

**ADDRESS BY WAEC CHAIRMAN PROF JONAS A. S. REDWOOD-
SAWYERR AT THE FORMAL LAUNCH OF THE WAEC ENDOWMENT
FUND QUIZ COMPETITION IN LAGOS NIGERIA ON WEDNESDAY
19TH JANUARY 2011**

Your Excellency, Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Princess Sarah Adebisi Sosan

Members of the Board of Trustees of the WAEC Endowment Fund

Chief Government Nominee of Nigeria on Council

Chief Government Nominee of Sierra Leone on Council

Registrar to the West African Examinations Council

Head of National Office, WAEC Sierra Leone

Head of National Office, WAEC Nigeria

Representatives of co-sponsors of the quiz competition

Members of the Quiz Organising Committee

The Quizmaster, Recorder and Timekeeper

Contestants and their teachers

Members of the Audience

Members of the 4th Estate

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me warmly welcome you all to the inaugural launching of the WAEC Endowment Fund Quiz Competition, with this edition being between two member countries of the West African Examinations Council – the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of Sierra Leone.

This quiz competition is aimed at creating a forum for stimulating academic competition, healthy rivalry and significantly strong ties of friendship among the students of the member countries of WAEC. It is also meant to inject a lighter side

to the understanding and appreciation of Mathematics and the Sciences through fora like these, which will hopefully unveil the mystery that often times shroud these subjects leading to a source of fear for many students. It is yet another landmark event in furtherance of the objectives of the WAEC Endowment Fund which was established in 1982 to, among others, promote educational development projects of an international nature.

The competitors representing each of the participating countries have been selected from among students in the third year of senior secondary education that have undergone studies in the teaching curricula and examination syllabuses relevant to the West African Senior School Certificate Examinations conducted by WAEC in The Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

It is the intention of the Council to make this quiz competition a regular annual event. The current edition is featuring only two of the five member countries due to certain logistical challenges. We wish to assure our audience that strategies have been mapped out to surmount these challenges in subsequent editions. We also intend to rotate the venue of the annual competition among the member countries in the years that lie ahead.

The successful hosting of this competition in Nigeria has been made possible largely as a result of the logistics support and financial assistance which the Council has received from some well-meaning corporate organizations. I want to use this opportunity, on behalf of Council, to express profound appreciation to those corporate organizations for their immense contribution to the sponsorship of the competition and look forward to their continued partnership with us in the education and training of our youths.

I wish to commend the Registrar and her team in the staff Organizing Committee for working tirelessly to make the hosting of this competition a reality. We look forward to an interesting competition and wish both teams the best of luck and clear thinking as they respond to the range of questions asked.

We highly register our appreciation to Your Excellency, Deputy Governor of Lagos State, for setting aside other pressing personal and state issues to honour the Council with your gracious presence. Indeed, your presence here with us, is a laudable demonstration and testimony to your personal interest in education and love for WAEC, and the commitment of your government to the development of education in the West African Sub-region.

Distinguished guests, as I once again welcome you cordially to the launch of the 2011 Edition of the WAEC Endowment Fund Quiz Competition, I most respectfully invite Her Excellency, the Deputy Governor of Lagos State, to declare the competition open.

Thank you for your attention.