



ANGLO-NIGERIAN WELFARE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

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OUR MISSION: To help the blind to achieve daily independence and good life while working with concerned stakeholders to ensure full inclusion of the blind into the society.

ANWAB LAUNCHES CHESS CLUB FOR THE BLIND



Blind chess players in action during the launch of ANWAB Chess Club for the Blind march 12 at National Stadium Lagos.

The ANWAB Chess Club for the Blind was formally launched on Saturday 12th March, 2011 at the Media Centre of the National Stadium, Surulere, Lagos.

Mrs. M. B. Daodu, Deputy Director of Special Education represented the Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development, Iyom Josephine Anenih and read the Minister's address to launch the Club. Other government top shots in attendance were Mrs. Bidemi Ganiyu-Opolo, Secretary of the Nigerian Chess Federation representing the NCF Chairman; Prof. Abisogun Leigh Olubode, Chairman, Lagos State Chess Association; and Mr. Ikong Etinmo from the National Sports Commission. Mr. Ogie Eboigbe, ANWAB Chairman, provided direction for the day, Barr. Danlami Basharu, ANWAB Director and Mr. David Okon, NAB President supporting.

Others in attendance were Chess buffs, students from Pacelli School for the Blind and Partially Sighted as well as representatives from Nigerwives Braille Centre and staff of ANWAB. The Nigerian Television Authority, Lagos State Television, Radio Nigeria, Voice of Nigeria, City FM as well as Business Day, Time Magazine and Daily Independent Newspaper covered the event and they all wrote nice reports and articles. Financially, it wasn't quite successful, as only N350,000 was raised, out of the target of N5 million needed to send Chess instructors to teach blind persons around Nigeria how to play the beautiful indoor recreational game which has become quite popular with the blind.

The Chairman of ANWAB welcomed everyone to the event, followed closely by Prof. Abisogun Leigh who expressed pleasure at the launching of such a club and promised to support it whenever called upon to do so. The Secretary of the NCF also presented a speech on behalf of the Chairman, expressing the NCF's desire to work with the ANWAB Chess Club. Mrs. Daodu who presented the speech of the Hon. Minister expressed support for the formation of the club and

OUR VISION: To be a leading provider of technology and educational facilities that create independence for the blind.

the desire of the Ministry to encourage such sport for the blind throughout the country.

There was a demonstration of the chess game by three pairs of contestants made up of Mr. Cajetan Duru, Mr. Sunday Badejo, Mr. Joseph Okon, Mr. Ope Akinola, Mr. Victor Oteri, Mr. Taofeek Mustapha.

A donation of N120,000.00 was made by Prof. Abisogun Leigh while Mr. Victor Ogiemwonyi of Partnership Investment gave N150,000.00. Blind music producer Cobhams Asuquo and GT Bank had earlier given ANWAB cash donations to organize the event.

ANWAB UNDERTAKES BRAILLE PRODUCTION TRAINING FOR KEBBI SCHOOL FOR THE HANDICAPPED



Mr. Dantani Wakili



Mr. Abubakar Yahaya

Two staff of the Kebbi School for the Handicapped, Birnin Kebbi were in Lagos as trainees of ANWAB from 30th May to 10th June, 2011, to be trained in the use of computer appreciation, embosser operation and other production techniques. They are Messrs Dantani Wakili and Abubakar Yahaya. During the training period, they were also taken through different Braille production methods.

DONATIONS TO ANWAB

**Prof. Abisogun Leigh donated a cheque of N120,000.00 towards the launching of the ANWAB Chess Club for the Blind.

**Mr. Victor Ogiemwonyi also donated a cheque for the sum of N150,000.00 for the Chess Club.

**Prof. Mrs. Aboiyade donated of N50,000.00 to the centre.

**Two Anonymous donations of N 500,000.00 and N5,000.00 to the Centre's upkeep.

EVENTS ATTENDED BY ANWAB

**The Director and some members of staff attended the service of songs for Ms Genevieve Onyiuke at the MUSON Centre, Lagos. Ms. Onyiuke was ANWAB's lawyer.

**ANWAB staff and management were also present at the burial service for Mr. Olutayo Aderinokun, late Managing Director of Guaranty Trust Bank, ANWAB's major bank.

TIME MAGAZINE ARTICLE ON ANWAB CHESS CLUB LAUNCH

TIME

Lagos, Nigeria: Blind in Africa's Mega-City

Posted by **ALEX PERRY**

Monday, March 14, 2011 at 9:23 am



Imagine being blind in Lagos. It is Africa's megacity, an endless, dirty, malarial metropolis of somewhere between 10 and 17.5 million people no one seems quite sure a figure

predicted to reach 25 million by 2015 and 35 million by 2025. It's a place of constant gridlock and giant holes in the sidewalks. It is a nightmare to navigate at the best of times: if you have meetings at opposite ends of the city in one day, travelling is everything else you're doing that day. It's a city that requires all your senses from the moment you step outside your front door. So imagine if you didn't have the most important of them.

I've come to a small, dark office underneath the Nigerian National Stadium in Lagos to try to do that. It's the inaugural meeting of a new chess club started by the Anglo-Nigerian Welfare Association for the Blind (ANWAB). When I arrive, several games are already under way on specially designed boards on which the darker squares are raised, and the darker pieces have been marked with raised dots. It's the latest innovation from ANWAB, which already provides a Braille library, an internet café, computer training and coaching on how to find your way around cookers, radios and buses. ANWAB is founded on the idea is that blindness is an obstacle but not a barrier: among its members are lawyers, business managers and musicians.

Admirable, sure. But I ask Danlami Umaru Basharu, a neat man with a big laugh and a qualified lawyer and founder of the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities, whether it wouldn't have been easier to be blind somewhere else? It would, Basharu admits. In addition to the chaotic traffic, the open gutters and drains and the endless and ever increasing expanse of city to memorize, almost none of the buildings in Lagos have disabled facilities, he says, and the place is always changing. "You have to make a mental map of everywhere and you have to pick landmarks that are permanent a tree's no good, for instance, as that can be chopped down." But Basharu, who was blinded by a bout of measles when he was three and can remember colors but little else, says creating a map in the mind, and thinking through a whole day's movements across the city, is possible. It's one reason why the blind are good at chess - something Nigerians discovered when their own national team was beaten by a blind Ukrainian team some years ago. Moreover, says Basharu, leaving Lagos would be surrendering. "I could live in the country, but people want to live in the city because that's where you can make it. It's your own determination that enables you to move around. The fact that we're blind does not mean we're down and out.

One frequent source of encouragement is the kindness and helpfulness of the people of Lagos, says Basharu. That doesn't go for everyone, however. There are the porters and laborers carrying packages on their heads, who count on others seeing them coming and moving out of their way. "They bump into you and hit you," he says, "and then they ask you to watch where you're going." Worse are Lagos' drivers. "You have to be as careful as possible," he says. "Lagosians are terrible drivers. They're all over the road, and the pavements too." Basharu says he's had half serious thoughts about trying to take his test himself. His disability shouldn't disqualify him, he argues. After all, he roars with laughter, what would be the difference when "80% of Lagos' drivers are already blind"?

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VISITORS TO THE ANWAB CENTRE JAN - JUNE 2011



Mrs. M. G. Yau displaying writing frame & stylus during her visit to ANWAB

Some of the important visitors that came to the centre included: Dr. John A. Jideonwo, a former teacher of the blind at the Pacelli School for the Blind in the 1960's and '70's. Dr. Jideonwo is well-known to the blind community; Barr. Deborah Collins, a great friend of the Association; Mrs. Edith Efiang-Offiong, a journalist from News Agency of Nigeria and Mrs. Margaret Yau from TY Danjuma Foundation, Abuja.

CHALLENGES:

****Staff salaries:** This remains a great challenge. We welcome support from all sources to support the payment of staff salaries and overheads for the Centre which amounts to N500,000.00 per month.

****Diesel for generator:** Due to the erratic supply of Electricity within the Yaba area, the centre relies regularly on the Generator and we spend about N60,000.00 on Diesel each month.

****Upgrading of equipment:** Due to wear and tear, ANWAB desperately desires to upgrade its computers and Braille embossers some of which have been in use for over ten years. ANWAB welcomes your assistance in order to support blind children needing to advance themselves through education and employment.

For further information, kindly contact:

The Chairman, Ogie Eboigbe +234-802-3233151;

ogieeboigbe@yahoo.ca

The Director, Danlami U. Basharu, +234-802-3051705;

duhkb@yahoo.com

Website: www.anwab.org; anwabnigeria@anwab.org

275, Herbert Macaulay Way, Alagomeji, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria.