

THE ALBINO FOUNDATION

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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1.0 About The Albino Foundation

Established in 2006, The Albino Foundation (TAF) is principally an organisation set up and run by Persons living with Albinism (**PWA**). TAF is an independent non-governmental organization registered in Nigeria with the Corporate Affairs Commission. We are a special focus organization advocating for the recognition, respect for the rights and socio-economic inclusion of people living with albinism. The Foundation works to create awareness about the social challenges that PWA face in Nigeria and the world by working with governments and development institutions in Programme areas that improve the health and social wellbeing of PWA in Nigeria as well as assist and empower them to find their rightful place in society. The Foundation has achieved national spread with 36 functional state chapters across the country including FCT, Abuja.

2.0 Vision

The Albino Foundation envisions a society with equal opportunity for persons with albinism

3.0 Mission statement

We are an advocacy organisation that empowers persons with albinism and educates the society on issues of albinism in Nigeria and the world

4.0 Our Values

- **Accountability:** we are responsible and answerable for our actions
- **Commitment:** we are devoted to our cause
- **Stewardship:** we are caring and continuously improving our service delivery
- **Passion:** we are excited about what we do
- **Inclusiveness:** we embrace and collaborate with all who share our vision

5.0: Board of Trustees

The Foundation has a 5 member board of trustees comprising of highly esteemed individuals who have made their mark in their various fields of career and life endeavours. The board is responsible for the governance, organizational direction, policy and strategy formulation of the Foundation.

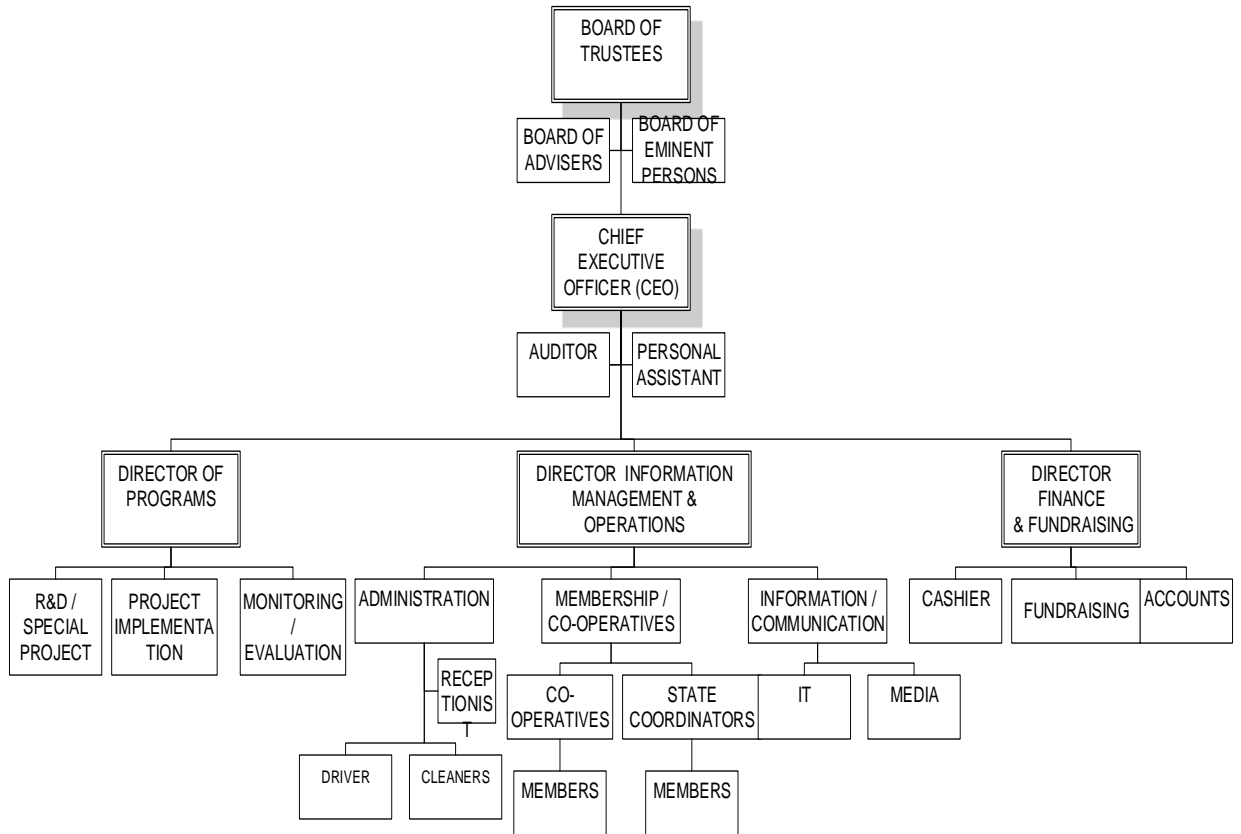
- Alhaji Shehu Shagari GCFR Grand Patron
- Dr Ndi Okereke Chairman
- Dr Douglas Anele Vice Chairman
- Jake Epelle Founder/Chief Executive Officer
- Barr. Gabriel Arewele Secretary
- Prof. Mercy Olumide Member

6.0: Organisational Focus

With a view to impacting all persons living with albinism in Nigeria, Africa and the world, our focus as an organization is categorized into five major areas:

- **Healthcare:** The aim of Persons with Abinism Healthcare Project is to reduce and mitigate health related problem associated with albinism such as sunburn, skin cancer and eye related problems
- **Legislation and Policy Advocacy:** The aim of the Legislation and Policy Advocacy on Albinism is to ensure total mainstreaming of albinism programmes and policies into every sector of development in Nigeria
- **Social Awareness:** The aim of the Albinism Education and Social Awareness project is to properly educate and orientate Nigerians about the true state of albinism and to help promote understanding, acceptance and socio-economic inclusion of PWAs into mainstream society.
- **Learning and Education:** The aim of the project is to ensure that persons with albinism especially children with albinism have access to qualitative education
- **Economic Empowerment:** The aim of the project is to enhance the operational capability of the Foundation and ensure that PWA live independent lives

7.0: TAF Organogram



8.0: Statement from the Founder/CEO

The issue of the challenges faced by persons with albinism stems from their vision, skin problems, low self-esteem, myths and stigmatization, stereotypes and recently the killings of persons with albinism in different parts of the World and more especially in Africa which has now become a relevant and regular matter in social discourse.

Notwithstanding the challenges faced by the foundation in getting the required resources to carry out its mandate of protecting, promoting the rights of persons with albinism and empowering them to live independent lives, the foundation has continuously ensured, through its advocacy drive to the media, courtesy visit to relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government and other corporate organisations, to demand for adequate mainstreaming of persons with albinism into the socio-economic, cultural and political development of the country.

These efforts have yielded dividends evident in the fact that the 2% of the N220 billion CBN's Micro Small and Medium Enterprise fund, launched in 2014, have been set aside for persons with disabilities of which PWA are part of. With this fund, persons with albinism especially the most vulnerable amongst them will be able to access it and eke a living.

The Foundation, with Education as one of its focus areas, was able to partner with Education Sector Support Project in Nigeria (ESSPIN), a DFID funded project, in planning and implementing the TAF/ESSPIN Education Project geared towards ensuring that children with albinism have access to qualitative education within the country.

The foundation cannot do it without the support you, members of the public, government, stakeholders and corporate organisations have given. However, we keep on soliciting for the support of all and sundry in ensuring that the foundation continuously affects the lives of these most vulnerable groups in Nigeria. We request that you join the foundation in touching these lives.

Jake Epelle
Founder/CEO

9.0: Major Achievements in 2014

The Foundation witnessed some ups and down during the year 2014, ranging from inability of the foundation to raise the needed funds to implement its programs and activities to insufficient funds to run the office as it should. However, these challenges were not only experienced by the Foundation but also other organisations within the country as a result of the financial crunch that affected the generality of the public. Notwithstanding the daunting challenges experienced in the year under review, the foundation was able to carry out series of activities that affected members of the public and touched the lives of persons with albinism including children. Some of the activities carried out are highlighted below.

9.1: Press Conference on the Non Inclusion of Persons with Albinism at the National Dialogue

On 7th of January, 2014, the Foundation organised a Press Conference to intimate members of the public on the discrimination of persons with albinism by the Government on the matters affecting the nation by the non Inclusion of persons with albinism in the National Conference. The National Conference was aimed at bringing together various groups in Nigeria to discuss issues affecting the country and proffer solutions on the way forward for a better Nigeria.

The founder of the Foundation, Mr. Jake Epelle used the opportunity to intimate members of the press on the many challenges faced by persons with albinism and the need for them to help to educate and sensitise the public on the various issues on albinism. He told the media that all groups were represented except the albinism community, which is a gross injustice to the community and urged the Federal Government to carry along all other vulnerable groups in such subsequent national programme. Questions and answers were provided.

9.2: Courtesy Visit to the Director General FRCN

The Foundation paid a courtesy visit to the Director General of FRCN, Mallan Ladan Salihu on the 18th of February, 2014. The visit, which was led by the CEO of the Foundation, Mr. Jake Epelle appealed to the DG for a sixty seconds albinism awareness jingle on FRCN network programme; reach out to Ibadan, Enugu and Kaduna zonal stations to help the

foundation translate the jingles into the three major Nigerian languages of Igbo, Hausa and Yoruba; participate in a radio link live programme to discuss the issues on albinism; continue to support the foundation in its albinism awareness programme; and collaborate with the foundation in ensuring that her programmes and activities have adequate coverage by FRCN.

9.3: Visit to the Traditional Ruler of Abaji, FCT

Following the need to ensure that traditional rulers are carried along in creating awareness on the plights and challenges faced by persons with albinism especially the children, the foundation, on the 21st of February 2014, paid an advocacy visit to the Traditional Ruler of Abaji, and Chairman FCT Council of Chiefs Alhaji (Dr.) Adamu Baba Yunusa. The delegation took the opportunity to educate and enlighten the Onah and his chiefs of the various myths and challenges faced by persons with albinism and the need to ensure that the cabinet properly educate their subjects.

The foundation also highlighted to the Emir and his chiefs the various programmes of the foundation that are beneficial to children with albinism. The leader of the team, Mr. Damian Ivom stated that the Institute of Human Virology of Nigeria (IHVM), is supporting the foundation in the area of Educational and Household Economic Strengthening to support children with albinism who are out of school and their caregivers to enable them cater for the family.

In his response, the Onah thanked the foundation for their laudable projects and promised to engage with parents whose children are living with albinism in his domain. He also promised to take the message to the Minister of FCT.

9.4: Visit by Federal Ministry of Education

On the 7th of March 2014, the Federal Ministry of Education responsible for NGOs paid a courtesy visit to the Foundation. The Ministry were represented by Husaini Abdullahi and Mrs. Ogbe Elizabeth. In his welcome address, the Programme and project Specialist of the Foundation, Mr. Damian Ivom, thanked the representatives of the Ministry for creating time to visit the foundation. He stated that the foundation is not a portfolio organisation like some other NGOs in the country but a well established and structured organisation. He highlighted

the programmes of the foundation and the numerous achievements recorded by the foundation within the short period of its existence.

The head of the delegation from the Ministry, Mr. Husaini Abdullahi stated that they were not in the foundation to probe or scrutinise its documents but to know whether it is a well established and structured organisation that the Ministry can work with. The inspectors were shown round the office and were satisfied with what they saw. At the end, some documents of the foundation were handed over to the delegation from the ministry amongst which is the foundation's 2013 annual report.

9.5: Meeting with National Cancer Programme Coordinator

On the 20th of March, 2014 the management staff of the foundation paid a courtesy visit to the National Cancer Programme Coordinator in Nigeria, Dr. Mrs. Hassan, on the need for more proactive measures in preventing and reducing skin cancer in persons with albinism in Nigeria. The head of the delegation to the Coordinator, Mr. Jake Epelle thanked Dr. Hassan and the Ministry for their support especially towards the free cancer treatment for persons with albinism at the National Hospital, Abuja.

Nonetheless, Jake Epelle urged the coordinator for more preventive measures that will reduce the burden on the government other than treatment. He stated that more preventive awareness measures in both print and electronic medium will be the best option to reducing skin cancer related measures in Nigeria. He appealed to the coordinator to ensure that funds be allocated to take care of albinism related issues in the ministry's subsequent budgets.

In her response, Dr. Mrs. Hassan thanked members of the Foundation for coming and assured that she will always do her best to ensure that persons with albinism are mainstreamed into the ministry's cancer programme. She requested that a budget for the foundation's cancer programme should be made available for her so as to include it in the ministry's 2015 annual budget to be sent to the national assembly. National Cancer Programme is a programme under the Federal Ministry of Health.

9.6: Meeting with INEC officials

On the 9th of April 2014, officials of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) paid a visit to the foundation to discuss ways of ensuring that persons with albinism are mainstreamed into the electioneering process. This has become necessary owing to the fact that persons with albinism in Nigeria are not engaged in electoral issues. The founder of the foundation, Mr. Jake Epelle used the opportunity to inform the representatives of INEC about the many barriers that prevent persons with albinism from participating in electioneering process in Nigeria, which include discrimination, inability to see the prints on the ballot papers, inaccessible polling units and many more. He called on INEC to involve persons with albinism in all their sensitisation and training programmes. The representatives of INEC assured the foundation that persons with albinism will be involved in all INEC programmes especially train-the-trainers programmes that will be taken place in Ekiti and Osun states.

9.7: A Joint Press Conference On The 1st West African Regional Conference On Albinism And Award Of 2 Scholarship Grants By Eta-Zuma Group.

The Joint press conference, organised in partnership with Federal Ministry Of Special Duties and the Liberian Embassy on 3rd of April 2014, began at 10.30am with a general opening prayer and introduction of guests and the media.

The CEO, Jake Epelle, thanked the Liberian Ambassador and his entourage, representatives from the Ministry of Special Duties, Eta-Zuma Group (W/A) Limited, NERDC and the press for their partnership. He specifically thanked the Eta-Zuma Group for the award of scholarships for 2 children with albinism; a female from Kaduna State and a male from Akwa-Ibom State.

He continued by saying that the main reason for the press conference was to discourse on the West African Regional Conference scheduled to hold from 3rd-6th May 2014. He notified the press that the Liberian President have accepted the invitation to attend this conference based on her involvement with the MDG's and her interest in the cause of albinism; having approved albinism in the country's national budget.

Jake Epelle proceeded to give a brief presentation on albinism while once again giving a glowing recommendation to the Eta-Zuma Group for granting the scholarship beneficiaries the great opportunity for education.

He briefly summarized that the West African Regional Conference was aimed at enlightening the region about albinism and give recommendations on protecting and promoting the rights of persons with albinism within the west African region.

He then invited the representative of Dr. Innocent Ezuma, Chairman of Eta-Zuma Group, Dr Emeka Okoh to give his speech.

Dr. Emeka Okoh began by introducing the company and what they do. He explained that Eta-Zuma Group is predominantly into exploration and power, having the license to develop coal into power. He said they are also currently in the process of developing 400 megawatt of electricity using gas. In the speech the Chairman expressed his belief in the power of education and its ability to thrust anyone into the fulfilment of their dream. He said that rather than watch the children's potential dwindle into dormancy because of lack of funds, he would be willing to take the responsibility of granting 2 children with albinism a full educational scholarship. He concluded by thanking TAF for the opportunity to affect society through their corporate social responsibility. On whether the scholarship will be a continuous scheme, he replied that since educational empowerment remained very passionate in the Chairman's heart, it is very likely he would want to remain committed to it.

Prof. Kate Nwufomi, Director Nigerian Educational Research Development Council (NERDC), a special guest and partner to the foundation, commended the press for their support in broadcasting wide the voice of the foundation. She also spoke on the genesis of the Council's partnership with the foundation at the JCCE Plenary that held in Sokoto in 2011, after Mr Epelle's passionate appeal for help for the introduction of albinism education in Nigeria. Consequently, a blueprint was developed through the former Minister of Education, Prof. Ruquayyat Rufa'i. The Blueprint and Policy were finally fully approved in 2012 and 2013 respectively. She stressed on the continued growth of the partnership as only the previous day, members of the Council had gathered at the Albino Foundation Office for a compilation of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) in albinism. She said albinism had become so personal to her that she had taken it upon herself to sensitize as many persons with albinism that she had the privilege to meet, both within and outside the country's boundaries. She expressed sheer delight and excitement that the message was being diffused across the West African region.

The representative from the Ministry of Special Duties spoke of the Ministry's thankfulness for the possibility of the conference and their interest in the cause, especially since it has to do

with the welfare of this vulnerable group. She strongly commended the efforts of the CEO TAF, praying that it will yield the desired results. She said they are committed to make their contribution in ensuring that the foundation thrives.

The Tanzanian Ambassador in his response thanked the CEO for his presentation and appreciated every guest for their support and partnership with the foundation. He proceeded to once again appreciate the CEO for his kind invitation to Her Excellency, the President of the Republic of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, as the event's Keynote Speaker and publicly spoke of her acceptance. The Ambassador further explained that as Tanzanian President will be attending to official state matters, she had delegated the Tanzanian Minister of Gender Issues to attend on her behalf. The Ambassador said that the President recognized the role the foundation plays in ensuring that persons with albinism enjoyed an equal quality of life like all other people. He concluded by thanking all coordinating organizations for their supporting roles in ensuring the success of the event.

9.8: First West African Conference on Albinism: 3rd to 6th May 2014

The annual conference on albinism has been a continual event since the inception of The Albino Foundation in 2006. It had subsequently had at its themes issues that revolved around people with albinism in Nigeria. Through the years however it had become pertinent to begin to look outside our local borders to not only the regions, but across the entire continent as well. It was discovered that across the West African coast persons with albinism faced the same issues of skin cancer, discrimination and even murder, hence the theme, **“Protecting And Promoting The Human Rights Of Persons With Albinism.”**

Under The Same Sun, an NGO that carries out in-depth research findings on albinism, have been able to discover to a reasonable degree, the number of abductions, kidnappings and ritual murders of persons with albinism in Africa, and it is alarming that especially in the eastern region, the numbers of the missing and dead are increasing. It therefore became imperative to address the violation of the rights of people with albinism and let the continent know that all persons with albinism have the full rights, privileges and citizenship to whatever country they emanate from.

A recent visit to the Republic of Liberia by the Founder/CEO late last year and the warm reception granted by the government and people birthed the need for the first West African Conference on Albinism with the Keynote Speaker being no other person than Her Excellency

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia. Because of prior commitment however, she graciously sent a representative in the person of the Honourable Minister of Gender and Development, Madam Julia N. Duncan Cassell, who was accompanied by His Excellency Professor Al-Hassan Conteh, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Liberia.

In his goodwill message, the Ambassador said the progress of the foundation was very impressive considering the length of its tenure and added that Ghana and Liberia have joined the foundation in observing 5th May as National Albinism Day. He also mentioned the President and her government's support of the Liberia Albino Society and her directions that he meets with the foundation.

Speaking on behalf of Her Excellency, The President, Madam Duncan heartily appreciated the special invitation rendered her to participate and serve as Keynote Speaker in the historic First West African Conference on Albinism. She apologised for being unavoidably absent but expressed her confidence that the Honourable Minister of Gender and Development was a worthy representative.

9.9: ESSPIN/TAF Albinism Education Awareness Programme

The Albino Foundation, in her bid to bring the challenges faced by Students living with Albinism (SWA) as it relates to health, education and socio-cultural issues, in partnership with ESSPIN organised three senatorial sensitisation programmes on Albinism in two different states: Kaduna North, Kaduna State wide programme as well as Udi Senatorial Zone of Enugu State. The major focus of these programmes was to sensitise those at the grassroots – i.e. teachers, educators as well as parents of students living with albinism - on the major challenges that SWA face whilst studying. The programme also aimed at developing policies that will pave way for mainstreaming albinism into the education curriculum. So far, the three events that have already taken place was recorded a huge success. A total of 1,112 persons benefited from the programme.

At these programmes, three major presentations were made under the following topics:

Easy Guidelines for Teachers and Educators in Albinism; Health Implications in Albinism; Myths Associated with Albinism. The opportunity was also taken to distribute free copies of

the Albinism Core Messages and Frequently Asked Questions Booklet, which answers questions on what albinism is, its challenges and the myths that are associated with albinism. This booklet was produced in three languages; English, Igbo, Hausa and Yoruba.

Nonetheless, TAF in partnership with ESSPIN is looking to carry out more of these sensitisation programmes in most senatorial zones of other states.

9.10: TAF Participates at the National Organization For Albinism And Hypo-Pigmentation (NOAH) 15th Conference Held At San Diego, California, U.S.A.

On the 10th – 13th of July 2014 in San Diego, California USA, the umbrella organisation of persons with albinism globally, **National Organization for Albinism and Hypo-Pigmentation (NOAH)** held a five day conference, which aimed at creating a safe, comfortable, engaging place where persons with albinism, the parents of children with albinism as well as other interested family members, friends and professionals can freely come together to foster fellowship and to share information, opinions and ideas that will better the lives of persons with albinism globally.

Several nations attended the conference including African countries like Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda and South Africa. Nigeria was represented by the Foundation's CEO, Mr. Jake Epelle. Highlights of the conference included:

- Strategic sessions to address issues surrounding youth with albinism such as peer pressure
- Workshops on education programmes on the latest research in albinism
- Breakthroughs in Visual and Dermatology such as HD Acrobat Enhanced Vision Devices that enable students with low vision to see the blackboard from any distance within the classroom.
- Parents and guardians of persons with albinism interacted and expressed life's experiences and challenges while proffering solutions to negative mindsets.
- Current assistive technology that aids travelling especially with the near blind individuals with albinism was discussed. Some of the travelling visual aids required by persons with albinism, especially in driving, were reviewed while those interested

in driving were counselled on how best to use them while avoiding the hazards associated with them.

The African participants took the centre stage and called for international cooperation among those advocating for albinism especially the Western world. The clarion call for albinism advocates to engage their various governments was raised by Jake Epelle of The Albino Foundation, Nigeria. This topical issue occupied the greater part of the discourse as virtually all participants agreed to go home and engage the governments of their nations. The Albino Foundation in Nigeria was greatly applauded for the successful manner in which it had engaged the Nigerian government in providing free cancer treatment for persons with albinism in Nigeria, scholarship grants and a National Policy on Albinism and its accompanying Implementation Guidelines.

9.11: Albinism Included In N220 billion MSME Fund

The 8th annual MSME Finance Conference with the theme: MSME Financing in Nigeria: Past, Present and Future, organized by the Central Bank of Nigeria held on the 18th and 19th of August 2014 at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers Abuja. The N 220 billion development fund was launched by the Federal Government to provide Micro, Medium and Small scale entrepreneurs with long-term credit to “boost real sector growth, job creation and poverty reduction.”

However its major significance relates to the inclusion of People with Disability and their access to 2% of the total fund, but especially the invitation of 7 members of The Albino Foundation. The Albino Foundation is one of NGOs working towards accessing the funds for its members across the federation including other vulnerable groups in Nigeria.

In preparation, the foundation has begun making herculean efforts to ensure its participation by partnering with one of the recommended Participating Financial Institutions (PFI), CAFON Microfinance Bank. An MOU has been signed between the foundation and CAFON Microfinance Bank.

The area of focus for the foundation would be artisanship and the establishment of cottage industries to cater and address the need of underemployment and lack of empowerment among persons with albinism.

9.12: MoU Signing Between The Albino Foundation and CAFON Micro Finance Bank on MSME Funds

The event which took place on the 18th of September 2014 at National Press Centre, Radio House, Abuja was attended by various groups such as representatives of persons with disabilities, women leaders, religious leaders, youth leaders and officials of CAFON Micro Finance Bank.

The Founder/CEO of the Albino Foundation, Mr. Jake Epelle stated that the event was in lieu of the 2% of Central Bank of Nigeria MSME funds of Two Hundred and Twenty Billion Naira earmarked for persons with disabilities. He added that over the years persons with albinism have been neglected in the socio-economic development of the country. He stated that this category of people fall under persons with disabilities based on their visual impairment and skin related challenges. He called on CBN to look critically at their criteria to ensure that all persons that are eligible have access to the fund. He stated that with the foundation's 37 chapters cut across the 36 states of the federation and FCT, it has the entire requisite requirement to access the funds for its members.

He thanked CBN for earmarking 2% of the funds for Persons with disabilities and also to CAFON Micro finance Bank for making themselves available to accessing the funds.

A PowerPoint presentation, which was very informative, was done by the Assistant Director, Development Finance of CBN, Mr Babatunde Ogunlaja stated that the 2% of the funds that was earmarked for persons with disabilities is for those in the informal sector of the economy such as Farmers, Taylors, Vulcanizers, Welders etc who find it difficult to access funds from Banks and who do not have the requisite certification to access these funds.

He explained in details the six clear objectives of the funds, which include:

- Build capacity of stakeholders
- Provide cheap wholesale funds
- Economically empower women

- Provide grassroots economic development
- Promote and deepen access to finance, and
- Create job

He equally talked about modalities to accessing the funds such as:

- Agriculture value chain
- Services, such as hotels, schools, restaurants, laundry etc
- Artisanship
- Trade and general commerce
- Cottage industries
- Any income generating projects

He took time to explain in details the above modalities and how to ensure that Nigerians can have access to this fund. He added that in the nearest future there will be massive publicity both in the print and electronic media on accessing the fund.

Based on the outcome of the event and the questions that arose from it, there is a need for more of such awareness campaign in all the states of the federation especially at the zonal level. This will involve bringing together various groups in a larger scale in form of town hall meeting to educate and enlighten them on the CBN MSME Funds which many people at the grassroots are ignorant about.

9.13: Treatment of skin cancer and Distribution of Sunscreens

Skin cancer remains one of the biggest challenge facing persons with albinism globally. In order to ameliorate the problem posed as a result of skin cancer to persons with albinism in Nigeria, the foundation in the year 2014 was able to distribute 3,500 sunscreens worth **N10,500,000.00 (Ten Million Five Hundred Thousand Naira Only)** to parents and persons with albinism across the federation. The free sunscreen distribution project is aimed at drastically lessening the effect of sun rays on the body of a person with albinism thereby reducing the challenge of having skin cancer. The sunscreen was donated by Sebapharma, a German Pharmaceutical Company based in Germany. The foundation equally referred 150 persons with albinism living with skin cancer for free treatment to National Hospital, Abuja. The free cancer treatment for persons with albinism is an agreement between the Foundation, National

Hospital and Federal Ministry of Finance. This programme has ensured that over 800 persons with albinism living with skin cancer were treated free of charge and the bill paid by Ministry of Finance since 2007.

9.14: IHVN/TAF Educational Grant for vulnerable children in FCT

Also in the year 2014, the Foundation partnered with Institute of Human Virology of Nigeria (IHVN) to ensure that children with albinism and disabilities and children whose parents are living with disabilities are in school. This programme is geared towards ensuring that vulnerable children who will not be in school as a result of their vulnerability are sent back in school. Based on this, the Foundation has made sure that 25 vulnerable children within FCT are in school by paying their school fees, uniforms, books and sandals. The foundation is equally going to ensure that 35 other vulnerable children within FCT are also in school in the next academic session. Equally to benefit from these gestures are the caregivers of these children who are given stipends to enable them start up a small business that will enable them sustain the family even when the foundation is no longer there to provide them with needed supports. The programme has successfully enrolled 112 vulnerable children that will benefit from the project. These children and their caregivers have benefited from different nutritional foods from the foundation in 2014. We believe by next year the foundation will empower more children and caregivers both financially and materially.

9.15: Meeting with TOTAL Nigeria Cooperative Society

On the 23rd of September, 2014, the Foundation paid host to the management of Total Nigeria Cooperative Society. The meeting, which was attended by the Executive Secretary of Total Cooperative Society, was aimed at fashioning ways in ensuring that persons with albinism benefit from the Cooperative's numerous gestures. A power point presentation was made by the Founder and CEO of the foundation, Mr Jake Epelle on the challenges faced by persons with albinism especially the skin cancer and educational challenges. The Executive Secretary Total Cooperatives stated that he will relate the outcome of the meeting with his members and assured the foundation that the organisation will partner with the foundation to ensure that the plights of persons with albinism are reduced in Nigeria by funding one or two of the foundation's activities geared towards alleviating their plights.

9.16: Oluchi Iwuoha joins the foundation

The first beneficiary of the foundation's scholarship grant, Miss Oluchi Iwuoha joins the foundation after bagging a master's degree in Purchasing and Supply Chain management from Robert Gordon University Aberdeen, Scotland-United Kingdom. She is the first persons with albinism to have benefited from the foundation's scholarship grant. The scholarship grant was in partnership with Petroleum Technology Development Fund. Oluchi joins the foundation as project specialist assistant. We believe she will bring her experience and knowledge to bear in the foundation.

9.17: Staff Training Programmes

In the year 2014, the foundation witnessed some remarkable progress in its staff. Some of the management staffers were involved in International Development Organisations training programmes, which include CSOs Training on monitoring conventions and primaries of political parties; Capacity development training to improve capacity of state and zonal level CSOs to engage in democratic and governance processes in the North Central zone of Nigeria. These programmes were organised by UNDP/DGD. These trainings were geared towards ensuring that the foundation staff have the requisite knowledge and skills to carry out the aforementioned projects when the need arises.

9.18: Courtesy Visit to The Hon. Minister Of State For Education

On the 4th of December, 2014 the Founder and CEO of the Foundation, Mr. Jake Epelle led members and staff on a courtesy visit to the Hon. Minister of State for Education, Prof. Viola Onwuliri. In his remark, the CEO of the foundation stated that the visit was aimed at thanking the Minister for the Ministry's support to the foundation especially her role in making the International Albinism Awareness Day possible where Nigeria were among the 160 countries that voted for 13th June every year as the International albinism day and her role in making a person with albinism an Ambassador. He pleaded to the Minister to urge MDAs under her Ministry to buy-in in the HD enhanced vision device by ensuring that they purchase the device for students with low vision.

A plaque of honour was presented to the Minister as Albinism Ambassador of Nigeria owing to her support to albinism cause in Nigeria.

In her response, the Minister of State for Education Prof. Viola Onwuliri thanked the Foundation for finding time to pay her a visit especially the Founder for bringing the group together as a support group. She stated that albinism is hereditary and that is how God made it to be. She added that everyone has challenges but the ability to manage it is the most important thing.

She thanked those who participated in the National Policy on Albinism for their efforts and promised to ensure its full implementation. She advised parents and persons with albinism not to discriminate their child with albinism and also persons with albinism to strive to achieve whatever they want to achieve in life. She stated that the Ministry will partner with the foundation to procure some of the devices for children with albinism and others with low vision.

9.19: TAF Attended Nigeria First Lady's Christmas Programme

On the 22nd of December 2014, members of the foundation were at the First Ladies end of the year Christmas party where different organisations were invited to participate. Items such as Rice, wrappers, salts were distributed to organisations that attended the event. The foundation was given 70 bags of rice, wrappers, salts and a cash donation of one hundred thousand naira.

10.0: 2014 Financial Statements

BALANCE SHEET AS AT THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2014

	NOTE	2014		2013	
		₦	₦	₦	₦
EMPLOYMENT OF FUNDS					
Fixed Assets	1		5,515,717		6,554,050
Current Assets	2	37,588,736		5,544,965	
Current Liabilities	3	300,000		200,000	
Net Current Assets			37,288,736		5,344,965
Net Assets			42,804,452		11,899,015
Financed By					
Initial Fund	4		100,000		100,000
Trustees Donations	5		8,311,691		8,311,691
Surplus			34,392,761		3,487,324
			42,804,452		11,899,015

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2014

	NOTE	2014 N	2013 N
Income	6	53,232,761	18,066,805
Direct Cost	7	3,939,494	4,794,800
		49,293,267	13,272,005
Administrative Expenses			
Advocacy & Awareness	8	990,000	100,000
Transport & Travelling	9	2,081,500	1,289,994
Repairs & incidentals	10	-	3,444,160
Printing & Stationery	11	420,000	651,415
Telephone & Postage	12	310,000	239,358
Utilities	13	279,400	277,706
Salaries/Wages	14	5,394,000	4,163,785
Hospitality & Entertainment	15	27,650	219,650
Fuelling	16	-	144,000
Financial charges	17	-	200,000
General and Admin expenses	18	7,818,983	5,367,437
Bank Charges	19	27,963	30,692
Office Equipment	20	-	27,000
Building Plan	21	-	-
Depreciation	1	1,038,333	1,557,500
Total Expenses		18,387,829	17,712,698
Net Surplus		30,905,437	(4,440,693)
Net Surplus B/F		3,487,324	(1,354,343)
Prior year Adjustment		-	9,282,360
Net Balance C/F		34,392,761	3,487,324

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2014

	2014		2013	
	₦	₦	₦	₦
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Net profit/(Loss)		34,392,761		3,487,324
Add back:				
Depreciation		1,038,333		1,557,500
		<u>35,431,095</u>		<u>5,044,824</u>
Changes in working capital:				
(Increase)/Decrease in stock	(1,015,872)		3,304,743	
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	-		-	
(Decrease)/Increase in Creditors	(100,000)		200,000	
		<u>(1,115,872)</u>		<u>3,504,743</u>
Cashflow from operating Activities		<u>34,315,223</u>		<u>8,549,567</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Acquisition of Fixed Assets/IBTC	(34,242,046)		(2,571,950)	
Dividend from (IBTC) Investment	-		-	
Cashflow from Investing Activities	-	<u>(34,242,046)</u>	-	<u>(2,571,950)</u>
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES				
(Decrease)/Increase in Loan	-		-	
(Decrease)/Increase in Trustee donation	-		(9,282,360)	
Cashflow from Financing Activities	-	-	-	<u>(9,282,360)</u>
Net cashflow for the period		73,177		(3,304,743)
Opening Cash and cash equivalent.		288,434		<u>3,593,177</u>
Closing Cash/cash equivalent.		<u>361,611</u>		<u>288,434</u>

