African Studies Centre Leiden

Nigeria Country Meeting:

The incoming government and its implication for Nigeria's growth and economic transformation 2015-2019

Venue: Room 1A01 (first floor), Faculty of Social Sciences, Wassenaarseweg 52 Leiden
Date: Wednesday 22 April 2015
Moderator: Dr Akinyinka Akinyoade (African Studies Centre)

Programme

10:30 Word of welcome and introduction speakers

10:40 What the ASC library has to offer you
By: Edith de Roos, ASC Library

10:50 Dr Dele Olowu (consultant on governance and capacity development)
Nigeria beyond the 2015 elections (abstract below)

11:20 Dr David Ehrhardt (assistant Professor in International Development, Leiden University College)
The government Nigerians need (and why they may not want to hold their breath) (abstract below)

11:50 Coffee/tea

12:05 Panel discussion by Dele Olowu, David Ehrhardt and Eruore Peace Quadt (Nigerian-Netherlands Solutions)

12:25 Q&A

12:45 Closing remarks

Directions to the faculty: socialsciences.leiden.edu/visitors/directions-fsw.html

Please note that it is not possible to reserve parking space

Registration (compulsory) and enquiries: **asccommunity@ascleiden.nl**

Abstracts

Nigeria beyond the 2015 elections

Dele Olowu, Global Peace Center, Amsterdam

A number of issues have characterized governance in Nigeria that made it impossible for the country to transform the growth opportunities in the private sector into real national development especially in recent years. Predictably, then the three big issues that have dominated the election debate are insecurity, corruption and growing inequality arising from degradation of social and physical infrastructures and an oil-based economy in decline due to global shocks. Any new government must come up with a serious plan to engage these issues. My lecture speaks to the importance of having a government of national unity, overhauled military and civilian services to successfully engage these multiple challenges.

The government Nigerians need (and why they may not want to hold their breath)

David Ehrhardt, Leiden University College

Nigeria's economy is a mixed bag. On the one hand, the country has seen consistent economic growth of around 7% for the last decade and, to quote the Economist in November 2014, its "long-term economic prospects look good" because "industries other than oil, including manufacturing and communications, have begun to thrive". On the other hand, however, for the time being the economy remains highly oil-dependent, poverty continues to be rife, and the wealth distribution remains deeply unequal - not least because of the continuing insurgency in the north. This lecture will outline the main economic challenges the country faces, particularly viewed from the poor northern region. It will then discuss some of the economic measures that need to be taken, but highlight that the core of the economic challenges lies in the structures of Nigerian politics.