



Date: 25/06/2024

To: Nominations Committee

**Support Letter for Amb. Olasubumi Iginla Aina**

I am pleased to write this Support letter in favour of the nomination of Amb. Olasubumi Iginla Aina (MBE) for a Royal Honour. I had the privilege of meeting Amb. Olasubumi in May 2023 when she visited Cyprus for a humanitarian intervention. Complaints from Africans living in the Turkish Republic Northern Cyprus specifically in the areas such as language barrier serving as hinderance for foreign students to report offenses and receive social care, Poor health care system, labour exploitation, rent extortion and sexual assaults spurred Amb. Olasubumi into embarking on the visit to the country. She has since then, been liaising with the authorities of the country to ensure the welfare of foreign students which shows her commitment to contribute to the wellbeing of humanity regardless of race, religion or creed. **I deem it fit to mention here that in my 12 years of stay in North Cyprus and as the 5<sup>th</sup> president of the National Association of Nigerian Students in the Turkish Zone and has one of the stakeholders of the African community in the country, Amb. Olasubumi is the first individual to have visited Cyprus with the sole aim of a humanitarian intervention towards African students in North Cyprus.**

During this intervention, she visited several universities one of which was Girne American University where I currently work as a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Law. It was at the meeting with the senior management team of the university that I had the opportunity to get to know about the interventions she had conducted in Ukraine and some other countries specifically on the subject of irregular migration.

**The impact of her visit to Cyprus has positively shaped the relationship between the government and the foreigners especially African students residing in the country.** I joined her in meeting with Foreign Affairs Minister and the Education Ministry of the country where she made practical recommendations in the area of student health care, mitigation of crime, student support services and addressing sexual harassment. **As a result of her intervention and continuous follow up with the government of the country, more than a 100 English speaking police officers were employed by the government in May 2024.** This was one of the issues raised during the intervention of Amb. Olasubumi. In the past police officers were not required to speak English and this has affected to a significant extend the credibility of the criminal justice system.

She further pushed advocacy on behalf of Nigerian students studying abroad who had difficulties getting foreign exchange to pay their tuition. This led her to make appearances on major TV stations in Nigeria appealing to the government and Central Bank to allow access to Foreign Exchange. – Her advocacy dominated the news and the form A which was used to implement the Nigerian Central bank policy for foreign exchange transfers has now been cancelled. <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/09/iginla-aina-cbn-transfer-policy-frustrating-nigerian-students-in-northern-cyprus-2/>

<https://punchng.com/fg-must-partner-embassies-to-tackle-nigerian-foreign-students-forex-other-problems-iginla-aina/>

In fact the Government of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus recently offered scholarships to students from Nigeria. And they also appear to be more involved in the activities planned by the Nigerian students in Northern Cyprus - the Minister of Education (Nazim Cavusoglu) participated at the Nigerian Independence day celebration on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2023, to further show their willingness to work as a team shortly after Olasubomi left Northern Cyprus <https://www.facebook.com/NANS.TRZONE1/>

Another issue that Olasubomi had to mitigate was the issue of the Nigerian students from Zamfara state who were offered scholarships by their state governor but due to lack of adequate payment to the Cyprus International University CIU, the students were going to be expelled from school and ejected from their accommodation – Olasubomi advocated for the resolution of this crisis which affected over 90 students <https://thenationonlineng.net/dilemma-of-nigerian-students-and-survival-challenges-in-foreign-varsities/> Just a few weeks ago, CIU confirms that Zamfara government have started to release funds.

This letter would not be enough to outline the selfless acts of Amb. Olasubomi and the impact it has had on the student's community. She has become an effective intermediary bridging the gap between the students with their universities and the government.

The award of Royal Honour I strongly believe will amplify the audience that would be given to Amb. Olasubomi and further accredit her ongoing outstanding service to humanity.

I wholeheartedly, pledge my support to her receiving of the Royal Honour.

Sincerely,



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