

# Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 01 | Issue 01 | RISE Initiative



## *About Rise*

RISE Initiative is a non-governmental Organization which seeks to encourage children within the basic educational category to embrace learning as a tool for personal and by extension, nation development. We desire to make education entertaining, appealing and rewarding while advocating for curriculum development.

Our objective is carried out through rewarding educative competitions which promotes learning as fun and intellectually rewarding.

The RISE Initiative was launched in 2018 with an essay competition among public schools and a spelling bee contest among the children in Abuja homes. The performance and zeal of the participants inspired us to do more and we soon found ourselves in Owerri in Imo State to organize a spark quiz competition among children with great potential.

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## The Nigerian Flag

Ahead of Nigeria's Democracy Day, the RISE Team launched an essay competition among primary school students enrolled in public schools under the Abuja Municipal Area Council in the Federal Capital Territory. Who knew there could be so many perspectives and opinions on the Nigerian Flag.

We believe patriotism is a key ingredient for national development and that patriotism is best enshrined at a young age. The topic was simple – The Nigerian Flag - pupils were expected to write a five hundred (500) words essay on the Nigerian flag. We tested their creativity, ability to research and understanding of history while considering their ability to deploy the quality of education received in their grammatical constructions.

A total of 108 entries were received from pupils in ten schools around the Federal Capital Territory and subject to grading by experienced educators and volunteers. The winning essay utilized a commendable blend of advanced words outlining the history of the Nigerian flag correctly while highlighting its importance and symbolism for the country. In line with our quest to encourage learning, the winner was awarded a one-year library membership with the Shehu Musa Yaradua Centre as well as provided with a school kit and a cash prize.

Watch out for our next essay competition in 2019. We hope to cover more schools and pupils in 2019 and our theme promises to remain patriotic.



Winner of the Essay Competition with representatives of Universal Basic Education Board (UBEB) and officials of the School -

## Did you know...

The original design of the Nigerian Flag had a red radiating sun badge on the central white vertical band?

## Introducing the RISE ‘Work for Experience’ Project

We have a new project in the oven tagged the “Work for Experience” project.

The RISE Team has identified a gap in the employment market with Employers seeking individuals with some form of experience, while fresh graduates need jobs but have no form of experience.

Through this initiative we hope to contribute to the goal of reducing the number of unemployed youths in Nigeria by providing a platform for matching eligible individuals with an opportunity to gain pockets of experience which enhance their employability through internships/volunteer opportunities and temporary employment with relevant organizations.

Partnering organizations also get to contribute to this national agenda under this platform. If your organization would like to be a part of this CSR initiative, please contact us.





## *So you think you can spell? The untold story of the Intelligent minds in Orphanages*

Thanks to the advent of technology and the power of autocorrect, everyone can send in a document with accurate spellings. But take away the mobile phones, laptops, tablets and other similar devices and spell a word thrown at you by the judges. ...now that can be a real challenge. But not for the bright minds at the RISE Spelling Bee Competition.

Our inaugural spelling bee competition involved children from 10 orphanages within Abuja armed with a spelling bee wordlist of 500 words. There was 'loud' silence every time a child picked a number. Everyone held their breaths hoping the word accompanying that number would be an easy one. Some home managers were so tensed, they left the hall, but the kids were outstanding and resilient. They gave every word a go. It was a tough one, with kids dropping out along the way. but eventually we did learn something about the orphanages in Abuja - they are filled with children with great potential. Our feature story in this newsletter captures the experience of the RISE Team.

Some weeks to the spelling bee competition, our volunteers toured some of the participating orphanages in the Federal Capital Territory to assess their readiness for the upcoming competition by conducting a mock spelling bee at each home.

From Lugbe to Kubwa, Kado, Gwarimpa, Mpape and environs, every home the team of volunteers visited was teeming with bright minds.

## *Cont'd...*

Nothing prepared the team for the zest and commitment of the participants. According to one volunteer, "Even among themselves in each home we found that the upcoming competition had been taken seriously, forming a critical part of study time."

Perhaps even more intriguing was the commitment of the proprietress/Matron/Manager of most homes. The quest to host this spelling bee revealed the large number of unknown orphanages being run by well-meaning Nigerians for little or nothing from the government.

One particular home is purpose built with dormitories and classrooms, hosting about 50 children. Other children in the neighborhood pay to go to school at the home, thereby serving as a source of income for taking care of the kids in the home. The Team found a number of homes to be constrained by space, restraining their ability to adopt more children.

One thing all the homes have in common however is the priority placed on the education and development of the children. This was evident in their ability to take on the spelling bee with confidence and zest.

Our Team of Volunteers attest to the brilliance of the children at these homes and the passion displayed during the mock spelling bee competition.



Little wonder that the main competition was indeed highly competitive. The kids in the orphanages in Abuja are full of great potential and we hope they are availed every opportunity to maximize their potential.

The winner won a mini-library for his host orphanage constructed and equipped by the RISE Team in addition to a kindle, cash prize and excursion. If you would like to support this initiative in 2019, please contact us.



## All RISE for Owerri...!



The City of Owerri in Imo State was the destination for our maiden spark quiz competition. We tagged our quiz competition “spark” in line with our objective to spark an interest in qualitative learning by students, not just for the purpose of passing exams but to inculcate knowledge and empower the next generation to innovate.

The spark quiz competition had questions drawn from select subjects in line with the government approved curriculum for junior secondary schools.

We were impressed by the performance of the students and we hope to replicate this feat in 2019 with more contestants and schools in attendance.

### ***Sponsors, Partners and Volunteers***

Fulfilling the objectives of the RISE Initiative in 2018 would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors, partners, and volunteers.

We appreciate every organization and individual who has believed in the RISE Vision and supported us through funding and in other ways.

We trust that we can continue to count on your support in the quest to promote qualitative education in the coming years.

If you would like to be a volunteer, partner with us or support us, we would like to hear from you.

### COMING UP IN 2019...

SPARK QUIZ COMPETITION

SPELLING BEE COMPETITION

ESSAY COMPETITION



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