



REMARKS

BY

**DR DALHATU SARKI TAFIDA, OFR
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED KINGDOM**

**ON THE OCCASION FOR
RECOGNISING MR KACHI A OZUMBA AS THE 2009 AFRICAN
REGIONAL WINNER OF THE COMMONWEALTH SHORT STORY PRIZE
AND ENGLAND'S ARTS COUNCIL DECIBEL PENGUIN SHORT STORY
PRIZE FOR 2006,**

**NIGERIA HIGH COMMISSION,
LONDON, THURSDAY, 11TH MARCH 2010**

Protocol,

It always gladdens my heart to celebrate the achievements of our fellow country men and women each time such an occasion presents itself.

Today, we are gathered to recognise and celebrate one of Nigeria's illustrious sons in this country by the name **Kachi OZUMBA** who is the African regional winner of the 2009 Commonwealth Short Story Prize.

Besides Kachi, I understand three other Nigerians were highly commended for their entries in the competition in which some 400 entries were made from member states of the Commonwealth.

Only a few weeks ago, there were media reports on Paula and Peter IMAFIDON in London. These Nigerian twins reportedly passed 'A' level mathematics examination at the age of seven. Now at age nine, they have just been admitted to Secondary School, making them the youngest children in this country to proceed to High School. I understand one of the twins; Peter aspires to be the Prime Minister of Britain, while the sister would like to become a Mathematics teacher. This is a great source of inspiration to young Nigerians in this country. I commend these twins as I congratulate their parents on these remarkable academic achievements.

All these are a reminder of the sheer ingenuity, creativity and huge potentials that abound in our country. Nigerians from all walks of life continue to make outstanding contributions to their host societies, thereby enhancing the image of our country abroad. This is why I am very pleased to welcome you to this event and to ask you to join me in not only welcoming Kachi to our midst but in celebrating the remarkable achievements he has recorded in the literary field.

May I seize this opportunity to appeal to Nigerian youths in this country to emulate the shining example of Kachi and the likes of him who continue to bring honour and glory to Nigeria through their hard work and quest for excellence. Rather than joining gangs of knife and other criminals, I urge Nigerian youths in this country to remain focussed on their studies. They should seek excellence and outstanding performance in all they do and to continue to demonstrate their faith in Nigeria of our collective aspirations where peace, stability, progress and prosperity would reign.

With these few remarks, it is my singular honour to present to you, Kachi OZUMBA, a Certificate as a symbol of recognition of your outstanding literary achievements by the Nigeria High Commission.

I thank you for your attention.