

ARTS AND REVIEW

Day French ambassador visited Ibadan

📅 29.May.2014 | 0 Comments | 👤 Adewale Oshodi



LAST week, the French Ambassador to Nigeria, His Excellency, Mr Jacques Champagne De Labroille, was in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, where he paid visits to institutions that have French interests in the state.

The ambassador's first port of call was the Institut Francais de Recherches Africaines, IFRA-Nigeria Centre, which is located at the University of Ibadan. However, before visiting the IFRA Centre, Mr De Labroille met with the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ibadan,

Professor Isaac Folorunsho Adewole.

During the meeting, the ambassador said the French government was working towards helping Nigeria in the area of development of raw materials, which would be used legitimately by experts who are reliable in the area of fact-findings, reliability and data analysis.

"I must let you know that France is putting interest in these areas of raw material development and security, and that is the main reason why we are supporting it, to achieve the pulling down of insecurity in Nigeria," the ambassador said.

In his own remarks, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Adewole, said "Our country must gladly engage the French if really we want to maintain security for the citizenry. I believe creating a long-term security should be our main concern, just as the initiative of our President was so strategic, having recently visited France."

While emphasising the importance of language, Professor Adewole explained that "it is another instrument which could be used to tackle insecurity.

"I want to plead with the French government to collaborate with us in the learning and teaching of the language. Our University must be a partner in this progress, and also have housing for its sustainability. We have to be a part owner in this development," the vice chancellor said.

The ambassador later launched IFRA's Nigeria Watch Project, which will be focusing on statistical analysis of the security situation in the country.

On the second day, the ambassador visited the Alliance Francaise, where he first had a meeting with the Director, Mr Alain Croguennec, and the Deputy Director, Mr Nicolas Michelland.

The ambassador was then taken round the French cultural centre's facilities, where he met and interacted with other

workers.

While speaking, the Director, Mr Croguennec, expressed his happiness with the visit of the ambassador, who is the head of the French community in the country.

On his part, the ambassador, Mr De Labroille, was impressed with the serene environment at the Alliance Francaise, saying such a conducive environment is needed for qualitative learning of the French language.

The ambassador later visited the Advance Microfinance Bank, Dugbe, a bank that has considerable French interest, before meeting the Oyo State Governor, Senator Abiola Ajimobi at the Government House. Issues relating to the development of the state were discussed at the meeting.

The ambassador was accompanied on the visit to the state by Mr Patrick Perez, the Counsellor for Cooperation and Cultural Affairs at the French embassy.