

2nd African RCE Youth Virtual Conference

Date: 13th September, 2017 Time: 10:00am (Nigeria Time)
Venue: Minna Virtual Conference Room for UNU RCEs

Theme:
The Role Of Youths In Achieving Good Governance,
Leadership And Sustainable Development On The Continent

Organised By RCE Minna, Nigeria In Collaboration With RCE Grand Rapids Michigan, USA

RCE MINNA PRESENTATION



2nd AFRICAN RCE YOUTH VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Theme:

The Role of Youths in Achieving Good Governance, Leadership and Sustainable Development on the Continent.

By

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13th September, 2017

A BRIEF HISTORY OF NIGERIA



MAP OF NIGERIA

Nigeria, with an estimated population of 186,000,000 is the largest black nation in the world.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria, as it is officially known, covers an area of 356,669 square miles on the coast of West Africa.

Its borders are contiguous with the Federal Republic of Cameroon to the east, Niger Republic to the north and Benin Republic to the west. In the northeast.

Nigeria a Capitalist Democracy and is divided administratively into thirty-six states and the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja.

Nigeria's diversity is seen in the presence of an estimated 250 Ethnic Groups speaking over four hundred languages and dialects (Encyclopedia Britannica).

Christians and Muslims comprise more than 80 percent of the population while the rest are identified with indigenous religions. However, Nigeria's greatest diversity is in its people.



Note: Nigeria's greatest diversification is not in its rich agricultural produce but its people, who are of diverse ethnicity and cultural background.



HEAD OF STATES AND HEADS OF GOVERNMENT SINCE INDEPEDENCE

Note: From Nigeria's independence from Britain in 1st October, 1960 to date, Nigeria has had 15 Heads of States and Presidents.



Alh. Abubakar T. Balewa
Prime Minister 1st Oct. 1960 – 15th Jan. 1966.



Major General Aguiyi-Ironsi, Head of State, 16th Jan. 1966 – 29th July, 1966



General Yakubu Gowon
Head of State, 29th July 1966 – 29th July 1975.



General Murtala Mohammed, Head of State, 29th July, 1975 – 13th Feb. 1976.



General Olusegun Obasanjo, Head of State, 13th Feb. 1976 – 1st Oct. 1979.



Alh. Shehu Shagari,
President, 1st Oct. 1979 – 31st Dec. 1983.



General Muhammadu Buhari, Head of State, 31st Dec. 1983 – 27th Aug. 1985.



Major General Ibrahim Babangida, Head of State, 27th Aug. 1985 – 26th Aug. 1993.



**Chief Ernest Shonekan,
Interim President, 26th
Aug. 1993 – 17 Nov. 1993.**



**General Sanni Abacha,
Head of State, 17th Nov.
1993 – 8th June, 1998.**



**General Abdulsalami
Abubakar, Head of State,
8th June, 1998 – 29th May,
1999.**



**Chief Olusegun Obasanjo,
President, 29th May, 1999
– 29th May, 2007.**



**Alh. Umaru Yar'adua,
President, 29th May, 1999
– 29th May, 2007.**



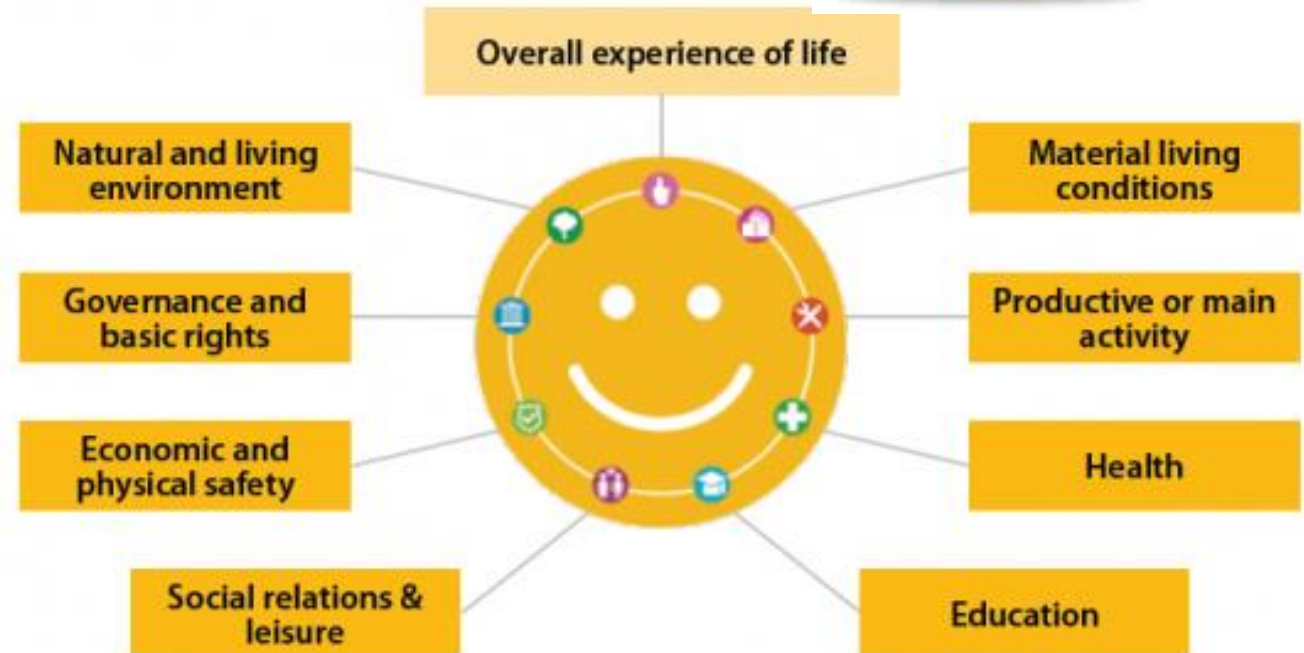
**Dr. Goodluck Jonathan,
President, 6th May, 2010 –
29th May, 2015.**



**Muhammadu Buhari,
President, 29th May, 2015
– Date.**

Good Governance, Leadership and Sustainable Development in Nigeria

- The ultimate desire of human beings, wherever they find themselves particularly in their home country, is to enjoy certain level of good and quality life. As a result, all nations aspire to achieve or attain the goals of rapid economic transformation and sustainable development through good leadership and governance that would ensure that their citizens enjoy better conditions of living in their various communities.



THE CHALLENGES IN NIGERIA

The present deteriorating trend in Nigeria began from the military to democratic dispensation, which has now led to:



1. Depressed Economy



2. High Poverty rate



3. High Unemployment rate



4. Endemic Corruption



5. Infrastructural decay



5. Lack of government accountability and transparency

It is just so sad that Fifty years on regardless of our vast wealth, abundant natural resources, talents and human capacity (at home and abroad) with which Nigeria endowed , Nigeria continues to struggle with the most basic needs (food, shelter, good portable water and sanitation, electricity, and roads among others)

Aside these problems, Nigeria is bedeviled with leadership crisis and good governance that can be attributed to endemic corruption, social injustice and political instability.

Essentially, the task of any society is to reconstruct and revitalize itself, build its own capabilities and educate, organize and mobilize the citizens with the view to ensuring that democratic space is expanded; democratic culture is deepened, and democracy itself is consolidated and made to become sustainable and irreversible.

THE ROLE BEING PLAYED BY NIGERIA YOUTH TODAY

Today the Nigeria Youth have learnt to “walk the talk” rather than apportion blame to its past and present leaders on the woes in the country.

Four Nigerians were amongst Forbes 30 most promising Young Entrepreneurs in Africa 2016:

- **Olatorera Oniru, 29, is the founder and CEO of the Electronic Commerce website Dressmeoutlet.com of fashion products, health & beauty products and home-goods. Dress me outlet stocks more than 1,000 products from premium designers globally.**
- **Abiola Olaniran, 28, is one of Nigeria's highest paid Windows Game developers. He is a software developer and founder/CEO of Nigerian gaming company Gamsole.**
- **Ogunlana Olumide and Chukwuwezam Obanor, both 24, are the founders of Prepclass - a Nigerian academic solutions provider offering online test prep software and full-length tests.**
- **Kasope Ladipo-Ajai, 29, is a co-founder of OmoAlata - a Nigerian brand that processes and packages local Nigerian spices and peppers.**

THE ROLE OF RCE MINNA IN CAPACITY BUILDING

- RCE Minna has developed a financial literacy framework to help promote small and medium scale businesses which will invariably reduce youths unemployment.



Farming



Fish farming

- We are in serious partnership with the Niger State Science and Technical schools Board to promote technical vocational education (TVET) for youths across secondary schools and those outside the four walls of class room.



Beads Making



Poultry

RECOMMENDED SUSTAINABLE ENTREPRENEURIAL SCHEME



We strongly recommend agriculture as a sustainable entrepreneurial scheme for youths in our region. This is so because agriculture is wide enough to accommodate more youths across the thirty six states of the Nigerian federation, and agriculture has far more reaching impact on youths as well as on the Nigeria economy.

LIFELONG LEARNING



Currently, there is no established policy on lifelong learning, but RCE Minna through its activities is already engaging youths on the concept, through social inclusion, active citizenship, personal development, self-sustainability, as well as competitiveness and employability. We are already talking seriously with the Niger state Government, well meaning individuals and non-governmental organisations to partner with us and promote lifelong learning in our region

RECOMMENDATION

- Government should take Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET), Entrepreneurial and Lifelong Learning seriously.
- Banks should grant loans with lower interest rate than what is presently obtainable.
- RCE youths across all RCE regions must join hands with government and relevant partners to encourage the major thrust of the ESD and SDGS to make GAP a reality.
- And above all, Youths must be committed towards providing specific, realistic and attainable solutions towards the sustainable growth and development of their communities.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

