

**ROYAL CENTENARY CELEBRATION**

ROYAL AMBASSADORS OF NIGERIA

IS **100**  
(1920-2020)

**IT'S A CELEBRATION OF 100 YEARS OF**

- EFFECTIVE MINISTRY TO THE PHYSICAL, SPIRITUAL AND SOCIAL NEEDS OF BOYS THROUGH PURPOSEFUL AND INTENSIVE DISCIPLESHIP AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT;
- KINGDOM EXPANSION THROUGH HOME AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS;
- MINISTRY ADVANCEMENT OF ROYAL AMBASSADORS WORK IN AFRICA THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS AND LEADERSHIP SUPPORT;
- LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FOR THE CHURCH AND SOCIETY THROUGH EXCELLENCE BASED LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND MENTORSHIP

*Join us as we celebrate God's faithfulness in the Grand Centenary celebration/7th National Jamboree (also featuring the hand-over ceremony of the RA Marshal).*

**Celebration Date:** Sept. 7-11, 2021

**Venue:** Hebron Center Lasokun, Idi-Ishin, Ibadan.

**Pray and Plan to Attend**

**We are Ambassadors for Christ**  
2 Cor. 5:20



**RA MARSHAL'S Address**

**2021 Annual Convention**  
*In Session of the*

**COUN AYO A. ADEKUNLE** (POST PLEN)

**ROYAL AMBASSADORS OF NIGERIA**  
*holding @*  
SHERPERDHILL BAPTIST CHURCH,  
Obanikoro, Lagos, Nigeria  
**Saturday April 24, 2021 by 7:am**

## ***Dearly Beloved Ambassadors,***

### **Introduction**

It is with much joy that I welcome you to this annual session. We honour His name for the grace to gather in fellowship this year. The global Covid 19 pandemic disrupted the 2020 Convention but here we are this 2021. To God again be the glory because it is by His mercies that we are not consumed by the pandemic and other related challenges. I therefore specially welcome you to this convention and it gives me much joy speaking with you as this is my last Convention address to you as the RA Marshal of Nigeria. By 2022 Convention, I will be bringing felicitations as a former Marshal. I celebrate you all for the grace to lead you and the organization. I do not take it for granted. It is my prayer that this Convention will meet specific needs of someone's life in the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.

### **ISSUES / DEVELOPMENT.**

Our last official gathering was at Edo, Benin City where we had the 4th AABRAC in the month of September. We were preparing for the 2021 Convention when the lockdown started occasioned by Covid 19. Between that time and now, a lot has happened though our operations has been skeletal as all programmes were on hold. Let me quickly do a rundown of those events that happened in 2020 summarily and move on to other issues.

#### **1. EVENTS OF 2020.**

The Organization - Royal Ambassadors of Nigeria was not spared of the ugly events of 2020. First was the corona virus outbreak that affected all our programmes and the sudden passing away our National Ambassador at Large, President of the MMU of the NBC, Dn Micheal Kehinde Oyegbile ( JP ) in the evening of Friday April 24 at Zaria, Kaduna State was another deadly blow. He has since been buried in a historic way. The MMU practically took charge of the burial and the Royal Ambassadors played a very prominent role in the burial as expected. RAN did a compedium of condolence messages in his honour. if you don't have the hard copy, you can please visit the website of ran for the soft copy. Kaduna Plen Club also did same in his honour, I thank you. Shortly after his demise, MMU NEC met and resolved to make Dr Soye P. Asawo the Acting National President inline with constitutional provisions of MMU. Recall that Dr Soye Asawo was a one time Conference MMU Chairman, first National PRO, VP MMU before emerging the Acting National President. He has



a good knowledge of the RA work too as he was the founding ( first ) Editor in Chief of the Embassy Watch. By Providence, I worked with him then as the Editor and now as the Marshal. He has been very alive and responsive to all Ambassadorial matters brought to his table. Also, Congress could not still hold that year also for covid 19 and so all officers expected to rotate out had a one year extension and that is why am still addressing you as the Marshal. Even with Covid 19, we managed to run our statutory programmes as time demands. For instance, we observed Plenipotentiary promotion exercise at the National Headquarters using the nearby conferences while others joined virtually. This is to avoid delay in promotion and we were also able to conduct our first ever online Plenipotentiary examination with a huge success. Hundreds of candidates wrote the exam, we recorded the highest number ever in the history of the conduct of Plenipotentiary examination. The result has since been released, project written, submitted and marked while defense holds at this mission field for about 350 candidates who submitted projects. RA week held in few churches where the lockdown was relaxed while many observed it virtually. I thank you all for the resilience that made us an overcomer. Of course, our activities, sales and planned project suffered setback but we have reasons to say THANK YOU GOD for it is by His mercies we weren't consumed and alive to His glory till today. Throughout the pandemic period, Council keeps meeting from time to time and this is good for the organization.

#### **2. LITERATURE AND MATERIAL.**

All our Literatures for 2021 are out for our use, ensure you get copies if you have not and use them faithfully. Let us not wait till the late hour when you will now be calling for theme, text and even date -- get your 2021 Gifted Hands now. Don't start looking for photocopy or PDF or soft copy format of any type. Any of our Literature in soft copy form is fake and should not be encouraged. Soonest, time shall ripe for online editions. By His grace, 2022 literature shall be out at the Congress in August. As for RA Materials, we have them on sale in this Convention, take your chance. In terms of availability of materials at our Conferences, Council about five years ago has granted franchise to Conferences while individuals with proven integrity can also apply through their Conference Director to the Chairman Literature and Material Committee for Marshal's final approval on the recommendation of the committee. Cooperate with your Conference Director and take this chance. It's never too late. The clamp down on illegal use, production, sales and purchase of



RA material remains. I thank the North East RA Director for the prompt action taken over the boy who was involved in illegal production. The boy has been sanctioned and all materials siezed from him. Another from Ogbomoso who was involved in production of our golden pin was also caught and dealt with accordingly. Our zero tolerance for illegal production of materials remain but we are striving to ensure availability at all times. You can always call our staff Amb Pien Segun Afolabi on 08103712648 for your material. I also need to encourage all RAs to ensure they buy material for Uniform sowing from the office while our RA Gold Pin still remains.

### 3. RANKING AND ETHICS.

This is one area that makes us distinct from others and should be guided. I thank the Ranking Officer and his team for keeping the standard as this is good for the future of our Organization. It is our dream that a Plenipotentiary Officer should become a potential pastor, MMU leader, missionary and leader even in the circular world where he should be able to have reasonable impact. We have since changed our project writing style since 2019 to researchable topics, therefore, keep and study all your RA related literatures and be ready to relate concepts in the RA world to the Bible and vice versa. Needless to tell you not to jump ranks nor use ranks you have not attained as this attracts serlous sanction. You also need to dress in an approved manner, no imitation. Ours is a mission minded Organization and the simplicity and beauty in our dressing speaks of this fact. Let us stand by it. Start preparing for another Plenipotentiary Examination and get yourselves familiar with the new project topics. I have instructed the Ranking Officer to drop some project sample questions on the website as guide as well as the guidelines to help would be Plenipotentiary Candidates.

4. **DRESS BOOK GUIDE:** Am delighted to announce to you that the Dress Book Guide is out. It talks about the historical development of our Uniform, Uniform classifications, dressing and Uniform ethics. Pictures are also attached for clearer understanding. I enjoy every member to have a copy each and let it be our guide.

### 5. CLUBS WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION.

a. **The Anti Social Vices Club of the Royal Ambassadors of Nigeria** is already a registered Organization with the CAC and the club is not relenting on her efforts at reducing social vices within our community. The ASVC which was a

brain child of the Dawari led Council received a boost under FAS Akinola leadership with the Publication of Standing Tall and we have also taken it to another height. Our ASVC programmes have attracted much publicity within the last three years and have enjoyed good coverage from the media - both print and electronic. Our focus of campaign last year was a cry against rape and cultism. The grand finale held in the month of October 2021 at the ancient City of Oyo. I therefore call on Conferences yet to catch the fire of ASVC to please do so for the good of our community. I thank Conferences who are doing well in this regard and I want them to keep it up. In case you have any challenge, you can freely approach the Club Coordinator or the Chief of Staff. I thank the Club for producing t-shirts to celebrate RAN at hundred. The Club will be on action this Convention too.

b. **Junior and Intermediate RA.** This is also doing well in few conferences. I call on Conference Directors to promote the forum since it's the future of the organization. The forum President and Secretary are doing well and I appeal to all Conference Directors to please cooperate with them. The President is a coopted member of the Council. The Forum is as old as the ASVC and should be promoted. Am happy to inform you that the forum will be staging a parade at the Kaduna August Congress and it promises to be historic. Thanks to the Acting National President for his positive consideration of this noble and new idea.

c. **Ambassador Plenipotentiary Club.** This came onboard with the birth of this current leadership for the purpose of missions and missions alone. So far so good, the Club has staged four different annual village outreaches to Isoko ( Delta ), Borliya ( Kwara ), Kagara (Niger) and Owode ( OkeOgun ). Working with the Missions Department, the Club has added a useful strategy of medical and welfare evangelism to our operation reach them effort and this has been very productive. The 2021 Owode experience was 70% financed by the Club through the introduction of Mission Minded Ambassadors ( MMA ), an adaptation of the mission Minded Men (MMM) initiative of the MMU. This will continue for the purpose of missions. I thank the Club Coordinator and his team and I call on them to ensure all Plenipotentiary Officers of RAN get enlisted into the Club. Again Conference Directors are also encouraged to appoint a coordinator who is mission minded for the club to grow at the Conference levels.

## 6. MISSIONS.

This is our core value. This is who we are as Christ Ambassadors. This is the meaning of our Organization and that is why ours is a ministry of reconciliation. In this regard, we keep toiling for the Lord trying to win souls within and without. Outside of the traditional pre-convention mission work, we have stepped up our mission efforts through the introduction of annual church based revivals, open air crusade, resurrection rallies, financial supports to churches and missionaries, provision of basic church needs and prayer clinic outside of regular film show evangelism and tract production that have received a reasonable boost. Conferences, Associations and Chapters are also doing well in missions. If you are not mission alive, please wake up and work for the Lord while it's day. We have also added welfare and medical evangelism as stated above and God has been faithful. We keep harvesting souls and helping in the growth of churches where ever we go on missions work. The church at Imesi Ile is doing well and we keep paying the pastor's salarying the little why we can. Plans are on to make the church independent God helping us. Let me thank Conferences that have visited the Imesi Ile RA Church ( Kaduna - 2019, Oyo 2021 and of course Osun- regular visitor. ) I thank Revd Seun Sangokunle and Revd Tade Obaniyi for being a consultant to the church.

**7. NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF RAN:** Our office is being managed by a staff of the organization who is also managing the sales of our materials at the office. He is being paid a monthly stipend but doing the work meticulously. We have also tried to equip the hall with chairs and furnishing the offices sparingly as resources abound. Your chapter can do something. We need office chairs, office tables, cabinets, industrial fans, computers and photocopier. Think of doing something and RAN won't forget you.

**8. RA WEEK 2021:** I need to remind and challenge us to begin preparation and promotion for the RA week celebration 2021. Get your copy of Gifted Hands, assign resource persons, get your promotion certificates and advancement badges ready and carry all necessary chapter stake holders along. In the spirit of the centenary celebration, we intend to make the week glamorous stating from the flag off in a way that will attract national attention. The theme for consideration this year is Divine Lifting with text taken from Esther 6:10-11, 8:2. The date is July 4-10 while the Saturday grand finale rally is on ASVC perspective with passion to overcome negative qualities inherent in a man. May we all be divinely lifted as we observe the week.



## 9. MMU.

I am pleased to inform you that the MMU under the leadership of Dr Soye Asawo, the Acting National President is doing great. A main starting feat was the befitting burial given to Dr Michael Oyegbile and his prompt sense of duty. Within the shortest possible time, he has visited the Kiyeseni MMU site at Awe, visited Kaduna even by road from Abuja to access congress preparation and have been able to roof the administrative block of the Union started by Oyegbile. MMU is now set to fully engage Abuja and has even visited Abuja on a preliminary work. His love for the RA is great and we thank God for this. I call on all RAs to pray for his success as he leads the MMU. Congress holds in August at Kaduna and am inviting you to the occasion. It's going to be divinely unique as new records will be set by His grace. Kaduna is waiting to receive us all.

**10. FINANCE:** We want to thank God for His provision though the lack of programmes and covid 19 affected our sales and dues collection from Conferences. I therefore call for financial faithfulness interms of payment of dues and RA Week offering. The will keep the Organization going and growing. On monthly basis, we pick bills of our pastor and administrative officer aside of other administrative and project expenses. God helping us, we are considering options to make RAN viable financially without waiting for payment of ten thousand conference annual dues. Let us give generously to the growth of the organization.

## 11. CENTENARY CELEBRATION / 7TH NATIONAL JAMBOREE.

RAN clocked 100 last year (1920-2020) but covid prevented the celebration. By His grace, all is set for the celebrating this year at Hebron Center, Ibadan between September 7-11 and the registration remains #5000 ( as it was in 2016 ) We are trusting God for sponsorship and if you have any helpful information, freely contact the National Secretary or the CoS or my humble self. We are also working to produce RA history. If you have not bought the Centenary Customised Ankara, do so now because it's going to be used for the Opening Ceremony / Grand Celebration. It promises to be historic, don't miss it. Registration will open as from July 1 to help effective planning.

**12. CENTENARY HOSTEL PROJECT:** To the glory of God, we laid the foundation of a fifteen room self contain hostel project at Akinmorin with students of Special College of Education Special, Oyo as target. Thanks to the Acting National



President who led the foundation laying exercise, Oyo MMU Chairman team and RA. Council Members also attended. The first corner stone was laid by Dr Soye Asawo in his capacity as the current leader of men and boys while Revd. FAS Akinola laid the second on behalf of Past Marshals. The third was laid by the duo of Oyo MMU Chairman, Bro Tunji Odeleye and Revd Dr Kehinde Olaleye on behalf of RAN Patron Forum while I laid the forth on behalf of the Council, boys and young men of the Order of Royal Ambassadors of Nigeria. Today, foundation has been completed, septic tanks dug, filling done and arrangement of blocks ongoing. It has gone up to the window level now. We intend to continue as funds come in. I therefore call on everybody to be involved in this project and pray along for it to be completed in record time. If we are able to build our Headquarters within a year, then by God, this is also achievable but we must all work together as a team / one big but united family to the glory of His name. I shall update you as work progresses. We have two plots of land in the area and am sure this is the starting point of our launching out into economic empowerment process for the sustainability of our darling organization.

### **13. CONTINENTAL WORK.**

i) Today we stand to celebrate our leaders who have successfully completed their continental assignment at the levels of Baptist World Alliance ( BWA ) and All Africa Baptist Men's Fellowship ( AABMF ). Am talking of no other person that our father Bro Ayoola Badejo (fca ) and Dr Dawari George. (Hon.) RAN is proud of you and proudly identifies with you . It our prayer that you shall continue to be relevant in God's business agenda for this generation.

ii) I am also pleased to inform you that two other Nigerians have joined the continental assignment at the levels of AABMF. Dn Philip Slaboh and Bro Peter Natsai have emerged as the General Secretary and Treasurer of the body. We have since congratulated them on your behalf and please keep them in your prayers even as Bro Yinuson Edison emerged as the current AABMF President .He is from Cameroon. At the level of RA of Africa, we are also moving. We have introduced online first Sunday of the month programme tagged ROYAL LINKS INSPIRATION and will soon come up with other leadership development programmes. Our 5th edition of AABRAC holds in Cote D'Ivoire in September 2022. Let us begin early preparation as this is the first time it's going outside the shore of Nigeria. Your



international passport or ECOWAS passport will be of help.

**14. The Joy of Finishing Well.** This year, the theme for consideration by our Convention is Moving Forward : Finishing the Race with Joy ( Act 20:24 ). This theme has direct implication on me but applies to everyone. Let us always know that the end of a thing is glorious than the start and that finishing well brings joy. Let us therefore be conscious of how we finish in anything we set out to do. If you are in leadership, cultivate the habit of glorious ending, if in business or work, is now that the ending matters or even in soul winning project, know that there is attendant joy at finishing strong. May we all finish well in life in Jesus name . Let us note that finishing well begins with starting. You won't even finish unless you start. Not minding your starting weakness or strength, ensure you finish well by trusting in God and obeying the principles of finishing well.

### **CLOSING WORDS.**

I shall be ungrateful if I do not appreciate you all for being with me and my leadership of RAN these past years. I thank the past and present leadership of MMU, the past and present Council Members ( C.M ) and You - the Ambassadors. It is my prayer that the good Lord will bless and prosper each and everyone and push the Royal Ambassadors Ministry of Reconciliation to the next level even as am set to join the class of Past Marshal. I therefore invite you to Ibadan for the Centenary / 7th National Jamboree where I will be handing over as the 5th Marshal of the Royal Ambassadors of Nigeria to another Marshal. Looking forward to seeing you and please always stay safe. an be productive for God and self. I love you all and may God's Blessing rest and abide with you.

*Your In His Business,  
COUN AYO ADEKUNLE ( POST PLEN ),  
Marshal,  
Royal Ambassadors of Nigeria,  
Men's Missionary Union,  
Nigerian Baptist Convention.*

