

Report of the annual book-giving ceremony in Parakou

INTRODUCTION

In what has become a yearly tradition, the Association for the Education of the Disadvantaged Students (APEED) Benin, held its fifth annual book giving ceremony for the school year 2009-10. The ceremony handed over free books and stationary to one hundred pupils (thirty seven girls and sixty three boys), all of whom are in difficult financial situations and attend one of the public secondary schools in the town of Parakou. The ceremony took place on Wednesday October 14 in the school hall of the College Mathieu BOUKE of Parakou.

COURSE OF THE CEREMONY

1. Participants

1-1 Official participants:

- Mr MAMA AFFO Ibrahim, representing the Mayor of Parakou.
- Mrs SARANA Baited, representing the Departmental Management of the Secondary Education and the Technical and Vocational Training of Borgou – Alibori.
- Mr ASSOUMA Foamed, Headmaster of the College Mathieu BOUKE.
- Mr TOSSOU Vincent, Director of the College of Mainstream education of Banikani.
- A delegation of teachers of the schools attended by members of APEED.

1-2 Government participants:

- Mr VODOUNON Pascal, Director of the Council of the Educational Activities of Benin (CAEB)
- Mr DJAZI, representative of the Non Governmental Organisation SIA N'SON
- Mr LAFIA Brice Member of the Steering committee of APEED Benin

1-3 Other notable participants:

- Mr AIZANOU Gildas
- Mr YACOUBOU Souley (both parents of pupils)

2. Short speeches

Several speakers spoke in turn to applaud the initiative of the ceremony and to encourage the pupils of APEED to diligently apply themselves to their schoolwork. In addition, the speakers thanked all the generous donors for their continuing assistance to the disadvantaged students of Parakou.

3. Handing-over ceremony

3-1 Six pupils having obtained averages of greater than 15 out of 20 received a gift as encouragement, a calculator and three thousand CFA (\$AUD 7).

3-2 Each of the Association's one hundred student members received a package comprising the following:

- 10 exercise books of 100 pages
- 7 exercise books of 200 pages
- 6 exercise books of 50 pages
- 1 lab book
- 3 pens
- 1 pencil
- 1 set of geometry instruments
- 2.5 metres of khaki fabric for school uniforms
- 1 rubber
- 2 meters of khaki cover
- 1 bag

The overall cost of the school stationery distributed rose this year to a Million Two Hundred and Twenty Two Thousand Six Hundreds (1.222.600) CFA francs (\$AUD 2 918).

3-3 In addition a generous donation was made to APEED-BENIN by Mr YACOUBOU Souley (listed above as a notable participant of the ceremony) of four dictionaries and other books for the library.

4. Thanks

The pupils themselves expressed gratitude to the generous donors, appreciating the sacrifice and efforts of donors and parents who enable them to continue their education.

To close the ceremony, the President of APEED Benin spoke to thank all the special guests in the room. In his thanks, he made a special mention to all those who have supported APEED Benin either through their advice and counsel or through financial support. The President specifically thanked the

- Mr MEDE YAYA (member of the Steering Committee)
- Mrs OBURA Anna (member of the Steering Committee)
- The families of Mills (UK), Roberts (Australia) & Porter (Australia) whose regular financial participation have always made it possible for APEED-Benin to successfully lead its activities in the town of Parakou.

To finish the President of APEED-BENIN encouraged the pupils to work diligently and invited the parents to also encourage their children and wished them a successful school year for 2009-10.

This was reported as fact on October 24, 2009

The Rapporteur
The President

Émeline GANLEDJO
Barthelemy SODANSOU