declared himself Military President and completed the move of the Federal Capital Territory from Lagos to Abuja. He set up so many agencies and organisations such as DFRRI (Directorate for foods roads and rural infrastructure) MAMSER(Mass Mobilisation for social and economic recovery), NERFUND (National Economic Reconstruction Fund), PEOPLES BANK and also introduced the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) all in a bid to revamp Nigeria's economy but achieved little success. He also set up many political timetables aimed at returning Nigeria to democracy but kept

postponing them. He however set up the best political party system for Nigeria- The Two Party system but somehow killed it with the annulment of the June 12 1993 presidential election presumed to be won by a westerner Alhaji Moshood Abiola. He had to hand over power to an interim government in August 1993 when it became clear that Nigerians wanted him to keep to his promise of handing over power on the 27th of August 1993.

ACHIEVEMENTS

He set up so many agencies that tried to assist the growth of Nigeria. He conducted what is still adjudged to be the fairest election in Nigeria. He set up an Ideal two party system in Nigeria. He created additional states in Nigeria. He moved Nigeria's capital to Abuja thereby decongesting the already congested commercial state, Lagos.

WOLE SOYINKA



BY
Gonserec Research Team

Oluwole Akinwande Soyinka was born on July 13, 1934 in Abeokuta, Ogun state.

EDUCATION

He attended St Peters Primary School Abeokuta, Abeokuta Grammer School, Government College Ibadan and the University College in Ibadan where he studied English and Greek. He was among the founding members of the Pyrates Confraternity. He also attended Leeds University in the United Kingdom.

HIS WORKS

Soyinka is gifted in Drama writing. His first major play was THE SWAMP DWELLERS published in 1958. Some other works written by him include THE LION AND THE JEWEL, THE INVENTION, THE IMMIGRANT, MY NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOUR, THE TRIALS OF BROTHER JERO, IDANRE & OTHER POEMS, THE STRONG BREED, KONGI'S HARVEST, SEASON OF ANOMY, COLLECTED PLAYS, CAMWOOD ON THE LEAVES and JERO'S METAMORPHORSIS.

He worked in the Royal Court Theatre in London and it was a launching pad for many of his plays. He used most of his plays to challenge the performance of government. He lectured in the

Universities of Ife and Ibadan and was made a Professor of Comparative Literature in 1975. He has also lectured in various universities across Europe and America.

AWARDS

In 1986 he won the Nobel prize for Literature thus becoming the first African to win a Nobel Laureat. He also won the AGIP Prize for Literature, Anisfield-Wolf Book Award and the Benson Medal to mention a few.

He contributed his quota to the apartheid struggle in South Africa when he participated in plays in memory of Steven Biko and when he read his Nobel Prize acceptance speech which centered on Nelson Mandela.

THE SECTOR COMMANDER & PRO DEMOCRACY ACTIVIST

The Babangida administration appointed him to set up the Federal Road Safety Commission and he performed credibly. At the wake of the annulment of the June 12 1993 elections he was critical of the military leadership in Nigeria and sought international sanctions against the General Sani Abacha regime of 1993-1998. With the return of democracy in Nigeria in 1999, he returned home and joined forces with pro democracy groups to ensure good governance in Nigeria.

Wole Soyinka has used his talent to fight oppression, bad governance and corruption. Nigerians respect and love him as a worthy son and Literary Ambassador.

M K O ABIOLA



By

Precious Oguine

Moshood Kashimawo Olawale Abiola popularly called MKO Abiola was born on the 24th of August 1937 in Abeokuta, Ogun State. His name 'Kashimawo' means 'let us wait and see.' His parents gave him that name because their other children died at infancy. By the time he became 15 years, he was given the name Moshood.

EDUCATION

He attended Baptist Boys High School Abeokuta where he became the editor of the school magazine called THE TRUMPETER. He also joined the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons (NCNC) because he viewed it to be more pan Nigerian in origin. He later read accountancy at Glasgow University.

WORK

He was a bank clerk with Barclays Bank in Ibadan. After two years he joined Western Region Finance Corporation as executive accounts officer. He was also a senior accountant at University of Lagos teaching hospital before he joined ITT Corporation where he rose to the position of Vice President of Africa and the Middle east.

SOCIAL WORK

He was a philanthropist and built hostels for several universities in Nigeria. He also assisted sports development in Nigeria and Africa.

He also fought for Africa's reparation. He founded the popular Abiola Babes Football club.

POLITICS

He ran for presidency in 1993 under the SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. He was believed to have won the election which was annulled by the military government of General Ibrahim Babangida.

IMPRISONMENT & DEATH

MKO was determined to reclaim his annulled mandate and after a press conference in the Lagos Island area in 1994, he was arrested for treason by the General Sani Abacha regime which had just toppled the Ernest Shonekan's interim government. He died in detention in July 1998.

ERNEST SHONEKAN



By
Favour Adoga

Born on May 9, 1936, Ernest Oladeinde Adegunle Shonekan hails from Ogun State in Nigeria. He was the first Nigerian to be appointed head of an Interim Government. By accepting that position, he contributed his own quota to the continued existence of Nigeria as a country.

EDUCATION

He attended CMS grammer school and also received a Law degree from the University of London. As a worker he also attended Harvard Business School.

WORK

He joined the United African Company (UAC) in 1964 and rose to the position of assistant legal adviser and subsequently deputy legal adviser. He was later appointed to the board and by 1980 was made Chairman and Chief Executive of UAC.

POLITICS

His political journey became prominent when in January 1993 he was appointed Head of government affairs under the General Babangida led military government. Nigerians looked up to him at that time to be the man that would transform Nigeria's ailing economy. He was still trying to grapple with this duty when the June 12 1993 Presidential election presumably won by Chief MKO Abiola was annulled and

Nigeria was plunged into a political crisis with Chief Abiola determined to ascend the presidency and Nigerians insisting that Babangida must go. The most acceptable candidate at that time to hand over to as head of an Interim National Government became Chief Ernest Shonekan.

ACHIEVEMENTS

During the three months of his reign, he tried to create a new time table to return Nigeria to democratic rule. He freed some political prisoners, set up a time table for ECOMOG troops withdrawal and set up a committee to repeal some of the harsh decrees of the Babangida administration.

In November 1993, his administration was toppled by General Sani Abacha who was head of defence in the Interim Government. He has been an elder statesman ever since.

TAI SOLARIN



BY
HAJARA BABALLE

Augustus Taiwo Solarin was born on the 20th of August 1922 at Ikenne-Remo, Ogun State.

EDUCATION & MARRIAGE

He served with the Royal airforce during the second world war. He studied in the University of Manchester and the University of London and married English born Lady Sheila in 1951.

WORK

In 1952 he became a college principal at Ijebu-Igbo and by 1956 he relinquished this post and established May Flower School. He was instrumental to the development of quality education in western Nigeria in the mid 90's.

THE ACTIVIST

Tai was one of the earliest civil rights activists in Nigeria and indeed Africa. He fought several fights with Military and civilian regimes in Nigeria and was jailed several times. He was a spokesman for the masses and did not relinquish this position till death. Nigerians looked up to him when ever they needed to challenge their government. He was also a writer and used his columns to fight for the people. He was indeed a great social crusader.

THE CHAIRMAN

He was appointed Chairman, PEOPLES BANK OF NIGERIA by General Babangida. The bank was set up to assist in the provision of

facilities to grassroots businesses. He tried his best in carrying out this function.

ACHIEVEMENT

His greatest achievement was that he was a voice for the voiceless in Nigeria. He could go to any length to fight injustice.

He died on June 27 1994.

Nigeria's first University of Education is named after him.

BASIC INFORMATION ON GONSEREC

WHAT IS GONSEREC?

GONSEREC MEANS GOOD NIGERIAN SERIES READERS CLUB. It was established to bring together children that read **THE GOOD NIGERIAN SERIES**. **THE GOOD NIGERIAN SERIES** was developed by Nigerland Consult Limited for Nigerian children in their formative years. Books in **THE GOOD NIGERIAN SERIES** tackle the issue of character formation for our children. This, we believe, will form the bedrock for the sustainable development of Nigeria. Presently, books in **THE GOOD NIGERIAN SERIES** are being acted by **GONSEREC** members as a TV series to ensure that more Nigerian children/families benefit from the moral lessons taught in the series. The books are also being used as seminar/ lecture materials for our children who unfortunately do not have regular access to seminar programmes.

GONSEREC is an online readers club which aims at inculcating and promoting moral values in children using educational and instructional materials. The aim of **GONSEREC** is to bring together children from diverse families and groom them on morals, ethics and values. **GONSEREC** members have access to free on-line moral lectures. This means that when a child becomes a member of GONSEREC, he/she will be given a password which he/she will use to access our on-line moral lectures for a year once the child logs into our website www.gntvseries.com.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF GONSEREC

Log on to www.gntvseries.com, click on how to join and follow the instructions there.

BENEFITS OF JOINING GONSEREC

Members have access to on line moral lectures;

Members have the Opportunity to be auditioned for a role in THE GOOD NIGERIAN (GNTV) TV SERIES;

Member's names and pictures will be displayed in our website;

Members will have the opportunity to make friends for the future as GONSEREC'S MISSION is to bring together children from diverse families, groom them on morals, ethics and values thereby preparing them for leadership positions in future;

The member that reads the most lectures and scores highest in our assessments will be given a scholarship for a year;

Members will also have the opportunity of going on local and international excursions;

Members will have the opportunity of having personalized email addresses;

The internet proficiency of Nigerian children will obviously be enhanced.

GONSEREC ACTIVITIES

*QUAM DAY LECTURES ONCE A QUARTER FOR ALL MEMBERS

*INDEPENDENCE DAY LECTURE EVERY OCTOBER 1

*END OF YEAR PARTY EVERY LAST SATURDAY TO CHRISTMAS

*SEMINARS FOR CHILDREN IN RURAL AREAS ON INVITATION BY HOST LOCAL GOVERNMENT OR IF A COMPANY OR AN INDIVIDUAL/INDIVIDUALS SPONSOR THE SEMINAR

*ACTING GOOD NIGERIAN SERIES BOOKS

SPONSORING A GONSEREC ACTIVITY

If you are touched to sponsor a GONSEREC activity for example seminars for children in rural areas or book donations to children across Nigeria or Africa call 08033000567 or email sponsorship@gntvseries.com.

PROFILE OF GONSEREC NATIONAL CO-ORDINATOR

Kelechi Ngwaba an Educationist, Writer and Chartered Accountant is an expert in human capital development and Business Solutions Models Conceptualization. He has consulted for various Institutions and Organisations in the area of human assets development. He has also been an Inspector for Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) Management and Project Management diplomas managed by

the British Council in Nigeria. His book THE GENERATIONS (2007) was donated to the libraries of over 60 tertiary institutions in Nigeria while other books THE GOOD NIGERIAN (volume one) and SOCIAL STUDIES FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS (both included in year 2000 Lagos state book list) have been donated to children in various Local Governments in Nigeria. During one of his trips to donate books to rural children he was inspired to write this poem which summarizes the work he has been doing for Children across Nigeria for many years now.

MY CALLING, MY PRAYER

It came on transit

As I cycled on with Abraham

I was scared as we approached the long bridge

I felt like turning back on the bad road

But I braced up and journeyed on

I wondered why I was doing this

Then I looked at the red mud on the very bad road

And saw a reflection of the sack that hosted my books

Then it struck me at once

That this was my calling

A tear dropped from my left eye

And I quickly cleaned it so Abraham would not see

I tried to shake off the sorrow

And accept the truth of my existence

The truth that I belong to the innocent

The truth that I belong to the pure

I knew I had to live a life of sacrifice henceforth

I had no choice whatsoever

Than to obey this calling

So I can embrace fulfillment, peace and happiness

Like a mirage on a sunny day

I began to visualize pupils

Beckoning on me to journey on

So I can reach out to them

Through calm and storm

And I pray for God's forgiveness, mercy and grace

That I run this race and live in the glory of his praise

Kelechi Ngwaba

**(As I approached Itigidi bridge in Abi LGA of Cross River State
to donate books to Children in Abi LGA on 8/10/2008)**

**THINK ABOUT THIS. WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR A
NIGERIAN CHILD? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO SECURE
THE FUTURE? IT IS NOT TOO LATE. BEGIN NOW.
REGISTER A NEW MEMBER TO JOIN GONSEREC
TODAY.**

GONSEREC DIRECTORS OF ADMINISTRATION

Mrs Rose Uloma Aji	South East
Mrs Gloria Ndukuba	North
Dr (Mrs) O. Esien	South south
Mrs Ebere Ugwu	South west

GONSEREC SONGS

SONG ONE-GONSEREC ANTHEM

WE WE ARE NIGERIAN KIDS
WE WE LOVE OUR GREAT COUNTRY
WE PROMISE TO DO OUR BEST
TO TO LIFT HER NAME HIGHER

NIGERIA IS OUR BURDEN
NIGERIA IS OUR HOPE
WE PROMISE TO DO OUR BEST
WE PROMISE TO MAKE NIGERIA GREAT

SONG TWO-NIGERIA IS A GREAT COUNTRY

NIGERIA IS A GREAT COUNTRY
A GREAT COUNTRY
A GREAT COUNTRY
NIGERIA IS A GREAT COUNTRY
A LAND OF HONESTY

NIGERIA IS THE KING OF SPORTS
THE KING OF SPORTS
THE KING OF SPORTS
NIGERIA IS THE KING OF SPORTS
WE ARE THE BEST IN SPORTS

NIGERIA IS A BLESSED COUNTRY
A BLESSED COUNTRY
A BLESSED COUNTRY
NIGERIA IS A BLESSED COUNTRY
WITH MINERAL RESOURCES

SONG THREE- HAPPY HAPPY

HAPPY HAPPY
VERY HAPPY
SO HAPPY
AND HAPPY HAPPY WE ARE
TO BE NIGERIAN KIDS
HAPPY HAPPY WE ARE
TO BE NIGERIAN CHILDREN

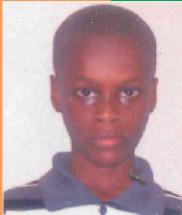
MY MAME'S FATIMA
I AM YINKA
I'M EJIRO
I'M ADAOBI
AND HAPPY HAPPY WE ARE
TO BE NIGERIAN KIDS
HAPPY HAPPY WE ARE
TO BE NIGERIAN CHILDREN

GONSEREC IS OUR CLUB
OUR CLUB IS GONSEREC
WE LOVE TO READ AND WRITE AND SING
OUR SONGS OF JOY

GONSEREC WILL SHAPE US RIGHT
TO BE GREAT FOR TOMORROW
FOR WE TRULLY ARE DETERMINED
TO RULE OUR LAND

COME AND JOIN US
COME AND JOIN US NOW
TO READ WRITE AND SING
SO THAT YOU WILL JOIN
TO RULE OUR LAND

CONTRIBUTORS



Abdulrasheed
Adeogun



Ahmed
Shobowale



Joy Agha



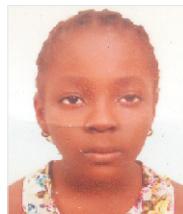
Nsikak Ben



Nnenna Uwakwe



Ayomide Osho



Frances Ngwaba



Mirabel Yakubu



Kingsley Ogbonna



Mariam Hussein



Precious Oguine



Favour Adoga



Hajara Baballe



Ifeoluwa Popoola
Gonserc Captain



A Cross Section of Gonserc Members

ISBN: 978-978-935-616-4



9 789789 356164 >