

Nigeria: Relicom, Synthesis stage reading renaissance event

Relicom, in partnership with Synthesis Communications is staging an event called Evening of Reading to encourage Nigerians to read. The companies have designed the platform for lovers of poetry and writers to meet and listen to poetry recited in a relaxed environment.

The event is scheduled for 2pm on Saturday, 16 May 2009 at the auditorium of the Chartered Institute of Bankers, Victoria Island, Lagos.

"This event, nostalgic of our traditional 'tales by moonlight' will feature reading competitions amongst students and leisure reading by journalists and poets and the participating public," said Emma Anyagwa, author of the book "Echoes of the Qohelet," from where most of the reading, drama and song performances will be derived.

He said, "The comedy and raffle draws will also be wrapped around the package to help the audience enjoy the evening maximally, as the organisers aim to rekindle the nation's soul in the area of 'Reading Culture'. The youth of today [has] been driven away by other social activities other than reading - which is the foundation of knowledge and information."

This programme, he added, "is a wake up call for all of us to trace back our steps to what we use to enjoy - poetry, drama, public speaking (oratory) and such cerebral mental and literary exercises. It is packaged in a way to remove the seeming dryness, drudgery and aloofness which some people associate with poetry."

Some schools which have indicated interest to be part of this literary renaissance include: British International School, Lekki; Downen College, Lekki; Unilag International School, Akoka; Queens College, Yaba; and Fedex/Red Star Foundation Scholars.

According to the organisers, some of the dignitaries who have already accepted the invitation to be there are the Inspector General of Police, Mike Okiro, the Group Chairman/CEO of Nuel Ojei Holdings Limited, Chief Nuel Ojei, the Registrar/CE of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria, Dr. 'Uju Ogubunka and a host of others.

The book, "Echo of Qoheleth" will be reviewed by literary scholar, Dr. Hyginus Ekwuazi, Associate Professor of Media, Pan African University, Lagos. Prof. Akachi Ezigbo, winner of the 2004/2007 NLNG Literary Award and author of over 15 books, with a line-up of authors, academics, and media literary giants will grace the occasion.

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