



FMEN LAUNCHING & INAUGURAL AGM, Saturday 9th June, 2018

The long awaited FMEN Launch took place with great success on Saturday 9th June, 2018. It was well attended by our membership and other interested participants and was graced by the presence of our Honorary President, Mrs. Ronke Soyombo (Director General, Quality Assurance, Ministry of Education, Lagos State).

Worthy of note is the presence of Mrs. Bisi Akin-Alabi (Special Adviser to the commissioner, Oyo State), Mr. Femi Martins, (Programme Manager Bunmi Adedayo Foundation BAF), Mrs Evelyn Akeredolu (Chairperson, International Women's Society Day Nursery) Mrs. Dolapo Coker (Chairperson, Scholarship Committee, International Women's Society- IWS).



The Launching kicked off with prayers by our own Ajibike Bakare (Head, Juniper Hill, School). Bimpe Pogoson (FMEN Trustee -Chairperson) then gave an insightful introductory address; highlighting the history of Maria Montessori before going on to add her own personal journey to becoming a Montessori Directress.



Following this, Junnifa Uzodike (Board Member- AMI) was kind enough not only to be in attendance but also went on to give a broad yet detailed overview of AMI; highlighting its Mission, Vision and current Strategic Goals. She provided personal experience of the great

work the AMI has undertaken in countries like India and highlighted upcoming gatherings in South Africa and at a later date, Thailand.



Bola Benson (Trustee, Adviser-Outreach) went on to enlarge upon one of the Strategic Pillars Junnifa had earlier noted; namely for 'Capacity' building and developing a template to help improve standards in public/government schools, primarily by partnering with the Bunmi Adedayo

Foundation (BAF). She also went on to briefly summarise FMEN's current communication tools and its current and projected functionality including our FMEN Website and WhatsApp Chat group.



FMEN Trustee- Events, Itohan Eigbe, furthered the proceedings by emphasising FMEN's 'Capacity' building role and giving an overview of our objectives before breaking down our Long-Term Goals. Our upcoming events including the Assistants Training in July 2018 and projected Diploma Course in

2019 were also mentioned. She ended by reiterating FMEN's aim of making Montessori available to all Nigerian children.



The AMI Social Outreach Pillar which advocates Montessori for Social Change has been fully adopted by FMEN as clearly illustrated by Mrs. Awobo-Pearse (FMEN Trustee-Treasurer). She introduced the AMI 'Aid to Life' Program and explained how FMEN is working to

bring it to Nigerian mothers who need it most; the 'under served'. She noted the steps the Society has taken to purchase the required materials and 'roll it out' through partnership with those who have ideal sites in preferred where many mothers within this 'under-served' demographic can be best accessed. She announced that she is in discussions with the International Women's Society IWS on the use of the school hall at the IWS Day Nursery, Yaba, Lagos.



After a short video highlighting the work of the AMI and light refreshments, the Membership Trustee, Mrs. Ajoke David recommenced proceedings to bring to the fore the many benefits to membership. These include discounts on

Neinhuus materials, books, seminars, addition to the Schools List on our website and future Schools accreditation by the AMI. She enjoined those in attendance, not yet members, to take the opportunity to sign up at the Event.



Mrs. Soyombo, (FMEN-Honorary President) took this opportunity to make her address. She thanked the Society for her invitation. She went on to indicate her appreciation for the Montessori Approach and note how its 'functional learning' approach is so relevant for our community.

She noted that our Public Schools would certainly gain significantly from this approach and enjoined us to become actively engaged at the State Policy level so as to be at the fore front of developing quality in our Public Schools.



FMEN Trustee-Secretary rounded off the Event. Mrs. Emafo firstly introduced a new AMI Initiative towards character development called 'Montessori Football' which aims to develop character through participation in the

noble game of football. She provided the criteria which must be met to participate and encouraged members to sign up.

She talked about the need to collaborate with all Education NGOs to support the education of the over 80 Million Nigerian youths. She then went on to encourage our membership to join hands for the 'big work' required in ensuring FMEN is able to achieve its many laudable initiatives. She stressed that our profession connotes service and our efforts will make a positive impact on the future generations of Nigerian children.

The Session ended with a question and answer session and the opportunity for networking by attendees.