

**An Address by the Chairman of the Award Committee at Le Meridian & Golf Resort, Uyo at the 5<sup>th</sup> Teachers' Award for Excellence on November 9, 2012.**

**Protocol**

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Inoyo Toro Foundation, I welcome you to the 5<sup>th</sup> Award Ceremony for Akwa Ibom State Teachers who excelled in their teaching last year. This event is therefore an annual celebration of excellence in the education sector. The Foundation hereby aims to encourage Science, Mathematics and English Language teachers, stimulate awareness for the study of science and related courses in our secondary schools, promote healthy and positive competition for excellence among teachers and help teachers to be more committed to their profession.

The Foundation through this project, is also supplementing Akwa Ibom State Governments' effort in her educational development.

The Award is in 5 subjects: Mathematics, English Language, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Each subject will have three winners. The First Prize winner will receive ₦250,000; the second, ₦150,000 and the third ₦100,000.

This year, 179 Teachers qualified for the test as follows: Mathematics (24), English Language (39), Biology (37), Chemistry (37) and Physics (42).

126 teachers came for the test held on August 10, 2012 at Uyo.

The winners are not allowed to rest on their oars. Through the Grand Mentor Teachers' Award, the Foundation has challenged past winners to produce their kind through regular mentoring sessions designed to hone the skills and knowledge of other teachers in their subject areas. The Grand Mentor Award is also in the 5 subject areas. The second set of Grand Mentors will be recognized during this ceremony. Eleven (11) out of fifteen (15) Mentors qualified and were invited for the screening test and Orals as follows: Mathematics (1), English (2), Biology (3) Chemistry (3) and Physics (2).

Only four (4) Grand Mentors emerged in English, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. There was none for Mathematics.

Mr. Chairman, permit me to remind this great audience that for both the Excellent Teachers Award and the Grand Mentors Award, the screening process, the written test and Oral examinations were handled according to the preset rules and procedures with transparency and integrity. The expert examiners were two per subject and from the University of Uyo.

We particularly appreciate Rev. (Dr) Enobong Joshua, who coordinated the team of lecturers.

## **Our Appreciation**

On behalf of the Award Committee, I like to appreciate the Board of Trustees of the Inoyo Toro Foundation for their dogged commitment to a noble project on education. Investing in education is an invaluable investment in today's knowledge-driven world. The Board deserves our highest commendation and thanks.

We also thank the Akwa Ibom State Government for their investment in education at all levels in the State. We are grateful to the Hon. Commissioner of Education, the Permanent Secretary, the Chairman of the State Education Board, the Directors and Principals of Schools for their support which helped our selection process during the year.

I also thank the Examiners from the University of Uyo for setting, administering and marking the aptitude test in situ and with integrity. For our school teachers, I like to encourage you with the words of Raph Waldo Emerson, "*Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail*". We thank you for being teachers and for being good mentors of Akwa Ibom youths, the future leaders of our State and nation.

Finally, for the Award winners, I hope you will like to say with Boris Becker, "I love the winning, I can take the losing, but most of all, I love to play". We hope you enjoyed the selection process. There is no end to learning if you must be a successful teacher.

Congratulations!

God bless you all.

**Prof. E. W. Mbipom**  
Chairman, Award Committee