

Lebanese Nigerian Friendship Association (Board of Trustees Speech)  
Nigerian Golden Jubilee Independence Celebration

Biel,  
October 1, 2010

Dear Guests,

On behalf of the president and members of the Board of Trustees of the Lebanese Nigerian Friendship Association (LENIFRA), we heartily and proudly extend our utmost congratulations to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, its leadership, its government, and its citizens, on this great, historic day to commemorate 50 years of Nigeria's independence, freedom, and sovereignty.

This memorable Golden Jubilee celebration truly honours the successful establishment of building a modern state which culminated in economic, cultural and social progress which attracted a multitude of investments – ranging from local resources to foreign ventures investing in the country. Nigeria's forward-thinking strategies have allowed it to greatly benefit from its prosperous oil production, rich agricultural programs and projects of all kinds.

While its successive governments throughout were devoted to the practice of democracy and worked diligently to expand the country's external relations, Nigeria quickly gained the confidence and respect of the international community for its wide-scale national developments, economic and social achievements, and for spearheading diplomatic missions across African nations. It has also been strongly committed to the United Nations peace-keeping efforts by deploying troops in various regions around the world.

As for the fruitful Lebanese-Nigerian relationship, this is a deep and historic bond that dates back to 1890 when the first Lebanese set foot on Nigerian soil. As he was greeted with warm African hospitality, so were the thousands of others who followed over the years to comfortably settle in and establish companies, factories and successful enterprises. Therefore, it is to no surprise that these Lebanese emigrants genuinely proclaim Nigeria as their second home as they share ties of love, friendship and solidarity with the Nigerian people.

On this distinguished occasion, the Lebanese people, and emigrants express their deepest appreciation and gratitude to the Nigerian state and its compassionate people.

I thank all of you for being here today to share in this Golden Jubilee moment of pride and joy.

Long live Nigeria, long live Lebanon and long live the eternal friendship between the two countries.