

**REMARKS BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ON CULTURE,  
SENATOR DAHIRU BAKO GASSOL ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EXHIBITION TITLED 'NIGERIA 100  
YEARS AGO THROUGH THE EYES OF LEO FROBENIUS AND HIS  
EXPEDITION TEAM' ON THE 9TH NOVEMBER, 2010 AT CYPRIAN  
EKWENSI CENTRE FOR ARTS AND CULTURE, ABUJA.**

**PROTOCOLS**

It is my pleasure, on behalf of myself and members of the Senate Committee on Culture to make a brief remark on the occasion of the opening of this exhibition planned by the National Commission for Museums and Monuments in collaboration with the Leo Frobenius Institute, Goethe University, Frankfurt.

The exhibition is an attempt to bring to the public the rich cultural heritage of Nigeria as far back as 100 years and to create in us a sense of retrospect as we plan for the future.

Leo Frobenius a German anthropologist came into Nigeria in 1910 at a period when different areas of Nigeria had had contacts and experiences with western world people who came with different missions; as slave merchants, commodity merchants, missionaries, colonial administrators and indeed explorers. I am reliably informed that Leo Frobenius expedition to Nigeria was however on a different agenda. He had a clear-cut mission to carry out documentation of tangible and intangible heritage of our people, which correlated with his goal of demonstrating that indeed Africa had cultural heritage for which it should be proud of.

This presentation of his archival materials contributes to our understanding of Nigerian history and culture by bringing to life scenes of daily activities, arts and crafts, architecture and costumes in Nigeria 100 years ago. The exhibition is therefore to present these pictures to the public with the aim of educating and enlightening Nigerians on our rich cultural heritage.

It is for this reason that I wish to sincerely commend the National Commission for Museums and Monuments for leaving up to its responsibility of preserving, and presenting our cultural heritage for the education and enjoyment of our people.

I hope this exhibition will go a long way in sharpening our perception of how we were 100 years ago in comparison with how we are today as an independent country. I also hope that this knowledge will help us in forging ahead as a united country blessed with unique cultures. The future can only be better if the achievements of the past are duly acknowledged and mistakes corrected.

I welcome you all once again and wish you a happy viewing.