

CHAIN HOST MALLAM NUHU RIABADU TO A KADUNA TOWN HALL MEETING

An august gathering in August it was on Friday 6th August 2010 as CHAIN hosted youths at the Catholic Social Centre, independence way Kaduna to a lecture titled "*making Nigeria Great: whose responsibility?*" Frankly speaking, it was not only the lecture that attracted the youths who started coming before time, but the guest lecturer Mallam Nuhu Ahmed Ribadu. As the saying goes "a good name is better than riches" indeed, Mallam Ribadu has created that for himself and has continuously inspired people most especially the youths. However, it was a privilege to have him, hear him, see him and interact with him as a friend. One after the other, the youths kept appreciating him and his commitment to the nation while serving with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

The lecture was attended by several prominent people in Kaduna State including the Governor who was represented by Mr. J.W Bagu, Permanent Secretary Bureau for religious affairs Christian matters, Mrs. Nenadi Esther Usman former Minister of Finance, Gambo Gujungu of Arewa Youths Forum (A.Y.F) and many others. In his welcome address Rev Hayab CEO CHAIN welcomed the guest and hoped that the lecture would create an impact in the minds of the youths. He called on Youths not to allow themselves to be used as thugs by selfish politician but should channel their energies and knowledge toward nation building. The Governor in his opening remark charged the youths to be alert, to know their roles and duties and to participate positively in nation building. He concluded by assuring youths that his government had the youth in mind as they are the backbone of every society. A brief citation on the speaker Mallam Nuhu Ribadu was read by Samuel Aruwan. This citation charged the youths as they cheered and clapped while he mounted the podium to begin his lecture.

Mallam Nuhu Ribadu addressed his listeners casually as he shared jokes in between the lecture. He defined the youthful age as an age of creativity, participation and change on the positive. This led him to remind youths that our founding fathers; Zik, Awolowo, Tafawa Balewa, Aminu Kano, Anthony Enahoro, Ahmadu Bello, Shehu Shagari and many others did what they did as youths and not as adults. He also looked at

religion and ethnicity as trivial and should be avoided He says “I consider myself a true and practicing Muslim but I respect and honor the religion of the other man, I do not believe that the extension of my faith is the annihilation of the other man’s religion” He further stated that faith is at its greatest promise when it is espoused by young people because the world of youth is largely the world of future. Therefore the need for youths to participate in the act of governance is of importance as there is need for Nigeria to experience a turn around. Young men and women have a cause to do this because they own the future which at all cost should be better than the past. However there should be respect and honor for the high and low, rich or poor, Christian or Muslims. This can only occur when we sanitize our minds of all selfish ambition, extremism and other vices.

In conclusion, he encouraged youths to look across the world and see what fellow Nigerians in Diaspora are doing. There is need for such activity here in Nigeria which involves voting competent and accountable people who will save our nation from further decline. On the 2011 election he pleaded with the youths to be peaceful and refuse all forms of violence. Like the national youth service corps anthem which says;

Youths obey the clarion call
Let us lift our nation high
Under the sun or in the rain
With dedication and selflessness
Nigeria is ours
Nigeria we serve

The youths responded on the positive as they asked questions on national issues which could serve as a pointer and as a clue on steps to be avoided or taken. The occasion ended with the youths milling around the guest speaker for a snapshot and to get his GSM number for further use. Personally I felt privileged to be in attendance and hear such a message of hope and challenge from a pacesetter.