



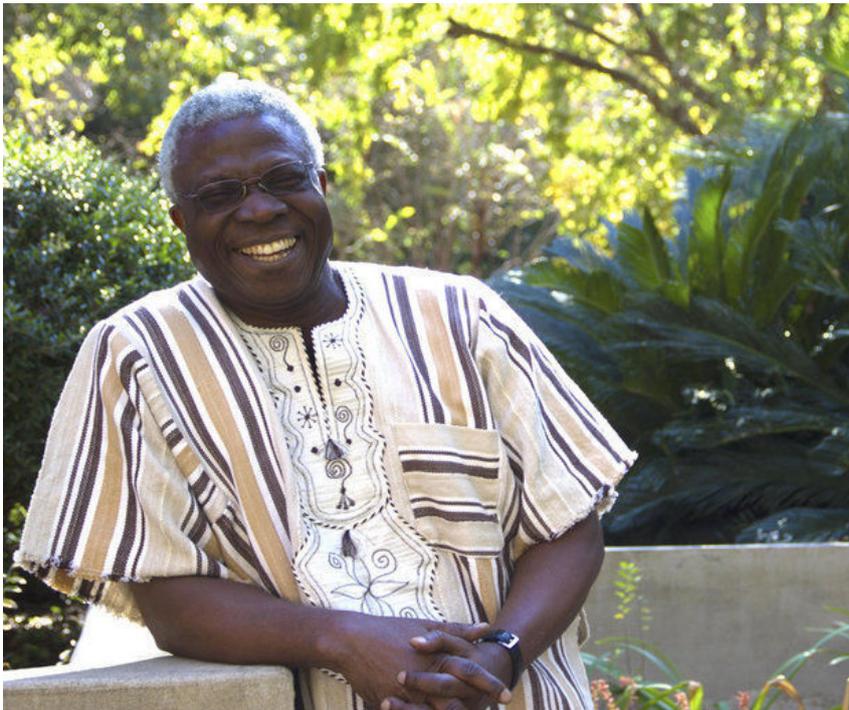
By: ADA DIKE May 22, 2015

Organised in partnership with the University of Ibadan to celebrate Nigeria's great poet and sole winner of the 2014 Nigerian National Order of Merit NNOM Award, Professor Niyi Osundare, the maiden edition of the Niyi Osundare International Poetry Festival is scheduled to hold from May 26 to 27, 2015. NewsWatch Times gathered that the event which will create a platform for critical discussion by writers will hold at the Trenchard Hall of the University of Ibadan. NewsWatch Times also learnt that the opening ceremony of the event that has continued to win support from stakeholders in the book publishing industry as well as the creative and academic world will be chaired by the former president, West African Bar Association Femi Falana (SAN). According to its organizers, the festival will offer a platform for a critical discourse of his works by fellow writers and other creative minds, students and sundry admirers. The festival menu is a potpourri of academic discourse, music, dance, contemporary and traditional poetry reading/ chanting, drama, mentoring of younger talents, outreach to local high schools and other engaging creative intellectual activities. On parade are first-class Nigerian poets, critics, scholars and performers including Professor Femi Osofisan, award winning dramatist and poet, Professor Remi Raji-Ojelade, award-winning poet, Professor Abdu Rasheed Na'Allah, poet/critic and currently Vice-Chancellor, Kwara State University, Ilorin, Tade Ipadeola, 2014 winner of the much coveted NLNG prize, Akeem Lasisi and Jumoke Verissimo. Other stellar participants include Professors Chris Anyokwu, University of Lagos, Isidore Diala, Abia State University, award winning poet/writer, Joe Ushie, University of Uyo, Gabriel Osoba, Lagos State University, Egya Sule of Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai, Sonnie Asomwan Adagbonyin, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma and Sunny Ewheafeada. The Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) Oyo State Chapter members will also be active at the festival. - See more at:

<http://www.mynewswatchtimesng.com/niyi-osundare-international-poetry-festival-holds-may-26/#sthash.QQRzaUjM.dpuf>

The Times-Picayune

UNO English teacher the subject of international poetry festival



Niyi Osundare, an English professor at UNO and winner of the 2014 Nigerian National Merit Award, is the subject of an international literary festival to be held in Nigeria in May. *(Photo courtesy of UNO)*



By [Jed Lipinski, NOLA.com |](#)

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[University of New Orleans](#) English professor Niyi Osundare is the subject of an international literary festival to be held in Ibadan, Nigeria, this month. The Niyi Osundare International Poetry Festival will take place May 26-27 at the University of Ibadan, where Osundare received his undergraduate degree and taught before joining UNO.

Osundare, one of the Nigeria's best-known literary figures, [**received the 2014 Nigerian National Order of Merit Award**](#), the country's top prize in science, medicine, engineering, technology and the humanities.

Government officials, captains of industry, artists and literary scholars from Nigeria and abroad are expected to attend, according to the [**Nigerian news site The Punch**](#).

The festival's director, **Tunde Laniyan**, noted that the event will provide a "much desired diversion from the nearly choking politicking currently enveloping" Nigeria, which recently elected former military ruler Muhammadu Buhari as its president in what the BBC [**described**](#) as the most expensive election ever held in Africa.

Osundare was educated on three continents. In addition to a bachelor's degree from the University of Ibadan, he earned a master's from the University of Leeds in England and a doctorate from York University in Toronto, Canada.

Ibadan ready for Osundare festival

MAY 12, 2015 : AKEEM LASISI



Prof. Niyi Osundare

The maiden edition of the Niyi Osundare International Poetry Festival will hold between May 26 and 27, AKEEM LASISI writes

About a year after poet laureate, Prof. Niyi Osundare, bagged the National Order of Merit Award, scholars and poets from different parts of the world are set to institutionalise a festival in his honour.

Tagged the Niyi Osundare International Poetry Festival, the first edition is billed to hold between May 26 and 27 at the University of Ibadan, where Osundare was the head of department of the English Department, before he moved to the University of New Orleans.

Although Osundare has not made a statement on the event, being a poet who delights in celebrating people, humanity and scholarship, there is hardly any honour that can surpass one coming to him from his constituency. He establishes this fact in his poem 'Human Beings are my Clothes', published in his collection, A Book from the Pages of the Sun.

The Festival Director, **Mr. Tunde Laniyan**, indicates that top government officials, captains of industry, performing artistes, literary scholars from Nigeria and abroad are expected to be in attendance.

He adds, "Also to be present are undergraduates, pupils and all lovers of literature. The best of traditional and contemporary poetry, music, dance, and drama will feature in the two- day festival.

A conscious blend of art, culture and tourism deliberately set within the university community in the historic city of Ibadan, the undoubted literary capital of Africa, the maiden edition of Niyi Osundare International Poetry Festival will attract the crème de la crème of tourists, researchers, artistes and the press to the venue during the event."

Laniyan adds that the festival will be a cynosure of national and global attention because of Osundare's significance and the relevance of the event to provide genuine breath of fresh air in the society.

"It will in addition provide a veritable oasis of much desired diversion from the nearly choking politicking currently enveloping the nation. It is in view of the above that the festival is initiated to celebrate this icon as a worthy role model for the younger generation to aspire to acquire knowledge, because knowledge is power."

The Chairman of the Organising Committee of the NIOPF, **Mr. Dele Morakinyo**, says it has continued to win support from stakeholders in the book publishing industry as well as the creative and academic world. According to him, UI, which is Osundare's alma mater, is a partner.

He says it will feature traditional Nigerian and contemporary poetry presentations, including, esa, ijala, ekun iyawo, iwure as well as music, dance and drama. Morakinyo says, "The event will also provide a platform for better understanding of the great works of the poets as eminent scholars and experts in literature will discuss his writings, style and content at two sessions devoted to such in depth engagements."

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Niyi Osundare International Poetry Festival: Ibadan gears up for 1st edition of festival

The 1st edition of the **Niyi Osundare International Poetry Festival** is set to hold between May 26 and 27, 2015.

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One of his popular works include 'Human Beings are my Clothes'.

[HOME](#) / [UNO NEWS](#) / [2015 NEWS](#) / **INTERNATIONAL LITERARY FESTIVAL TO BE HELD IN HONOR OF UNO ENGLISH PROFESSOR** - Wednesday, May 13, 2015



University of New Orleans English professor Niyi Osundare

An international literary festival will be held in Ibadan, Nigeria later this month in honor of University of New Orleans English professor Niyi Osundare. The first-ever Niyi Osundare International Poetry Festival will take place May 26-27 at the University of Ibadan, where Osundare previously taught and received his undergraduate degree.

Osundare, a poet, dramatist and essayist, is one of Nigeria's most revered literary figures. Last year he accepted the 2014 Nigerian National Order of Merit Award, the nation's top prize in science, medicine, engineering/technology and the humanities.

According to festival organizers, participants will present the "best of traditional and contemporary poetry, music, dance and drama" in the two-day festival. Scholars will also discuss the content and style of Osundare's published works.

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These are some more stories about the MAIDEN NIYI OSUNDARE INTERNATIONAL POETRY FESTIVAL in national and international media/sources.

THE TIMES-PICAYUNE -New Orleans

By Jed Lipinski, NOLA.com |

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THE NATION

Niyi Osundare international poetry festival opens May 26

May 16, 2015

Written by Our reporter

The maiden edition of the Niyi Osundare International Poetry Festival which will hold in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital between May 26 and 27, has continued to win support from stakeholders in the book publishing industry as well as the creative and academic world. The nation's pioneer university, the University of Ibadan, which is also Prof Niyi Osundare's alma matter, is a partner in the festival which is to honour the poetry icon who is a multiple awards winner.

The 2-day historic event will feature traditional Nigerian and contemporary poetry presentations, including, esa, ijala, ekun iyawo, iwure as well as music, dance and drama. It will also offer literary scholars, students of secondary and tertiary institutions a unique opportunity of meeting the celebrated writer who will be coming in from his United States of America base where he is currently a Distinguished Professor in the Department of English at the University of New Orleans, Lakefront, New Orleans.

The event will also provide a platform for better understanding of the great works of the poets as eminent scholars and experts in literature will discuss his writings, style and content at two sessions devoted to such in depth engagements.

In addition to all the foregoing, publishers and booksellers will have the opportunity to take stands to exhibit their titles to the gathering of literary giants expected at the festival. The organizers expect that more individuals and corporate organizations will want to be counted in by supporting the celebration of a Nigerian who keeps projecting the nation excellently across the globe where he is highly respected for his advocacy for humaneness in governance and literary prowess.

Niyi Osundare international poetry festival opens...

www.thenationonlineng.net

NEWSWATCH TIMES

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THE PUNCH

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www.nola.com/.../2015/05/niyi_osundare_festival_uno.html

[OYO STATE.NET](#)

Niyi Osundare International Poetry Festival: Ibadan gears up for 1st edition ... - Pulse Nigeria

Niyi Osundare International Poetry Festival: Ibadan gears up for 1st edition ...Pulse NigeriaThe upcoming event which is organised by scholars and poets from different parts of the world, comes a year after poet laureate, Prof. Niyi Osundare, bagged the National Order of Merit Award. The festival will hold at the University of Ibadan, where

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