

**BEING TEXT OF PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION SPEECH BY NATIONAL PRESIDENT, ST. CHARLES GRAMMAR SCHOOL OSOGBO, OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION, CHARLEAN TAYO OREKOYA AT THE INAUGURATION OF STANDING COMMITTEES, 10 APRIL, 2010, AIRPORT HOTEL, IKEJA, LAGOS**

**“Towards a giant Leap into the Golden Years.....”**

**Protocols**

It gives me a great pleasure to have you distinguished Charleans here with us on this auspicious occasion of inauguration of the National Presidential Standing Committees of our dear Association. Please permit me to once again appreciate all Charleans for the confidence reposed in me and members of the newly elected National Executive Council of our dear Association.

You will please recall that upon investiture as President, I did articulate the approach our administration would adopt towards taking our dear Association to the next level and indeed taking a giant leap into the golden years, as the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Executive Council. The institution, inauguration and commencement of work by the Standing Committees being inaugurated today is at the bedrock of our actualising our vision.

We are determined to return our dear old school to its days of glory and beyond, through the provision, development and maintenance of school infrastructure; promotion of academic excellence with return of the school to the Catholic Mission; reintroduction of Boarding House System to achieve the desired level of discipline, generation of sizeable funding towards implementing our laudable programmes, as well as enhancement of bonding and networking among Charleans both across the nation and Charleans in the diaspora.

Towards the achievement of the above, the Committees being inaugurated today are as follows:

- Infrastructure Development & Capital Projects
- Infrastructure Monitoring & Control
- Boarding System Introduction
- Academic Excellence/ School Return to Mission
- Finance & Fund Raising
- Networking/ Collaboration

I wish to place on record that the General Guidelines to pilot operations of all Committees as well as Terms of Reference guiding each of the Committees were carefully considered and ratified by the National Executive Council of the Association. We would therefore request full adoption and compliance with their provisions by all Committees and their members.

At this juncture, it is expedient to share with you updates on initiatives taken by the Executive Council since our election into office, as well as other relevant issues of attention.

**Vision & Mission**

As indicated during our investiture, the Executive Council has approved commencement of re-defining and articulating the Vision and Mission of the Association, drawing from the previous “Mission” as stated on the Charleans website. This will be posted to the [charleansoba@yahoogroups.com](mailto:charleansoba@yahoogroups.com) latest by April 15, 2010 for contributions and subsequently final adoption by the Executive Council.

### **Association's New Trustees & Formal Registration**

In view of the need to replace two (2) formerly designated Trustees now deceased, Past Presidents Late Adewale Adejumo and Late Rasheed Ajani, Council approved the appointment of immediate Past President Charlean Tunji Adepeju and Charlean Rupert Olaitan Samuel as Trustees of the Association, in replacement. This has also culminated in our commencement of the formal registration process of the Association with the Corporate Affairs Commission.

### **Annual Subscription To National Body**

As mandated at the last convention, the Executive Council has considered and approved the sum of Five Thousand Naira (N5,000.00) as Annual Subscription payable by each Charlean to the National Body, effective year 2010. Charleans in the diaspora are to pay the equivalent of Thirty Five Dollars (\$35) or Twenty Pounds (£20) as applicable. Payments either directly or through the stanzas and branches should be to the Associations National Bank Account. Details of the account will be circulated through the stanzas, Branches and the internet.

### **Expanded National Exco Meetings**

To enhance the attainment of goal congruency and effective communication, Council has approved that Expanded National Exco meetings be held quarterly or as may be expedient. The membership of this enlarged body shall include (i) State/Chapter Chairmen and Secretaries; (ii) Stanza Presidents and Secretaries; (iii) Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and Secretaries of Presidential Standing Committees, along with National Executive Council members.

### **Engagement of Administrative Secretary**

Council has ratified the employment of a full time Administrative Secretary with his office in the school premises, to provide logistic and interface support between the Association, the school and other stakeholders. The job description of the Administrative Secretary has been finalised and process for engagement will be commenced soon.

### **National Exco Approved Priority Projects**

Without prejudice to the Committees being inaugurated today, the National Executive Council has identified five programmes of priority that we would run with, to be driven by the relevant Committees immediately. The priority programmes are the following:

- (i) **Asphaltic tarring of the main entrance road to the school.** I must at this juncture place on record that this project, designed to change the topography of our dear school at a cost of Five Million Naira (N5m) is being solely financed by Charlean Bashorun Rotimi Obeisun. May I request that we give a standing ovation to this outstanding Charlean of no mean repute. May I take this opportunity to inform you all that the date for the formal Flag Off ceremony of this Road Project will be communicated soon. It would be appreciated that we all make it a date to support this laudable programme take-off. The road asphaltting is expected to span 5 weeks duration.

- (ii) **Boarding House Construction.** The Exco has approved that a building to house the pilot phase of re-introduction of Boarding facilities in our dear school is a priority. To this end we have mandated that the design of the new accommodation structure for the Boarding System be commenced by identified Charlean Architects.
- (iii) **Library & New Staff Offices.** Council has approved that the initially planned Alumni Hall be converted to a Library and New Staff Offices. The completion of construction of this building commenced by the last administration is therefore a priority.
- (iv) **Befitting Alumni Hall.** It was resolved that a modern, architecturally befitting Alumni Hall that would be utilised as a multi-purpose Hall for revenue generation to the Association be constructed on a new land space within the school compound. This Hall, to be used for Association meetings, National Conventions, would also have the National Exco Chambers and also host the Charleans Hall of Fame to be instituted.
- (v) **Infrastructural Development Fundraising Luncheon.** Towards achieving the above projects, with the exception of the asphaltic road tarring, the National Executive Council resolved that it is expedient to have an Infrastructural Development Fund raising event tagged "Luncheon with the President". This programme, expected to hold preferably in June 2010 or thereabout, is highly central to the smooth take –off of the priority projects of our administration.

As such, the support of each and every one of us is required to make it a huge success, far beyond the level of success achieved at the last Reunion & Fund raising Luncheon. It would be the responsibility of the Finance & Fund raising Committee to drive this initiative successfully, but the Committee needs the support of everyone. It is gratifying to note that we already have the buy-in and assurances of the Committee Chairman and Deputy Chairman-designate to give this programme their best shots to achieve a resounding success.

**Diaspora Convention & 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations.** As we all may be aware, Charleans in the diaspora 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations and Convention holds from 6 to 8 August, 2010 in Dallas, USA. It is the desire of the National Exco that as many Charleans that are willing and able to participate should be at this great event. To this end, we have engaged the coordinators of the Convention; requested and obtained assurances that a formal letter of request has been forwarded to the US Embassy, Lagos & Abuja to grant Visas to interested Charleans for this programme. In due course, we would request interested Charleans to indicate, to enable us make group visa applications.

Also, we have engaged Charleans in the Aviation industry to negotiate with 3 International Airlines namely Delta, KLM and Qatar Airlines for Group concessionary discounted flights to Dallas for this purpose. As soon as these are finalised, we shall notify fellow Charleans.

Additionally, interested Charleans are enjoined to make their room reservations at Radisson Hotel, Irving, Dallas at a specially discounted rate of \$89 per night as arranged by Charleans in Diaspora. This special offer ends in June. Very importantly, please be assured that the national Exco, in collaboration with Charleans in the diaspora will do all possible to make interested Charleans have a wonderful time at this event. We encourage you to plan to be a part of it, as much as practicable.

## **Charleans On-line Connections**

As some of us would have observed, two new charleans interaction platform have been put in place on the internet to replace the earlier one now moribund. The addresses of the 2 platforms are [charleansoba@yahoogroups.com](mailto:charleansoba@yahoogroups.com) and [charleans.ning.com](http://charleans.ning.com) All of us are enjoined to register with theses two platforms for regular on-line access to information and interaction with fellow Charleans. Also, we are all enjoined to visit our website- [www.charleans.org](http://www.charleans.org) from time to time.

Distinguished Charleans, having shared the above with you, I am sure you agree with me that there is so much to do, particularly from the view point that the initiatives discussed are just a few immediate action points. Committees to be inaugurated today are not only to drive these programmes but articulate other programmes with timelines for approval of the National Exco and subsequent Committee implementation.

As a part of today's inauguration programme, each Committee would be expected to hold its inaugural Committee meeting sessions for about one hour or thereabout. The purpose of the inaugural meetings is to get each Committee hit the ground running. Each Committee is expected to appoint its Secretary at today's inaugural meeting, agree modalities for subsequent meetings; including regularity, date, time and venue. Bearing in mind that the next joint / individual Committee meeting for reporting back to this larger house is scheduled for 22 May 2010 at the school in Osogbo, it is our expectation that each Committee should have had a minimum of two(2) to three (3) meetings between now and then, or as may be expedient.

Suffice to state that the Programme of event for this inauguration ceremony has been deliberately classified and printed as a Commemorative Brochure. This is with a view to its serving as Reference Material for each and every Committee member, as it contains for record and reference purposes, the Committee General Guidelines, Terms of Reference, Committee Memberships and Telephone contacts. It is believed that we would all find this quite useful.

On behalf of the National Executive Council, I wish to thank you all for accepting to serve in the capacities to which you have been nominated. Surely a lot of sacrifice would be required of us all, I am assured however, that with determination, zeal and resilience for which Charleans are known, together we would give all required to take this giant leap into our dear old school's Golden Years.

To the glory of God and the benefit of our dear alma mater, St. Charles Grammar School Osogbo and our dear Charleans Old Boys Association, it is therefore a great honour and privilege for me to inaugurate the Presidential Standing Committees of our dear Association.

I thank you very much for your kind attention.

Charleans! Humilitas!

**Tayo Orekoya,**

***National President***