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# **REDEMPTION SONGS**

**A collection of poems in celebration of Nigeria's fifty fourth  
independent anniversary**

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## **EDITOR'S NOTE**

A country's Independent to different people means different things. To some people, it means political and economic freedom, while to others, different meanings. But this publication focuses on the achievements and failures of Nigerian Government from the period of independent till date.

## IN THE SEAT.

I'll spoil myself  
To see high mountains range  
Stirring my desires  
Watching wildflowers in bloom  
Blackberry blossoming white  
Fruit trees festooned with cascading flowers  
The seat is lithe and elegant  
Siken and Tawny  
Carved Ivory, carved and slender  
For a taking, in my hands

Hang my pocket around my neck  
Till my vineyard is full  
My portion of the cake must be fatty  
Am keeping it to myself  
To spice my lots  
I,I will do away  
Away with every ripe apricots and peaches  
Oranges and pears  
Nut trees and cinnamon  
All scented Woods

Mint and lavender  
With all aromatic herbs flowing here  
'Cos the seat is mine  
Mine for a taking.

Excite your greed no more  
Is not yours but ours  
Stir up looting no further  
For tome is ripe  
Justice arrived yesterday  
Peace and truth accompanied her  
Along with dignity and fairness  
The land is for all  
With the minister of righteousness  
Exceeding in glory  
Is a new covenant of sufficiency  
In the seat made by his powerful might  
Yes in the seat  
Is not yours but ours  
Stir up a love world now  
'Cos is time to celebrate oneness  
The time is now.

## **Obiageri Ozigbo**

## SUFFERING AND SMILING

Break in and break up this fight  
We are suffering and smiling  
In a land full of wells of water  
Brimming with meaning  
Lifted to delight  
Marked to satisfy  
Yet many seem not to find their way home.

Death traps barred every exit  
Legs, waving in the breeze  
Devil waters rushed over us  
The hangman's noose tight on us  
Hell's ropes cinched us heavily  
They'll soak up  
'Cos they built without a roof  
Break in and break up this fight  
We are suffering and smiling

How well evil will hit them on a blue Monday  
When life seem great at their feet

In the company of splendor  
Men in smart-mouth College  
Slinking along dead-end street  
Hanging at sin saloon  
Break in and break up this fight  
We are suffering and smiling.

If they continue in terror  
Cancel not their ticket to hell  
For that's their destination  
Lions, ripping unity apart  
Hitting us even when down  
What a hostile world  
Break in and break up this fight  
We are suffering and smiling

They drink themselves silly  
With their princes partying all night  
Making work harder than a dull axe  
In the field of sharp crops  
The weeds they've sown  
Harvested and baked into famine bread

Break in and break up this fight

We are suffering and smiling.

Mama Africa cries for great champions

Men with uniform like Nelson Mandela

Warriors in the plain of the man Goodluck Jonathan

Captains that speak in the language of Thabo Mbeki

Creatures with a heart of gold

To set the pace right

To heal the voice of many

To restore oneness in the seat of power

I desire change for kingship

To my people in chains

The men are here

Yes they are here

To usher freedom in abundance.

**Obiageri Ozigbo**



## **THEY**

They,

They've had their fair chance

They,

They've fought for themselves not us

They,

They've had sex with sin and pregnant with evil

They,

They are a private audience

They,

They have treated us like a fast food meal

They,

They are not off their high horse yet

They,

They are the mighty and powerful with our mandate  
delivering nothing

They,

They sit on the wealth of nations, partying it out

In the fullness of life and wealth to backfire

They,  
They brag, and brag and brag  
Who is so great?  
Who is so mighty?  
Who can fight for the nation?  
Who can carry her weight?  
Let him unseat us?  
Let him take us away in this land beautiful and fair  
Were life is blooming.

Slap their faces oh! Heavens  
'Cos they are blood-thirsty heads  
Disgusting truth benders  
Bilious and bloated, they gas  
Making us hope so long  
Kick them out oh! Heavens  
Every word they speak is a land mine  
Tongues slick as mudslides  
Throats are gaping graves  
Lungs breathe out poison gas  
Threw truth in the mud  
No confidence now in their verdict

Suddenly, we can see  
See things turning to bliss  
As they fade into distance Islands  
Hope taking seat with peace  
As men began to smile goodness in the land  
Joy declaring herself  
Gone, gone, they are over  
As we smell good again  
Oh! the land is good.  
Good to dwell in  
Our land is good again.

**Obiageri Ozigbo**

## OUR RULE

Every year it occurs  
During the time of pain  
Agony of thoughtless  
We never thought of one thing  
Love, love is feeling  
Feeling is unity  
Could I say forefather does all  
Sold our dignity because self interest  
Me as a royal emperor  
I want the European to nominate me  
Just to held to the hand

Our decision haven't stop  
The more we need the negroes, more you work  
You charge us as your slave  
Took us aboard and serves your children  
Eradication can't crown in my heart  
Suffering knows as food  
Drink with pain  
Barbars comes in our continent to have us all  
Dispute discovery

Would I say the war of Owu or Ibadan- Ijaye  
lack of understand still stood by them

Even if that is alone  
Selfishness as built itself in most Aristotle's  
Even to care about right  
Until a stood of some elders  
Knowing that all fingers can't be competent  
Some with a lick of fingers all  
Few with nice but it hard  
Decision as sat on few heads  
When eclipse comes it seem the star can nod  
Comes in demand  
Can give us our rule

This has been diminuendo  
We the demand  
Non right as a legitimate citizen  
Dignity should be back  
Your civilization imposed  
We can't denounce that  
Your language food and dressing

Still we be fall  
We dash off to the sky  
when we were terrified  
to fight all over  
until our self contained approaches

**Raji Rashidat**

## **TEARS OF THE MASSES**

Lift up your voice, citizens weary,

See days approaching now dark the sky;

Night shadows appeared, and our sweat,

Awaits with longing at emperor's pockets.

Joblessness and poverty war against us!

Heavy the loads of projects we bore;

Our heart glow within us

Searching for our looted funds.

O dark hope! O hurtful promises!

Filling our heart with prophecies;

O days of days for embezzlement!

More loots for loots captured.

Even so we challenge precious fighters,

Show us thy impacts on the citizens;

Caught up from Swiss, Or soon we mourn,

As unknown and yet well known.

**Kelechukwu Joseph Njoku**



## WEEP NOT CHILDREN

Some boys chased out famished

Vandalized in the tattered

Street of a gorgeous north. Million

Houses gummed to its root, each terrified

By Ishmael's disciples and lunatics

In a different dimension. God's

Favour be upon you, proclaimed

One mallam. Allah's blessing

Be bestore onto you, said another.

And on, from towns to cities scattered

In thousands, a tattered cloths

Carried on their body with a bowl

Freezing on their hands, they  
Trills, dancing the melody of lullabies  
That infuse compassion, unknown  
Hunger strives with pains, forced  
To read Arab letters for barren years.  
During unhappy moments,  
To evil men that first collects  
Their skulls, unnumbered trucks  
That bruises their busy bodies,  
Silences their common groan.  
No parental care,  
Another grown concern,  
Said our religious men. The rehabiliters

Rest deaf ears to their cries.

**Kelechukwu Joseph Njoku**

## **OUR CHILDREN KNOWS**

They knows the bitter, weary way,

The endless striving day by day,

The souls that weeps, the souls that pray;

My emperors knows, our children knows.

They knows building collapsed on us,

How deep the pain, how near the brink,

Of dark despair we paused and shrinks;

My councilors knows, our chairman knows.

They knows the quality materials we seek,

How its worth for the nations development,

The clouds that come and lives between;

My honorable knows, our senators knows.

The world have been looking at the nation,

They knows the six percents for education,

Of all we prove as love, not gain;

My governors knows, our president knows.

**Kelechukwu Joseph Njoku**

## CHAMPION OF CORRUPTANT

*Oh! the Black giant of Africa  
Crying for her wonderful country  
The Black cries aloud in the street  
On the top of the walls she cries out*

*How long would we suffer of corruption?*

*The corrupt champion of the economy  
At the entrance of the gate she cries out  
Bring back our rules  
Sweet autumn!!!  
Loviest of corruption  
Position occupant and enemies of services*

*The white fox!  
Coming to Africa  
Killing the crowns of my country  
Officers loafers in service at the market she raises her  
voice  
Fighting like being in a non-stop war  
The able bodied men on the street*

*Corruption being removed*

*Oh! what a mockery of justice!*

*What a name you are?*

*Corruption making the people suffer*

*Running for power, killing the innocent*

*May I offer my gift?*

*Giant of our economy*

*Corrupting the soul of the great land of paradise*

*Gain and loss walking like able brothers*

*Taking our wealth, killing the poor*

*How tremendous are you?*

*Corrupting and embezzlement of our wonderful country*

**Oisamaye Victoria Yeni**

## **NOW IN SELF CONTAINED**

Booming the heart of people  
When the world whirl together  
We are here to gain  
We are her to live with power

Oh!  
Nergos as been in your custody  
All you touch nothing render  
But in policy of assimilation  
With indirect rule

You then ,pick with your direct rule  
Searching for the most gifted resources  
But in allocation of your sources  
Inspired falls us

Your thought of intelligence  
Civilization was imposed  
Dressing, language, culture  
Were change but indirect rule remould



Nergos in your custody  
As been a total misconduct  
We stood erect, we stop to be free  
Now we decide

We are to fight  
You took us a chick  
Local attitude of ours  
We denounce

We dash off aboard to learn  
Noticed, we found our intelligence  
Can promote progress  
Now it our turn

We begged for our rule  
Determined in ourselves  
Our independence was pronounced in Oct 1 1960  
And our right as a citizen.

Nigeria!  
A great country to be called

Great nation we loved  
Nigeria its love

Our self contained  
Which occurs every year  
All ethnic in progress  
With love and harmony

The crown of the Nation  
Now got gut to talk all over  
We are voice of the world  
Nigeria!

Her Nation will never fall  
Still bound like a bunch of brooms  
The giant of Africa  
Great country, the great Nation

**Apkonome Deborah**

## **NIGERIA, MY NIGERIA**

Nigeria, my own  
Listen to the sound of my voice,  
Cause You have no choice  
Let your sun, from the east  
Spread on me like yeast

Nigeria, my Nigeria  
Wake up, wake up,  
Stop dreaming  
And start gleaming.

Nigeria, O' Nigeria  
Home of our Ancestors  
You are now ruled by predators

Beyond the River Niger  
And on the shore of the Benue River  
Now flow freely, injustice and the big brother,  
corruption.

**Okehie Henry**

## HARAM

In the middle of the night  
They came in their numbers  
Allahu akbar! Allahu akbar.  
Bullets flying  
Children crying  
Men running around  
Bodies scattered on the ground

Sleeping in his humble hut  
Adamu never dreamt he'll be hurt  
Not knowing his live will be cut short

They entered his house  
With double edged swords  
He couldn't utter a word  
After raping his beautiful spouse  
He was dragged out of his house

You infidel!  
The chief butcher raised his sword.

Bissimillahi!

Adamu screamed

Like a sacrificial goat

The blade ran through his throat

His vital fluid watered the earth.

Allahu akbar! Allahu akbar

**Okehie Henry**