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| REPORT OF THE UNVEILING OF THE RUFUS EBEGBA CENTRE FOR LEADERSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY / BOOK PRESENTATION |
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8/30/2022

**1.0 Preamble**

The Rufus Ebegba Centre For Leadership and Environmental Sustainability (REC) was officially unveiled on August 30, 2022.

The event started at 11.00am with red carpet appearances. It was graced by several dignitaries, notable among who were – the Honourable Minister of Environment (represented by Alhaji Abdullahi Attah), the Emir of Nasarawa / Fmr. Minister of Environment, Alhaji Ibrahim Usman Jibril, who served as the Special Guest of Honour. Others include Rep. of the Deputy Senate President, Hon. Peter Akpatason, former Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Former Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Environment, Mrs. Odusote; D.G, NESREA, D.G, NASC, D.G. NOSDRA, D.G. NABDA, Prof. Anyaegbu (Book Reviewer), Prof. Jawa Jetta (Chief of Jikwoyi) Chief Solomon Edoja, Dr. Dennis Ekumankama (Fmr. Ag. Registrar, CAC), among others.

**2.0 Attendance**

Over three hundred (300) guests comprised of prominent personalities from virtually all sectors of the country graced the event. Also, numerous orgaisations such as the University of Abuja, Federal University of Petroleum Resources (FUPRE), National Biosafety Management Agency (NBMA), Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Knight of St. John, La Vogue British International School, Okocha Motors, SECAOSA, NIAS, OZ Realtors, Environmental Health Officers Registration Council olf Nigeria (EHORECON), Rotary Club, Raw Materials Research and Development Council (RMRDC), the Nigerian Police Force (NPF), National Biotechnology Development Agency (NABDA), National Environmental Standards Regulatory and Enforcement Agency (NESREA), AIICO Insurance, Veritas University, Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA), Nigeria Agricultural Seed Council (NASC), amongst several others were ably represented by their members and staff. Members of press /media also had an overwhelming presence.

**3.0 Welcome Remarks by the Dr. Rufus Ebegba, DG/CEO, NBMA / Founder, REC**

* He recognized dignitaries and guests, particularly, the presence of the Emir of Nasarawa, Alhaji Ibrahim Usman Jibril for graciously recommending him for his second tenure as DG of NBMA. He also specially recognized the Honouarble Minister of Environment; Mrs. Odusote for her supportive roles to the Agency while in office as Permanent Secretary; all Chief Executives present, as well as the unveiler, Chief Akpatason.
* He also thanked the Book reviewer, Prof. Anyaegbu, as well as Mrs. Immaculata Ebegba, his wife for all her support.
* Dr. Ebegba informed that his ideology for founding the Centre was based on a Developmental Drive and Strategies Solution Approach that was geared towards people, justice, peace, security, united and prosperous citizens. He further stated that the Centre was established to foster ideal leadership in all spheres of human endeavor for a just world, strong and prosperous economy, freedom, and liberty for all with a sustainable environment. He also assured that the Rufus Ebegba Centre for Leadership and Environmental Sustainability would promote ideal leadership that would further promote love for citizens, as well as ensure a happy, prosperous, and just world ; a better life for people without poverty under a sustainable environment.
* He stressed the importance of sustained biodiversity, without which all human, animals and the environment would suffer, he stated.
* Nigerians had a commitment towards the country to sustain the environment, and the centre had come up with the book to pass the message of the centre’s developmental drives to the Nigerian public, he concluded.

2.1 Other Remarks

* **Representative of the Honourable Minister of Environment**
* He commended the initiative
* He explained the Honourable Minister’s absence, and urged guests to support the initiative.
* **Representative of the Deputy Senate President, Senator Ovie Omo-Agege**
* There was need for accelerated development, and any book or effort focused on driving the development was a welcome development.
* The development of any country thrives on the combined efforts of the government, private sector and the Civil Society Organisations.
* For Nigeria to develop, emphasis must be placed on Civil Society as they are the only sector that takes care of sensitive issues such as gender inequality and others.
* Nigerians should not leave the leadership of the country in the hands of a few.
* He congratulated the Dr. Ebegba on the milestone.
* **Leader of the Committed Minds Initiative**
* He commended the efforts of the Founder in human capital development, and his investments in the Committed Minds Initiative, which has been established in almost all the geopolitical zones of the country.
* Informed that Dr. Ebegba’s name had become a household name across the country in a positive light.
* He further prayed for the success of the Centre, and asked God to bless him with higher positions and opportunities, which he was convinced would benefit many Nigerians.
* **Director-General, NABDA (On behalf of other Chief Executives)**
* Commended the effort of the Dr. Ebegba in setting up the Centre
* The effort was worthy of emulation, and if others could tow the same lane, the country would move forward
* Congratulated the Dr. Ebegba, and stated that by writing a book and setting up a Centre, he was leaving a legacy which so many people would benefit from.
* **HRH, the Emir of Nasarawa, Alhaji Ibrahim Usman Jubril**
* Thanked the Founder for his thoughtfulness
* Expressed joy that Dr. Ebegba put hand to paper, like he advised, so that others could learn from his experience.
* Informed that environment issues cut across the entire nation and had monumental consequences on the economic source of the nation.
* Nigerians should not ignore not ignore those environmental issues which are extreme, and particularly as they affect climate change.
* The REC should be able to develop, research and publish on those issues to enable the youth know about the issues.
* He hoped that the efforts put into the centre would continue to grow and benefit the nation.
* He urged everyone to come together to fight those environmental issues so as not to perish.’

**3.0 Display of The Centre’s Activities and Website**

There was a virtual display of the proposed activities of the Centre and the website.

**4.0 Book Review by Prof. P.O. Anyaegbu**

Prof. Anyaegbu gave a breakdown of the book, the essence and importance of the book. He dissected the entire publication, and brought to the fore, what an average reader stood to benefit and how it could help affect the psyche of the average reader towards positive national development. Concluding, Prof. Anyaegbu called on guests that graced the occasion to endeavor to get copies of the book for themselves and loved ones.

**5.0 Unveiling of the REC and the Book Launch**

The Rufus Ebegba Centre for Leadership and Environmental Sustainability (REC) was officially unveiled by Hon. Peter Ohio Akpatason, as the Chief Unveiler, amongst other Unveilers. There was also the official launch of the book.

**6. Vote of Thanks by Mrs. Immaculata Ebegba**

Mrs. Ebegba took time to express her family’s appreciation to all dignitaries and guests for honouring their invitation to the unveiling ceremony. She specially thanked the Emir of Nasarawa for taking time out of his busy royal duties to grace the event. She further expressed appreciation to the Chief of Jikwoyi, the Parish Priest of the Catholic Diocese of Maitama, representative of the Honourable Minister of Environment, representative of the Deputy Senate President, Hon. P.O. Akpatason, and a host of others.

***Photo Gallery***

 

 

 