



ADLER Entrepreneurship Awards 2009

5th December 2009

African Development success in Europe!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We did it again! The African Youth Foundation (AYF) and partners promised and have delivered once again, a thriving awards event.

On behalf of the AYF, let me extend my sincerest gratitude to all those who were able to attend the AYF ADLER Entrepreneurship Awards event, which was held on **5th December 2009** at the Bristol Hotel in Bonn, Germany. The event was another success story and our objective to prove to the youth and Africans in both the Diaspora and on the continent, that we acknowledge their efforts was assenting.

The first and only one of its kind to be held on behalf of Africans in Germany and partly Europe, the awards is meant to motivate and acknowledge contributions of African Diasporas, who show the greatest promise of contribution to human well-being, through the creation and application of their activities, intellect, and knowledge.

Honoured as usual with dignitaries gracing the occasion were:

- ❖ **Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw**, *Chairman of the Senate of the Committee on Water Resources, and President of the Parliamentarians for Global Action PGA;*
- ❖ **Mr. Carl Windell**, *Youth Minister, European Union Youth Council; Brussels*
- ❖ **Chief Kajetan Akalite**, *Eze Udo I of Köln;*
- ❖ **Chief Cassidy Osuji**, *Babalaje I of Ekiteland, Nigeria*
- ❖ **Mrs. Frieda Guiso**, *1st Secretary, Embassy of Namibia, Germany;* and
- ❖ **Mr. Patrick Okoye**, *Embassy of Nigeria, Germany.*

Many were also there to witness, support and applaud the few who have contributed to the uplifting of the African image in Europe. In a nutshell, the crème de la crème of African Diasporas participated in this memorable event again.

From a judicious selection from the Jury, winners for the different categories were:

- ◆ **Authors: Mr. André Ekama** (www.andre-ekama.de)
- ◆ **Civil Society/NGOs: Fahamu Ltd** (www.fahamu.org)

Media:

- ◆ News and Politics:
 - **Re Connect Africa:** www.ReConnectAfrica.com

Special Award Winners:

- ◆ **Diaspora Excellenz Award**
Chief Cassidy Osuji
Director of Operations, Casstel Technology GmbH & Co. Kg, Germany: www.casstel.de / www.q-telecom.de

- ◆ **Science and Research:**
 - **Dr. Akinyoade Akinyinka**
Pieter de la Courtgebouw / Faculty of Social Sciences: www.ascleiden.nl

- ◆ **Best Supporter of African Youth Affairs:**
 - **Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw**
Chairman of the Senate of the Committee on Water Resources, and President of the Parliamentarians for Global Action PGA;

There were no awards for categories:

- ◆ **Business and Entrepreneurs:**
- ◆ **Best African Embassy in Germany; and**
- ◆ **Best African Ambassador.**

The jury could unfortunately not select a winner for any of these above mentioned categories, as the criterion laid out for the selection, couldn't be fulfilled this year. We see this as a challenge for improvement, and look forward for enhanced results in the next awards in these series.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as Africans, and especially Africans in Germany and in the Diaspora, we have come a long way to accept and identify ourselves as talented, dependable and steadfast citizens of the world. It took us time to acknowledge our ***OWN***, but it was never too late. The foundation is now well constructed and the solid domicile is gradually being built on it. Nothing is really **IMPOSSIBLE!**

The positive images of our dear continent Africa is the responsibility of all of us. It may be true that Africans don't migrate to the West with boxes full of money to invest in the Western countries, but the intellect, skills and human resources, especially the cheap labour, which Africans contribute to their host countries, exceeds the development aid donated to African countries, a hundred fold. A special kind of resource that no amount of money can buy. The success and acknowledgement of this initiative depends on us all.

The coordinating team of the African Youth Foundation and the JANERO Consultancy GmbH, are very grateful for this attendance and look forward to meeting all interested participants again in December 2010 in Germany.

Further information and winners pictures will be available on our website soon at: <http://www.ayf-adler.de/ki/>

Stay tuned!

With warm regards

Paulyn Jansen
Executive Director

14th December 2009
