

# ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN AUTHORS



## ANA NEWSLETTER



A Monthly Newsletter of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA)

June 2025 Edition

### ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN AUTHORS CELEBRATES MEMBERS HONOURED ON DEMOCRACY DAY

**T**he Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) has expressed immense joy and pride in celebrating three of its distinguished members—Professor Wole Soyinka, Odia Ofeimun, and Senator Shehu Sani—who were conferred with national honours during the 2025 Democracy Day celebrations held on June 12. Professor Soyinka

Order of the Niger (CON) awards.

In a statement jointly signed by ANA President, Dr. Usman Oladipo Akanbi, and General Secretary, Dr. Dame Joan Oji, the association congratulated the awardees for these well-earned recognitions and commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, for acknowledging the immense contributions of literary figures to national development. ANA



**Professor Wole Soyinka**



**Odia Ofeimun**



**Senator Shehu Sani**

received the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON), while both Ofeimun and Sani were honoured with the Commander of the

extended its best wishes to all Nigerians as the nation marks 26 years of uninterrupted democracy.

### ANA NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OBSERVES SUCCESSFUL BAYELSA CHAPTER ELECTION

**T**he Bayelsa State Chapter of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) conducted its chapter election on Sunday, June 29, 2025, in the tranquil setting of Domaris Hotel, Sani Abacha Road, Yenagoa. The election was officially observed by Dr. Stephen Kekeghe, who represented the National Executive Council of ANA. Describing the exercise as peaceful, transparent, and well-coordinated, Dr. Kekeghe also expressed delight at reuniting with distinguished poet and scholar, Professor Ebi Yeibo, after several years.

The National Executive Council of ANA expressed appreciation to Engineer Emmanuel Frank-Opigo (ANA Fellow), Barrister Murphy Biriabebe (immediate past Chairman), and Stella Toruemi (National Treasurer) for their warm reception and hospitality during the election process. The Council congratulated the newly elected officers of ANA Bayelsa: Bar. Ebi Robert (Chairman), Mrs. Hannah Onoguwe-Isukul (Vice Chairman), Mr. Opusam C. Ete (Secretary), Mr. Akpo Gbafa (Assistant Secretary), Mr. Richard W. Noble (Treasurer), Mrs. Mercy Toruemi (Financial Secretary), Bar. Murphy Biriabebe (Ex-Officio 1), and Dr. Ebidenyefa Tarila Nikade (Ex-Officio 2).



# **ANA USHERS IN A NEW LITERARY ERA WITH A WORLD-CLASS WRITERS' RESIDENCY FOR AFRICAN AND GLOBAL CREATIVES.**

**By Wole Adedoyin**

**T**he literary landscape in Nigeria has been given a fresh breath of life with the unveiling of the Ken Saro-Wiwa International Writers' Residency, a state-of-the-art sanctuary for writers seeking inspiration, solitude, and creative rebirth. Nestled in the serene and breathtaking Mamma N Vatsa Writers' Village, located along Mpape Road in Abuja, the residency is a major milestone in the development of literary infrastructure in Nigeria.

unflinching commitment to nurturing Nigerian literature. The president of ANA, Dr. Usman Dipo Akanbi, deserves high commendation for his visionary leadership and tireless dedication to the realization of this literary haven. His drive, environmental justice, and the empowerment of the oppressed. As a founding father and former president of ANA, it is fitting that a space designed to inspire creativity and intellectual engagement bears his name.



Writers at the Ken Saro-Wiwa International Residency are welcomed into a world of tranquility, reflection, and creative energy. The facility features private writing spaces, well-furnished bedrooms, comfortable writing desks and chairs, and access to a well-stocked library. This carefully curated environment provides residents with everything they need to concentrate, reflect, and create masterpieces free from distractions.

This long-anticipated facility was launched during the 43rd International Convention of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA), a historic event that signaled the association's energy, and unwavering support for writers across the country have brought to life a dream that had lingered for decades.

The residency is named after Ken Saro-Wiwa, one of the most revered literary icons and human rights activists in Nigeria's history. More than just a writer, Saro-Wiwa was a cultural beacon who dedicated his life to literature, The two-storey building



that houses the residency contains six spacious two-bedroom flats. Each flat boasts a fully equipped kitchen, cozy and air-conditioned rooms, solid beds for comfortable rest, and quiet corners perfect for meditation or uninterrupted writing. The surrounding landscape, with its undulating hills and green valleys, enhances the feeling of isolation and creative immersion that many writers crave.

Beyond its architectural excellence, the residency offers affordable services, making it accessible to writers from all walks of life. There are also provisions for internet access, art supplies, relaxation and meditation spaces, and opportunities for outdoor activities, all of which enrich the overall experience and stimulate the creative mind.

What sets the residency apart is its commitment to community and collaboration. Writers in residence can engage with mentors, network with fellow authors, and participate in community outreach programs, thereby extending their influence beyond the written word. These programs provide a rare platform for cultural exchange and social interaction, which are essential for the growth of any creative.

The supportive staff at the facility ensures that every writer's need is

met, allowing them to fully immerse themselves in their creative projects. From administrative assistance to moral support, the residency operates like a well-oiled machine geared toward one goal: fostering literary excellence.

For young and emerging writers, the residency serves as a crucible for growth and self-discovery. The opportunity to learn from more experienced authors and to access



rich literary resources cannot be underestimated. Many who pass through the residency will leave

not just with new works but also with a renewed sense of purpose and identity as writers.

The launch of the residency also marks a turning point for the global literary community's perception of Nigeria as a hub for artistic development. It signals that Nigeria is not only rich in talent but also in the structures needed to harness and showcase that talent to the world.



As writers begin to take advantage of this unique opportunity, it is hoped that the Ken Saro-Wiwa International Residency will become a pilgrimage site for creatives from across the continent and beyond. It has the potential to generate cross-cultural literary collaborations and to host international workshops, festivals, and conferences.

Writers and lovers of literature are hereby encouraged to patronize the residency for a transformative journey of creative

discovery, cultural exchange, and literary growth. It is a sacred space where stories are born, nurtured, and brought to life in the spirit of one of Nigeria's greatest literary sons.

For enquiries and bookings, interested individuals can contact ANA via [anaauthors@gmail.com](mailto:anaauthors@gmail.com), or call +2347083946697 or +2349016550361. ANA under the capable leadership of Dr. Dipo Usman Akanbi has delivered a gift to the literary world — one that will echo across generations and

continents.

Indeed, with the Ken Saro-Wiwa International Writers' Residency now in full operation, a new dawn has come for Nigerian literature — one where writers no longer dream of a home for creativity but live and write within it.

Wole Adedoyin serves as a member of the Steering Committee for the Ken Saro-Wiwa International Residency.

### **ANA MOURNS MOKWA FLOOD VICTIMS, CALLS FOR URGENT GOVERNMENT ACTION**

**T**he Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) is utterly dismayed by the devastating flooding that has ravaged Mokwa, Niger State, resulting in the tragic loss of over 88 lives. In a statement jointly signed by its President, Dr. Usman Oladipo Akanbi, and Secretary, Dr. Dame Joan Oji, ANA expressed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and the entire Mokwa community affected by the disaster.

ANA likened this tragedy to the recent severe flooding in Maiduguri metropolis, emphasizing the increasing vulnerability of Nigerian towns and cities to climate-induced disasters. As a body of writers and cultural custodians, ANA expressed

deep concern over the human and environmental toll these disasters are having across the country, especially on already fragile communities.

The Association called on federal, state, and local governments to urgently investigate the root causes of the Mokwa flooding, including possible infrastructure failures and climate change impacts. It also urged authorities to initiate long-term infrastructural upgrades in the affected areas to prevent future occurrences. ANA reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the victims and using its platform to promote awareness and advocacy for disaster preparedness and mitigation.





KEN SARO-WIWA  
INT'L WRITERS'  
RESIDENCY



# KEN SARO-WIWA INTERNATIONAL WRITERS' RESIDENCY



## CALL For WRITERS

The Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA)  
announces the maiden edition of the  
Ken Saro-Wiwa Int'l Writers' Residency, 2025.

**RESIDENCY PERIOD**  
AUGUST 30<sup>TH</sup> TO OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

**KEN SARO-WIWA  
INTERNATIONAL WRITERS' RESIDENCY**  
MAMMAN VATSA WRITERS' VILLAGE,  
KM.2, MPAPE RD, ABUJA

### APPLICATION GUIDELINES

- Applicants **MUST** have written & published at least one work, a book or excerpts in a reputable literary platform (print or digital) prior to this application. Make sure to indicate this & the **GENRE** in your Resume (Link, Title, Publisher, Year of publication & ISBN)
- Fiction, Non-fiction, and Literary Criticism applicants **MUST** submit a 500-750-word sample of the work they intend to focus on during their stay at the Residency.
- Poetry Applicants **MUST** submit 5 poems from their work-in-progress.
- Applicants **MUST** submit a 500-word Statement of Purpose, stating why they need the Residency, and describe what they will be working on during the Residency.
- Applicants **MUST** submit proof of their African national identity & evidence of living in the continent at the time of application.
- Applicants **MUST** submit a one-page profile or portfolio indicating their work
- Writers **MUST** commit to completing the 4 WEEKS duration of the Residency. (with 2 additional weeks, **OPTIONAL**)

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- A Comprehensive 2-Page Resume.
- Provide two (2) Referral Letters:
  - (One-Page each) - One from the Chairperson of their ANA Chapter. (If you're an International Applicant, you **MUST** get your Referral Letter from the Secretary-General of Pan African Writers' Association (PAWA), and the other one from a respectable Nigerian, preferably an accomplished creative writer who can attest to your eligibility.
- Submit a brief Sample of the ongoing creative work you want to improve or complete at the Residency (a 2-page/500-750 word sample)

### SERVICES AVAILABLE

- Private writing space
- Access to a quiet, creativity-enhancing environment
- Writing desk and comfortable chair
- Internet access
- Access to a well-stocked library
- Supportive staff and experienced mentors
- Opportunities for collaboration with other writers
- Private bedrooms
- Opportunities for outdoor activities
- Access to art supplies
- Relaxation and meditation spaces
- Opportunities for community engagement
- Support for publication and networking

### EMOLUMENTS

- N15,000/Resident per week for the four(4) weeks.
- Two (2) extra weeks at the Resident's personal expense.
- N100,000 lump sum transportation fare for **LOCAL RESIDENTS** and N200,000 for **INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTS**.

Send your **APPLICATION AS A SINGLE PDF,**  
**AND TITLE OF PDF TO BEAR:**  
**SURNAME, FIRST NAME & GENRE**

### APPLICATION DEADLINE



**July 12th, 2025**  
**12:00 Midnight GMT+1**

**Apply  
Now**

Send your **APPLICATION** to | [anaksarowiwaintlresidency@gmail.com](mailto:anaksarowiwaintlresidency@gmail.com)



## OBA OF LAGOS THROWS WEIGHT BEHIND LAGOS WRITERS' VILLAGE

The SUN Newspaper

**T**he Association of Nigerian Authors took a giant step in establishing a writers' village in Nigeria's commercial capital, Lagos, when a delegation, led by the national president, Dr. Usman Akanbi, and the chairman of the Lagos chapter, Dr. Olatunbosun Taofeek, paid a courtesy visit to the Oba of Lagos, Rilwan Akiolu, at the Iga Idunganran Palace in Lagos Isl

He said he would like the Lagos chapter of the association to have a writers' village in the city, one of the most important cities in the country and Africa. "Writing is the bedrock of the arts in Lagos. It is a bit surprising that a big association like ANA doesn't have a writers' village in Lagos, where writing and culture would flourish. We are looking forward to having such a place in



and recently.

Dr. Akanbi told the Oba that ANA's mandate included but not limited to preserving and promoting Nigerian literary culture and creating a thriving and flourishing ecosystem where writers could flourish. He reminded the king that the association was founded by pioneer Nigerian writers, led by Chinua Achebe, and had continued to serve the interests of Nigerian writers till date.

Lagos. We believe, with your prayer and support, we can get a ground to build a writers' village in Lagos." He promised to partner with the Oba of Lagos to develop a website to document the Lagos royal family as a giveback.

No doubt, the Lagos chairman, Olatunbosun Taofeek, is living his dream. Born in Lagos, Taofeek told the Oba, when he was elected the chairman of the Lagos chapter, he came up with the idea for the Lagos



Writers' Village. He explained that the essence of the visit was to acquaint him as the father of Lagosians of the necessity of having a writers' village in Lagos and seeing how he could use his power to help make it come to fruition."

Taofeek reminded the revered king:

So, if that could be replicated by us in Nigeria, and, precisely, those of us from Western Nigeria, by building the writers' village, it isn't only going to help those of us writing currently in Nigeria but other coming generations and they will see it as a legacy that will help

military regime, which, in Africa today, was the only of its kind. Vatsa, initially, gave 62 hectares to ANA to develop, but it was reduced after the Obasanjo government and land developers appropriated some portions for development.

"I am looking at a



"Shakespeare was one of the products that the English people put together and presented to the world, and, today, he is one of the hard currencies the English people have.

them."

He told him about the Mamman Vatsa Writers' Village in Abuja, bequeathed by Major General Mamman Vatsa during the Ibrahim Babangida

situation where such can be replicated in Lagos," he said, "and since Lagos is a commercial centre, one of the foremost cities in Africa, Lagos should be able to



provide a writers' village where other writers from Oxford, Cambridge and different parts of Africa should come to Africa and patronise, which can only be aided by the palace and the traditional institution, which owns lands in



Lagos and politicians in Lagos. He described Lagos as a major tourist destination in Nigeria.”

He added that the village would also be beneficial to coming generations of scribblers: “Our young writers, even in Lagos, are not getting the expected opportunities that come with having a writers' village. They are more exposed to other artworks. When it comes to writing, it is more difficult, because there is no designated place where they can visit or see other old writers coming to or where they can have conferences and workshops, which the writers' village is going to

do for these writers who are coming and want to take writing as their trade.”

In his response, the Lagos Oba said the suggestion made by ANA would be considered. According to him, “This is the kind of thing the

society and Lagos would look up to. I hope you are coming with a genuine mind in order to pursue this kind of dream, not at the end of the day, you will see people fighting over money. If not the case, this is the kind of dream that is welcome in Lagos. And without anybody giving anything to anybody, the spirit and the power that

makes Lagos prosperous and the foremost city in Nigeria will make this dream come to pass.

“I would advise you to look at the Epe axis in Lagos, because there is still space where this kind of village can be built. Any support I can render as a father, I will do,” he said, stressing that it was a worthy project the Lagos State Government could look into in order to attract foreign writers and tourists. He called on Nigerians to support the Tinubu administration to achieve its goals.



## ANA SIGNS MOU WITH WIKIPEDIA

The SUN Newspaper

**T**he Association of Nigerian Authors has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Wikipedia Nigeria Foundation (Wikimedia) to enhance the visibility of its

would also ensure capacity-building training and workshops to enhance members' skills by Wikipedia, as well as embark on public advocacy campaigns to promote the interests of writers. Ambassador Olusola

ANA, because Wikipedia is a wealth of knowledge written by human beings – AI is written by computers – a knowledge with a human face. It is also the biggest online interface across the globe. It has about 4.4



members and their activities through capacity-building training. A brainchild of the Lagos chapter of the association, Dr Olatunbosun said the partnership would increase the online presence and visibility for ANA members. It

Olaniyan, the manager of Wikimedia Nigeria Foundation, welcomed the idea and vowed to collaborate with writers. “Sincerely speaking, if there is a partnership that ought to have engaged right from when we started, it ought to have been with

billion viewers accessing it on a monthly basis. Having 4.4 billion viewers out of 7.5 billion people in the world, means we need to do our work strategically in a manner we can be at the forefront and not the rear. So this is one of the



beginnings of such.”

He revealed two key challenges faced by Wikipedia to include sourcing good writers and quality information on Wikipedia. “When you have corrupt people and not quality contributors being at the forefront of an idea, it is either it begins to have poor information and fake news. Now that we want to engage authors, who are born writers, that means we are bringing quality contributors to serve as the face of Wikipedia. First, we have to start with capacity development by putting them through how our platform works.

“The second aspect of it, which is also contained in the MOU, is 'writing'. There is nothing you can't read in Wikipedia, except what is not encyclopedic. Wikipedia is not a news tabloid. It is a platform that records the trend of facts. We have to develop different workshops. One of them could be to document all the books

written in Nigeria, at least have an overview of what the books look like. Authors are notable people. We want to document as many notable authors as possible. We are going to teach you what makes an author or an event notable. Last but not least is public advocacy.”

He noted part of the Nigerian copyright laws was inimical to authors. The restriction to the Freedom of Panorama in Nigeria is one of them. If this amendment is real, all authors are in trouble. Restriction to the Freedom of Panorama is saying that, for any copyrighted item in public space, you must take permission from the owner, except you show you can't make money out of it. What this means is, if you take a photo in public space without informing the owner of the property and put it in a book, you have violated the law. How many of our writers are aware of this?

“We need to form an alliance and let the government come down on some of these things. There is also a provision in the copyright law that says, when a copyrighted item is published, you need 70 years after the death of the owner of the work to use it in your book. This needs to be reduced so that you will have good items to use in your books.”

Dr. Akanbi said he was delighted Lagos ANA was championing this noble cause for Nigerian writers, a chapter that was sitting on the fence when he took over as ANA president. He promised to invite the Wikimedia Nigeria Foundation to the ANA convention in Abuja later in the year to sensitise Nigerian writers on Wikipedia's plans for writers. The delegation to both places also had Chimnemezu Nwaeze (Secretary, ANA Lagos) and Dr Tolu Ajayi (former ANA Lagos Chairman) in attendance.



## **ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN AUTHORS CONDEMNS ATTACKS IN BENUE STATE**

**T**he Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) has expressed deep outrage over the continuous attacks on innocent civilians in Benue State, reportedly carried out by suspected armed herdsmen. According to the association, these gruesome incidents have resulted in significant loss of lives, displacement of entire communities, and a growing atmosphere of fear and insecurity in the region.

In a strongly worded statement issued by the duo of ANA President and ANA Secretary, Dr. Usman Oladipo Akanbi and Dr. Dame Joan Oji, ANA condemned the recurring violence, describing it as inhumane and unacceptable. The association noted that the victims of these attacks are often among the most vulnerable members of society—women, children, and the elderly—whose only crime is residing in their ancestral homes. It



stressed that the escalating brutality underscores the urgent need for government intervention.

The association called on both the state and federal governments to take swift and effective measures to address the root causes of the

conflict and prevent further bloodshed. It also urged relevant authorities to prioritize the protection of lives and property, particularly in rural areas that have been left exposed to repeated attacks.

ANA further emphasized the importance of a long-term, sustainable solution to the crisis. The group encouraged dialogue, inclusive governance, and community-based peace-building efforts as critical steps toward ending the cycle of violence. It called for accountability and justice for victims as essential components of national healing.

The Association of Nigerian Authors reaffirmed its solidarity with the people of Benue State and other communities experiencing similar tragedies. It pledged to continue using its platform and voice to advocate for justice, peace, and the preservation of human dignity across Nigeria.



## A PRESIDENTIAL GESTURE OF HONOUR FOR KEN SARO-WIWA (CON): ANA RESPONDS

**T**he Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) has acknowledged with appreciation the recent posthumous national honour conferred on Ken Saro-Wiwa, former President of the Association, and his compatriots, during the 2025 Democracy Day celebrations by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. This presidential gesture marks a significant recognition of the sacrifice and contributions of the Ogoni Nine to the struggle for justice, environmental rights, and democracy in Nigeria.

It will be recalled that during its 43rd Annual

Convention in November 2024, ANA established the Ken Saro-Wiwa Writers' Residency in honour of the iconic writer, environmental activist, and the Association's fourth President. The initiative, warmly received by the Saro-Wiwa family and widely celebrated in the media, reaffirmed ANA's unwavering commitment to preserving the legacies of Nigeria's literary and human rights heroes.

In a joint statement signed by ANA President, Dr. Usman Oladipo Akanbi, and General Secretary, Dr. Dame Joan

Oji, the Association reiterated its call for the full exoneration of Ken Saro-Wiwa and the Ogoni Nine, as urged by Dr. Owens Wiwa during the inauguration of the residency. While the conferral of national honours and the promise of a presidential pardon are steps in the right direction, ANA emphasized that a pardon alone is insufficient and unjust—it implies guilt where history and global consensus acknowledge innocence.



ANA strongly maintains that the Ogoni Nine were victims of a judicial travesty perpetrated by a kangaroo tribunal under a military dictatorship. Their execution, widely condemned internationally, was a gross miscarriage

of justice. Therefore, the Association insists that only a full exoneration and appropriate compensation to the families can truly serve the cause of justice in a democratic society.

The Association of Nigerian Authors calls on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to walk the full path of justice and right the historical wrongs committed against the Ogoni Nine. Anything short of exoneration and compensation would amount to a continued denial of justice under the guise of reconciliation.



## **ANA MOURNS KANO TRAGEDY, CONDOLES WITH GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE STATE**

**T**he Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) has expressed deep sorrow over the tragic accident that claimed the lives of 20 members of the Kano State contingent returning from the 22nd National Sports Festival held in Abeokuta, Ogun State. The victims,

departed souls. The Association noted that the legacy of the fallen would continue to inspire future generations of sports enthusiasts and professionals, urging the nation to honour their memory through improved commitment to the welfare and safety of athletes and sports



which included athletes, journalists, medical personnel, and administrators, were described as national assets whose loss is a monumental tragedy. This was contained in a condolence statement jointly signed by the ANA President, Dr. Usman Oladipo Akanbi, and the Secretary, Dr. Dame Joan Oji.

ANA extended heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased, the government, and the people of Kano State, praying for the repose of the

personnel.

The Association also sympathized with the injured and wished them a swift and full recovery. It called on relevant authorities to carry out a thorough investigation into the cause of the accident and implement necessary safety measures to prevent similar occurrences in the future. ANA reaffirmed its solidarity with the people of Kano State in this time of grief.



# ANA CONGRATULATES PROF. YUSUF ALI ON EMIRATE TITLE

AKWEYA TV

**T**he Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) has extended its congratulations to Professor Laolu Yusuf Ali, SAN, on his recent turbaning as the first Kuliyan Nageri of Ilorin Emirate in Kwara State.

In a statement jointly signed by ANA President Dr. Usman Oladipo Akanbi and General Secretary Dame Joan Oji, the association celebrated the distinguished legal practitioner and Islamic scholar who has been a significant contributor to literary development in Nigeria.

“The turbaning of the first-ever Kuliya Nigeri by the Ilorin Emirate is a testament to Prof Yusuf Ali’s depth of knowledge, nobility of character,

mentorship pedigree, and continued commitment to moral and spiritual uprightness,” the statement read.



Dr. Akanbi, himself a native of Ilorin Emirate, highlighted Professor Ali’s decade-long support through the Yusuf Ali literary awareness campaign, which led to his immortalisation at the Mammam Vatsa Writers’ Village in Abuja with the establishment of the Yusuf Ali Library and Research Centre.

Professor Ali currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Fountain University, Oshogbo. The association expressed wishes for his success in the new traditional role, praying that he receives “all the graces he needs to deliver equitably.”





# **NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC\***

**\*Clarification on Membership and Activities of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA)\***

Apparently, the crisis in ANA, precipitated six years ago during the Association's botched 2019 Enugu Convention and Elections, had led some ANA members, especially at the state chapter level, to adopt a somewhat lukewarm approach to the Association's programmes and activities. In a number of states, ANA witnessed the emergence of splinter chapters, with only one faction seeking due recognition by the National Leadership whilst the other operated in isolation.

Fortunately, the present ANA National Executive Council has now successfully unified 30 chapters in actuality, all of which are working diligently in close collaboration with the NEC. These recognised state chapters are becoming increasingly attractive by their regular engagement in vibrant literary pursuits and social media visibility.

Let me, therefore, reiterate for the records that it is not mandatory nor compulsory for every state of Nigeria to establish an ANA chapter; rather, the Association's approach is to encourage creative writers to form their own chapters without any obligation to do. The Association has come of age and occupies an enviable position within the literary world, owing to its longstanding promotion of a literary culture and the calibre of intellectuals behind its founding over four decades ago. This distinction has enabled the ANA brand to stand out and remain relevant, not only in Nigeria but across the African continent.

However, it is pertinent to point out that the Association is neither a government parastatal nor a regulatory agency; it is a loose assemblage of passion-driven creatives and thought leaders, and, therefore, a nonprofit voluntary forum for creative writers. As a result of this status, membership is not obligatory for all Nigerian writers now restricted to an academic discipline for that. Instead, the primary motivation for joining ANA should be a love of literature and a passion for creative writing, borne of a desire by an individual to connect and network with fellow writers.

Therefore, let it be known henceforth that individuals who wish to join ANA and benefit from its opportunities must be willing to belong and behave appropriately, by adhering to the stipulated terms and conditions for full membership. In other words, only duly registered and validated members at the state chapter level shall be recognised by the National Office, the fulfillment of which entitles such registered members to present themselves as bona fide members of the Association at annual Conventions and Congresses. Being a writer alone does not automatically confer ANA membership on anyone. Let us be guided accordingly.

**\*Dr. Usman Oladipo Akanbi,\***

**\*President, Association of Nigerian Authors\***



## THE REVIVAL OF MBARI - A TESTAMENT TO THE ENDURING LEGACY OF NIGERIAN CULTURAL REVIVALISM

In the verdant city of Ibadan, Nigeria, a most singular cultural institution was founded in 1961, bearing the name Mbari, an Igbo term denoting "creation". Conceived by the visionary triumvirate of Ulli Beier, Wole Soyinka, and Chinua Achebe, Mbari served as a veritable crucible for nascent Nigerian artists, writers, and musicians, providing a platform for the showcasing of their works and the fostering of creativity.

spirit of Mbari, adapting its concept to suit the exigencies of contemporary Nigerian writers. This vision was shared with numerous thought leaders and intellectuals, one of whom generously volunteered to host the meetings, which he singularly funded over the last three years and has continued to host even now, as they are convened quarterly. That distinguished host is none other than the erudite Professor Udentia O. Udentia.

Mpape, Abuja, ANA's corporate headquarters in the nation's capital. This intellectual salon provides a most convivial space for Nigerian writers and intellectuals to converge, exchange ideas, and promote their literary and other creative endeavours, thereby aligning itself with the original Mbari's mission of fostering creativity, inclusivity, and innovation.

The June edition of the ANA Mbari Series, held last weekend with the theme, 'Mbari Through the Eyes of the Founding Fathers,' was showcased to great acclaim. The discourse with hybrid participation, thanks to livestreaming and Zoom conferencing by BoldScholar was a resounding success, with thought-provoking discussions and insightful reflections, chaired by Law Professor Kyuka Lilymjok. The lead



The Association of Nigerian Authors, founded under the esteemed leadership of Professor Chinua Achebe on 27th June 1981, subsequently, decades later, under the visionary leadership of the immediate past president, Camillus Ukah, recognised the imperative need to revive the

### A NEW CHAPTER WAS THUS BORN IN THE MBARI REBIRTH.

Presently, Mbari quarterly has evolved into a very engaging and well attended discourse forum, convened at the ultra scenic Mamman Vatsa Writers' Village in

Discussant Ugeju J. Ugeju did justice to the theme, drawing from his Nollywood background to declare that there wouldn't be Nollywood without creative writers. Under the Association of Nigerian Authors, the re-enacted Mbari embodies a steadfast commitment to



honouring its legacy while advancing Nigerian literature.

The Association's profound gratitude goes to the panelists who contributed to the different dimensions of the topic at this second quarter edition: 83-year-old Mr Lindsay Barrett, Prof Tony Oha (via Zoom), Dr. Mrs. Adewumi Oluwadiya, Mallam Khalid Imam, and our esteemed penultimate ANA President, Mallam Denja Abdullahi, who served as Co-Moderator of the Discourse with Dame Joan Oji, ANA's General Secretary. Mallam



Ibrahim Sheme also made remarkable contributions about Mbari's predecessor in Hausa writing dating back decades before the Ibadan Mbari Club. The discussion was also enriched by the participation of several notable writers, including students from the University of Abuja (now Yakubu Gowon University), whose sporadic interventions added to the intellectual fervour of the occasion.

### **A MOST GRACIOUS GESTURE**

In a display of munificence, the Distinguished Senator Shehu Sani who also attended the June 28th Mbari meeting was moved by the richness of the discussion to pledge an annual donation of \$1,000 towards the organisation of a visual art exhibition at the Mamman Vatsa Writers' Village with the

purpose of selecting the best for a Prize as determined by a panel of judges appointed by ANA. This most welcome initiative will serve to complement the creative writing endeavours, thereby aligning itself with the vision of the earlier Mbari Club, which fostered collaborations between Nigerian and international artists. The art painting exhibition will provide a most excellent platform for artists to showcase their works, further enriching the creative ecosystem.

### **A LEGACY REBORN**

The revival of the Mbari spirit is a most significant development in the promotion of Nigerian art, literature, and music, both locally and internationally. By providing a platform for emerging and established writers to share their works, Mbari is cultivating public intellectuals who employ creative writing as a tool for social engagement and critical thinking. As Mbari continues to evolve, it is poised to make a most lasting impact on the literary landscape of Nigeria and beyond.

### **A NEW ERA OF LITERARY INNOVATION**

With its quarterly discussion forum and upcoming visual art exhibitions, Mbari is set to become a leading literary platform in Nigeria. By fostering a community of writers who drive literary innovation and social engagement, the quarterly gathering of academics, intellectuals, and thought leaders who can engage with social issues and promote critical thinking and reflection. As the ANA continues to nurture this initiative, it is clear that the spirit which gave birth to Mbari Club will continue to live to inspire new generations of Nigerian writers and artists



# IMAGES FROM THE 2025 SECOND QUARTER OF THE MBARI SERIES



**ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN AUTHORS**

## MBARI SERIES

A QUARTERLY GATHERING OF INTELLECTUALS, WRITERS, AND THOUGHT LEADERS

**JUNE 2025 EDITION**

**Theme**  
Mbari through the Eyes of the Founding Fathers

**DATE**  
Saturday 28 June 2025

**TIME**  
TIAM (WAT)

**VENUE**  
Femi Osofisan Secretariat, Mamman Vatsa Writers' Village, Mpape Rd, Abuja

**Zoom** Meeting ID: 838 2547 0390 | Passcode: 846347





## IMAGES FROM THE 2025 SECOND QUARTER OF THE MBARI SERIES





# ANA URGES TINUBU TO GRANT POSTHUMOUS PARDON TO MAMMAN VATSA

By Wole Adedoyin

**T**he President of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA), Dr. Usman Oladipo Akanbi, has passionately called on the Federal Government of Nigeria to grant a posthumous presidential pardon to the late Major-General

Speaking to a gathering of writers, scholars, and literary enthusiasts, the ANA President emphasized Mamman Vatsa's profound contribution to the development of Nigerian literature and the institutional legacy he left behind. He

as a tragic loss not only to Nigeria's literary community but to the nation's cultural and intellectual history. He noted that the pardon would serve as a symbolic restoration of Vatsa's dignity and reaffirm his place as one of Nigeria's literary icons. "Mamman Vatsa was not just a soldier; he was a man of letters, a poet whose works still resonate today," he stated.

The ANA President further drew parallels between Vatsa's case and those of other national figures who have

received state clemency, including General Yakubu Gowon, General Olusegun Obasanjo, and the late Chief Emeka Odumegwu Ojukwu. He noted that clemency in such high-profile cases is not without precedent and called on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to lead the way in healing national wounds.



Mamman Jiya Vatsa, a celebrated poet and writer who was executed in 1986 following allegations of involvement in a coup plot. Dr. Akanbi made this appeal during the second quarter session of the ANA Mbari Series, held under the theme, "Mbari Through the Eyes of the Founding Fathers."

recalled how, as Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Vatsa allocated the land at Maitama Extension, Abuja, which has since become the permanent site of ANA's national headquarters—now known as the Mamman Vatsa Writers' Village.

Dr. Akanbi described the execution of Mamman Vatsa in February 1986



Adding their voices to the appeal were respected literary figures such as Lindsay Barrett and former ANA President Denja Abdullahi. Both men echoed the need for a national reckoning with history, stating that pardoning Vatsa would be a moral and cultural gesture that recognizes his contributions to Nigeria's literary heritage.

Dr. Akanbi urged all well-meaning Nigerians, writers, human rights advocates, and cultural stakeholders to rally behind the call for a posthumous pardon. He stressed that the act of forgiveness would be a symbolic gesture of national unity and reconciliation, especially for the literary community, which continues to celebrate Vatsa through events and institutions bearing his name.

He also referenced the Mamman Vatsa Writers' Village as a testimony to the enduring legacy of the late writer. The facility

is recognized as the largest writers' village in Africa and among the most significant globally. Dr. Akanbi emphasized that this should serve as a reminder of the great loss incurred with Vatsa's untimely execution and a call to justice for his memory.

The ANA President



also highlighted that a delegation had once visited the then Head of State, General Ibrahim Babangida, to plead for clemency before Vatsa's execution, stressing the controversy that still surrounds the case decades later. He said a presidential pardon would offer closure to lingering

questions and pain.

In concluding, Dr. Akanbi reiterated ANA's commitment to preserving Nigeria's literary history and supporting voices that have shaped the nation's cultural narrative. He called on the Federal Government to correct a historical wrong by posthumously pardoning Mamman Jiya Vatsa and recognizing him as a national treasure whose words and actions left an indelible mark on the soul of the nation.

The Association of Nigerian Authors remains hopeful that the call for clemency will not go unheard and that Major-General Mamman Vatsa's name will be rightfully restored in Nigeria's literary and national history.



## **ANA UNVEILS HIGHLIGHTS OF ITS 44TH (2025) CONVENTION\***

The National Executive Council (NEC) of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) has released the highlights of its 44th (2025) International Convention as follows:

**\*\_Date: Thursday the 30th of October, 2025 to Sunday the 2nd of November, 2025.\_\***

**\*\_Venue: Mamman Vatsa Writers' Village, Maitama Extension, Mpape, Abuja.\_\***

**\*\_Theme: The Nigerian Writer and the Urgencies of the Nation-State\_\***

**\*Members of the Association are to pay for the convention strictly through their respective State Chapters. The sum is \*Thirty Thousand Naira (30,000.00) Only, which includes annual dues,\* payable to:**

**\*Account Name: Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA).\***

**\*Account Number: 2020543538.\***

**\*Bank Name: First Bank of Nigeria (FBN).\***

The payment entitles members to conference materials and participation in the AGM.

**\*Non-members are to pay the sum of Fifty Thousand Naira (50, 000)\* which entitles them to conference materials, but they are exempted from the AGM. All such non-members should channel their payments through the State Chapters closest to them, and the State Chapters MUST categorize such intending participants as non-members.**

**\*For the avoidance of doubt, any person not listed in the Revalidated Register is a non-member\*.**

**\*THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS THE 30TH OF JUNE, 2025.\***  
There shall be no extension of the date, please .

**\*Signed.\***

**\*Chairman,\***

**\*\_ANA Convention Planning Committee.\_\***