

**THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE ST. JOHN'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION
2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 20TH 2024, VIRTUALLY BY ZOOM.**

TITLE: COUNTDOWN TO LEADERSHIP CHANGE AND HAND OVER: REFLECTIONS ON OUR STEWARDSHIP

Great Johnnians!!!

I warmly welcome you to this august occasion of our annual general meeting, which marks the beginning of our countdown to leadership change and baton hand over while we reflect on our stewardship. Our first tenure as the National Executive Council of your ever dynamic, result oriented St John's Grammar Old Boys' Association (SJOBA), acclaimed by the Osun State Government as the foremost stakeholder in **Education** and a development partner to the State in the provision of infrastructures and creation of conducive atmosphere for learning. These accolades were earned through your cooperation with the National Executive Council as exemplified by your commitments to prompt payment of annual dues, voluntary donations and sponsoring Sets and Stanza projects. I am indeed, very grateful to you all.

I had looked forward to this auspicious day which was postponed from October 2023, due to the vagaries of the Nigerian economy which affected our projects in terms of costs and execution. Today's annual general meeting, marks the end of the first fiscal year of our second tenure as the National Executive Council of your ever dynamic, result oriented Old boys' association. At the next instance of our AGM in October, we will be handing over to a new set of Leaders who will steer the ship of our noble Association towards our lofty visions.

During our SJOBA Election campaign in 2020, when I presented my humble self for Election as the National President, I presented to you a manifesto spelling out a detail of things to achieve and how to achieve them. It is imperative to render at this time an account of our stewardship for records purposes. It is time to recall targets that we set and report the scorecard.

My manifesto, which the National Executive Council adopted and implemented with vigor are as follows:

1. Get the association registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC);
2. Ensure that sets are encouraged to be active among themselves and properly represented at the level of the central executive council and national working committee;
3. Provide exemplary, transparent, honest, dedicated, vibrant, purposeful, democratic leadership for the association and ensure consensus building and achievement of joint aspiration;
4. Ensure that the secretariat of the association is fully functional at the office allocated at the administrative block of the school;
5. Build on the labors of our founding members to actualize the vision, mission statement as well as the goals and objectives set forth in the constitution; namely:
 - (a) To provide opportunities for social intercourse and interaction, between past and present students of the School.
 - (b) To facilitate and maintain contact among all the past and present students and teachers of the School.

- (c) To organize and carry out annual activities of its members on the premises of the School at Ile-Ife or elsewhere.
- (d) To award scholarships and decorations to deserving students of the School and members of staff of the School.
- (e) To present trophies and prizes for competition among the present students of the School.
- (f) To raise funds, call for and accept donations for the purpose of carrying out any or all the objectives of the Association.
- (g) To establish branches or other organizations in furtherance of the objectives of the Association.
- (h) To show interest and participate in any affair that will enhance the reputation of and immortalize the School.
- (i) To create an active interest of Old students in the welfare and development of the School.
- (j) To unite Old Students in bonds of Friendship, Comradeship and mutual understanding
- (k) To provide a forum for open discussion of matters relating to the school and Old Students' welfare and development.
- (l) To encourage the setting up of States, Towns and Class Stanzas of the Association.
- (m) To engage in activities that would aid the development of the school and raise funds for the execution of such activities.
- (n) To engage in any activities that may be beneficial to the School and Old Students and can be conveniently carried on with or in conjunction with the other above mentioned objectives.
- (o) To keep in perpetual remembrance the labors of our founding father LATE REVEREND FABIAN CLOUTIER, the Canadian Catholic Missionary who built the school from his family resources.

All the above have been achieved today, through the special grace of God and your unflinching support and many more including the following:

1. The National Secretariat is established and functional.
2. Restoration of Electricity to Oke –Atan, to the school and our host community by donating a 500kva capacity Step down transformer and financing the installation
3. Construction of Modern Toilet facility for the School which is capable of serving the entire Staff and Student population (Work-in- Progress).
4. Renovation of a Staff Quarter which is currently in use by one of our Vice Principals.
5. Procurement and installation of 85 Sets of Chairs and Lockers for the Assembly Hall to ease the stress of moving Furniture during National Examinations.
6. Procurement of Revision and Library Books for Students' use.

7. Ten Sets of Teacher's Table and Chair were procured for the Teachers in the School to create a good and conducive working environment.
8. Renovation works were carried out on the Legacy building and Science Laboratories. These works renewed the building and got them ready for the renaissance of teaching Sciences with practical in our School.
9. A most Memorable 60th Anniversary of the School was celebrated with pomp and pageantry to the admiration of the State Government and Ile-Ife Community. It brought together Johnians from all walks of life in a most grand reunion and rejuvenated the true spirit of brotherhood among us.

All the projects mentioned above and others costing about N45million were executed through Set Levies, Annual dues, Set donations, Individual donations and Abuja Chapter donations.

All monies spent from our account on any of these projects were approved by the Johnian National Working Council and implemented through trusted and highly qualified Members of our Capital Projects and Infrastructures monitoring committees, the National Secretariat, Set and Stanza Executives.

Between the period of October 2, 2020 when this NEC was inaugurated and September 15, 2022, we have generated an Income of N52,939,964.00. This is a demonstration of your unalloyed support and earnest desire to see our School emerge the best secondary institution in Osun State in particular and Nigeria in general.

We did not only dwell on the provision of infrastructures, we sought to improve the Academic standards and performance of the Students in our Alma Mater. We noticed there was a lacuna in the dispensation of discipline Teaching and application of knowledge. We attracted the entire Ministry of Education to the rot in our School and the decline in Standards. After due diligence, the Honorable Commissioner for Education instructed that a Letter of apology be delivered to SJOBA on the 9th of March, 2022 as a prelude to transferring the entire Administrative and Teaching Staff of St. John's Grammar School. A new Set of Principal, Vice Principals and Teachers tagged the reformation Team were sent to the School since April 2022 and we can confidently say there has been a dramatic change in the School.

We had the opportunity of recognizing our distinguished Teachers at the 60th Anniversary Celebrations. We also presentation Certificate of recognition to the serving Teachers as at January 22, 2022. This is to appreciate the great works done by them to make us relevant in service to humanity worldwide and to motivate the Teachers currently in the School to give their utmost best in molding lives. The 3rd Vice President Ike Diaku graciously facilitated visit to Mrs. Harrinder Sutton and Mrs. Arinola Anjorin in the United Kingdom to convey our Association's goodwill messages and appreciation to their kind, compassionate selves. This bond of affection stands unique to SJOBA among other Old Student associations.

On behalf of the National Executive Council, in whom you reposed a reassuring confidence to serve you for an additional and final tenure of two years in accordance with our Constitutional provisions. I hereby express our utmost gratitude for your unflinching support, relentless contribution and selflessness to the SJOBA cause. I am confident that the tempo will be increased as we countdown to hand over. A new Member was added to our NEC in person of Johnian Bada, Abimbola Michael of the 1989/73 Set who was returned unopposed as the Assistant General Secretary, to replace Johnian Obafemi Obadare who

did not contest for a Second tenure. In accordance with the SJOBA Constitution, the position of the 4th Vice President was filled by Johnian Sam Oludunfe, based in California USA. He has been coordinating SJOBA activities in The Americas, North America, CANADA, TheCarribean and others with maximum impact.

Our intention to celebrate the 62nd anniversary of our Founder's day on the 19th of January 2024, (which was celebrated last on January 21,1972, at the 10th year anniversary of SJGS) was suspended to allow proper completion of all the projects approved at our AGM. We are happy to announce that the various projects including (a) The procurement of equipment and Furniture for the Chemistry and Biology Laboratories and the review of the Physics Laboratory which was earlier completed, (b) The reinstallation of Water Closets and Fittings in the Modern toilet built by the 1980 Set, (c) Removal of Two Water tanks from the Roof of the Toilet and reinstallation on a 4m high Stanchion, (d) The reconstruction in part of the Soak away chambers for effective sewage delivery, (e) The Gas works on the Laboratories and restoration of electricity to the Laboratory buildings, (f) provision of proper ironmongery security for the Pump and Electrical Switchgear of the New Industrial Borehole and the finishing of the perimeter base, and other ancillary works incidental to all of the works listed above. These works are executed by direct labor and supervised by our Capital Projects and Infrastructure Monitoring Committee are in various stages of completion.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Nigeria, our dear motherland is going through the pangs of a rebirth due to several transformational policies of the current administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, whose audacious and courageous removal of Fuel subsidy from his very first hour in office has been acclaimed as the right and appropriate action. The consequences of Inflation, devaluation of the Naira, increment in the Pump price of PMS, and other measurable effects are assuredly temporary. Nigeria will definitely rise above all these challenges and we will all be proud of our motherland. I therefore salute your courage, your forbearance and your continued sacrifice in giving back to your Alma Mater. Without your commitment to paying your annual subscriptions, donations and sponsorships, all our efforts to realize projects adopted at the inception of this administration would have been in vain.

It is not yet enough time to beat our chests to say we have done so much. But like the proverbial Lizard who having jumped from the highest point of the Iroko tree, to no applause, nodded his head to acclaim his prowess. I therefore wish to acknowledge with tons of gratitude, the following Sets and Members who donated to the Funds for the 2023 Capital projects.

1. Dr. Festus Odunayo Oshoba 71/75 Set, N2,328,000 for the New Industrial Borehole works
2. Dr. Julius Olabode Fadipe 70/74 Set N200,000
3. REV. Anthony Omisade 70/74 Set N200,000
4. Barrister Dr. Sola Oyeyemi 76/81 Set N150,000
5. Pastor Samuel Sina Oludunfe 73/78 Set N125,000
6. Johnian Eagle Olujimi Soda 67/71 Set N120,000
7. Barrister Elusoji Solomon Adeyeni 80/85 Set N120,000

8. Johnian Eagle Olagbaju Benedict Akinlolu 63/67 Set N50,000
9. 1972/76 Set N2,791,250 For Chemistry and Biology Science equipment.
10. 1973/77 Set N577,000
11. 1978/83 Set N550,000 for Physics Laboratory Equipment.
12. 1979/84 Set N500,000
13. 1973/78 Set N375,000

I also want to express our gratitude to all Members of the Johnian National Working Committee (JNWC) who coordinated their Sets to pay their annual dues in 2023. Your highly esteemed cooperation pivots our sterling performance.

ACADEMIC STANDING OF SJGS

The Board of Governing Council of St. John's Grammar School headed by our dedicated and highly committed Johnian Engineer Ayodele Alabi, has assured that the Transformation team operating in the School has improved the academic excellence of our Students. Our Students can now write, speak, and read English Language fluently as opposed to the past where even the Teachers cannot express themselves. The stance of the school administration against examination malpractices led to the withdrawal of Students who cannot cope with the rigorous academic demands. St. John's Grammar School is now one of the schools of choice for discerning Parents in Ile- Ife and very soon, hopefully, there will be a return to the glorious days of 100% performance in WAEC and JAMB.

I seek your further support for our Alma Mater in employment of Teachers for the following subjects. This is to complement the efforts of the State Government who gave us 21 Academic Staff, arguably the highest in Osun East Educational District, and to fully utilize the Equipment procured for our Laboratories. The subjects include

- a. Agriculture Science
- b. Chemistry
- c. Biology
- d. Yoruba
- e. Computer Science
- f. Introductory Technology
- g. Integrated Science

We also require the services of 3 Non-Teaching Staff including

1. Laboratory Technologist
2. Night Security Men (To safeguard our huge investment in the School)

Upon the approval of the AGM, Our Academic Excellence Committee and the Board of Governing Council will liaise to conduct interviews and recommend appropriate terms and condition of service.

SJOBA MEMBERSHIP

I am pleased to announce to you that SJOBA ILE-IFE CHAPTER is up and running. Their executive Members led by Adekunle Adeyeni of the 1976/81 Set are working hard to ensure the participation of more than 2500 Members who are resident in Ile-Ife and environs. The 1999 and 2000 Sets have been running for over 4 years. Their Representatives are already working with the National Secretariat to establish a formidable presence in the comity of Sets of SJOBA. This is heartwarming as we are sure of perpetual succession of our Association. I hereby enjoin our Members in all States of the Federation to work harder to establish City Stanzas to forge a closer bond of Unity among our Johnian Eagle Brothers. I acknowledge the efforts of our 4th Vice President and Members in the Americas. We look forward to their invitation to a grand event towards building a virile SJOBA presence in both North and South America.

At this point, may I request that we all rise to pay our due respect to our Late Founder, Motivator, and Role Model, Reverend Father Fabian Cloutier, and all our Johnian Eagle Colleagues brothers and Friends whose mortality has been fulfilled, by observing a One minute silence.... May their souls rest in perfect peace perpetually. Amen.

Ut Diligatis Invicem.

Dr. Festus Odunayo Oshoba.

National President.

SJOBA

I wish to commend our Finance Team whose impeccable records and coordination has guided our fiscal responsibility. The current balance in our account today is N2,809,442.25; two million eight hundred and nine thousand four hundred and forty two naira twenty five kobo.

Details of our Income and expenditures are in the Financial reports. We will also seek your approval to reappoint our external auditors or otherwise appoint a new one at this meeting. We also need to appoint a new electoral committee to conduct elections. I commend the members of the current electoral committee led by Johnian Clement Oladele. The members of the current electoral committee is comprised of:

1. Clement Oladele '74, Chairman
2. Saka Opeloye '73, Member
3. Adekunle Eludire '77 Member.

4. Lanke Bakare Member.
5. Adedire Joseph Secretary.
6. Yomi Layinka '75, Member
7. Adereti Afeez 95 Member

The members are eligible for re-election. The AGM will need to appoint the members during this meeting.

Our outlook for 2024 is to finish strong by completing all the Capital projects embarked upon in 2023. We will Jump start the revamping of our Sporting Facilities with the Construction of a new flood control drainage line to checkmate the undermining of our Basketball. Lawn Tennis and Handball Courts. This will give a new lease of life to the road entering the School which is already in a bad state.

We look forward to your participating in electing a new set of vibrant leaders who will move forward the ideals of SJOBA, setting new standards and surpassing the humble feats attained in the life of this administration. Our Independent Electoral Committee headed by Johnian Eagle Clement Oladele is charged to midwife another intriguing and exciting exercise.

While wishing you a very happy deliberation, I once again thank you all for your cooperation and attendance at this meeting. May God bless you.

Dr. Festus Odunayo Oshoba.

National President.