

PRESENTATION AT THE ZAMBIAN OPEN UNIVERSITY (ZAOU) AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA (UNZA) THE 1ST AND 3RD OF AUGUST, 2017

Message from the President of Sidi Osho Foundation (SOF)



As universally recognized, beyond income measurements, lack of access to education, nutritious food, health care, employment, water and housing are all indicators of crushing poverty. Though Africa's impressive economic performance over the past decade has rekindled hopes for the continent's future, in Nigeria however, despite the relative impressive economic growth over the last 10 years, unemployment and the incidence of poverty has worsened since 2004. The figures recently released by the National Bureau of Statistics suggest that the incidence of poverty in Nigeria worsened between 2004 and 2010.

The report indicates that the number of Nigerians living below poverty line of \$1 a day, rose from 68.7m to 112.5m (63.7% rise in poverty incidence) during the period while the population rose from 139.2m to 158.6m (13.9% rise in population) over the same period. However, during the same period, Nigeria's economy grew strongly at an average annual growth rate in excess of 6.6%, making the country the 5th fastest growing economy in the World in

2010 at 7.87% real growth rate. The above represents the paradox of growth in the face of poverty and inequality.

The challenge for Nigeria and by extension, Africa, is to ensure that this paper growth translates into effective poverty reduction, job creation wealth making and narrowing inequalities. Today for instance, African youths represent a disproportionate 60 percent of the continent's unemployed, and of these 40 million youths, 22 million, many of them women, have given up on finding a job. In countries such as Cameroon, Cape Verde, Ghana, Rwanda and Zambia, poverty is at least three times higher in rural areas than in urban areas.

There is no doubt that the perennial chaos and human rights abuses of the gravest kinds which plagued the world in the last five decades have left indelible marks on humanity. In the African region, in addition to the debilitating effect of internecine wars and human rights abuses, the people of Africa continue to suffer incalculable harm from the prolonged effects of hunger, poverty and disease. The AIDS/HIV pandemic and other communicable diseases have ravaged the continent while the nurturing of ethnicism has snowballed into genocide and large scale atrocities.

African governments, leaders and concerned stakeholders continue

their search for an environment conducive for freedom, equality, justice and dignity of the people of Africa. Inspired by the great achievements and legacy of the iconic Mandela on the African continent, SOF was established to impact the lives of the

underprivileged and underserved, as well contribute immensely to the efforts made by concerned stakeholders over the years.

As we stand at the threshold of a new century, it is not only timely but also expedient to conscientiously begin to find lasting solutions and establish inclusive development initiatives that will advance humanity. SOF, in collaboration with other stakeholders will provide a world of equal opportunities for families, women, and youth through our development programs on education, food security, health, poverty reduction, women and youth empowerment.

It is my fervent hope that with your cooperation and support, SOF will attain its set objectives to improve and impact the lives of Africans and Africa at large.

PRESENTATION AT ZAMBIAN OPEN UNIVERSITY (ZAOU) AUGUST 2017:

"SKILLS, ENTREPRENUERSHIP, EMPOWERMENT, EMPLOYABILITY AND EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT" (SEEEED)

Further to the seed grant approved by African Development Bank through the Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nigeria) for **Sidi Osho Foundation (SOF)** to **Promote Skills, Entrepreneurship and Leadership Development in Zambian youth to Eradicate Unemployment and promote Self – Employment;** the Staff of SOF went on a fact finding mission in Lusaka, Zambia from July 29th – 4th August 2017.

The Team Members

- Prof Sidi Osho (CEO)
- Osho Oluwasegun (Project Field Manager)

- FadareOlakunle (Program Field Manager)
- On Tuesday 1st of August we, the Team had a meeting with **Zambian Open University (ZAOU)** where we met with ProfYerokunOlusegun, the Vice Chancellor and other staff of ZAOU including DrOdubote; Dean of Agricultural Sciences and members. We gave a detailed presentation. A detailed presentation was given by the **SOF** team to give them insight into the project mission and vision in Zambia and for the institution. The Vice chancellor was glad as he confirmed to us that the project will go a long way in helping the youths in Zambia and an MOU was signed and the pictures are below. Various issues were raised and also addressed
- On Wednesday 2nd of August we, the team went to HLB for the collection of our certificate which would allow us work in Zambia. We also had a meeting with Stanbic bank in order to collect our account number and fine tuning of the discussions on our mission and vision in Zambia.
- On Thursday 3rd of August we, the team then went ahead to visit the University of Zambia where we met with Dr Benson Chishala, Dean of School of Agricultural Sciences and other members of Staff of the School of Agricultural Sciences. A detailed presentation was given by the SOF team to give them insight into the project mission and vision in Zambia. We went further discussing and fine tuning

details of the MOU. The meeting was a productive one and the university agreed to work with SOF.

- On Friday the 4th of August we went back to visit the **Zambian Open University** where we went to train the trainers for the ongoing project as stated in the MOU.

Also we went back to visit the **University of Zambia** where we clarified issues raised from the previous meeting and we reached an agreement with respect to the MoU

The Team Presentations focused on the following:

- ❖ About SOF
- ❖ Information about the population and the imports dependent economy of Zambia, the ten provinces of Zambia with an average population of over 13 Million people.
- ❖ The Un - employment situation of Zambia as presented in World Bank studies.
- ❖ Activity Management of SOF project in Zambia
- ❖ Plan of Action for SOF in Zambia.
- ❖ Project strategy and activities in Zambia
- ❖ Benefits of this project in Zambia
- ❖ Anticipated Results of this project in Zambia
- ❖ The type of Enterprises Hubs that can be created by Youth in Zambia.



Appreciation

We express our gratitude to the DTCT and AfDB for approving this project. We are very grateful for the hospitality we received from the **Zambian Government** here in Nigeria through Dr Solomon Jere the **Zambian Ambassador** to Nigeria and his staff who paved the way for visa and those to meet with in Zambia.

We were well received in Zambia and we are very happy that our project will be successful as all people we meet showed high interest and made our stay very pleasant.

Zambian Youth see you soon !!!!!

LIST OF PROVINCES IN ZAMBIA

Provinces	Capital	Area (km ²)	Population	Density (people/km ²)	Districts
1. Central	Kabwe	94,394	1,307,111	13.4	11
2. Copperbelt	Ndola	31,328	1,972,317	62.5	10
3. Eastern	Chipata	51,476	1,592,661	24.7	9
4. Luapula	Mansa	50,567	991,927	19.0	11
5. Lusaka	Lusaka	21,896	2,191,225	100.4	8
6. Muchinga	Chinsali	87,806	711,657	8.1	7
7. North-Western	Solwezi	125,826	727,044	5.6	9
8. Northern	Kasama	77,650	1,105,824	14.2	9
9. Southern	Choma	85,283	1,589,926	18.8	13
10. Western	Mongu	126,386	902,974	7.0	16
Zambia	Lusaka	752,612	13,092,666	17.3	103

Total Unemployment Rate - Zambia	13.30%
Female Unemployment Rate - Zambia	11.40%
Male Unemployment Rate - Zambia	11.40%
Total Youth Unemployment Rate - Zambia	24.60%



