

What is SOTA, and why?

Opening speech

SOTA is ours, and not mine.

We are a great people. Like all other great people in the world we should be reflective of what's best in us.

We can also build this land that people will come from outside and spend their holiday here.

Our land can also become a land of opportunity for our children, and other people seek to come and stay with us. It's in our hands. This thinking led us to the dream of building SOTA.

We are motivated by our leaders before us. And by you. We trust you.

We have no doubt that one on these children who will play here will build something greater than this, I am ready for a bet. Who is ready to bet with me?

(Because children learn best by example.)

Today we came together at SOTA because we believe in our children, and their success in sport and the right to play and enjoy their passion in their childhood.

To enjoy their passion shouldn't be determined by the circumstances of their birth. This should not be whether their parents are employed doctors or unemployed manual workers, or the great woman who sell rice at the next street. All our children should have access to a playing ground.

The women who sell in our market are great women. The one who sell at the corner is a great woman. The one who is sick and helpless today is also a great woman. The man who is looking for work and has not found is a great man.

All who believe in the rule of law, love and believe in this state are great people.

Their children should have equal opportunities to sport if they want.

SOTA children's playground and multi game centre is open to all children.

SOTA is an abbreviation of Simi Odia Tennis and Sports Academy.

SOTA is still funded by the founder and calabash e.V. , but we are looking forward to the help and support of private people, community and church leaders, civic leaders and patriotic men and women of all professions who believe that sport shouldn't be a luxury to our children in our common future.

That's why at SOTA we are calling all sports enthusiasts – and the blessed among us - to join us in creating and expanding sport opportunities to all children. Through tutoring and voluntary coaching support, inspiring and promoting them here at SOTA and at home. We do our part abroad, so our young people will be our next generation of international sports men.

Our talent house is open to every child. The brightest and the fastest in sport and academic having a unique talent will be recognized and rewarded here at SOTA. If you know of any child who is gifted from God with a talent, let the child know that we are here at SOTA waiting and longing to meet him or her. We are proud of such children and we welcome them, for God gave them to us. It's our responsibility to appreciate them.

We will examine such a child and find ways to reward and assist him or her. For as Christians we believe that talent is God's gift. It is fair and rewarding to recognize it.

Above all we are pleading to each and every one to become a mentor in his own field of sports.

Make sacrifices to teach a child the sport which you are passionate about. This will benefit the child and our society in the future.

Our collective awareness day is a day set aside to teach children about orderliness, body hygiene, keep environment clean and teaching them about the importance of respecting the law.

Make sacrifices as a lawyer to educate our old mothers and father on their rights and the law of our country by giving a speech at SOTA's compound.

Make sacrifices as a doctor to educate people on how food can fight against diabetes and heart attacks. Most elderly do not know.

Make these sacrifices, so this place will live on.

There are a lot of people I want to acknowledge:

First of all, I want to thank my Lord for the inspiration I got through two world-class leaders whose speeches and deeds motivated me. I want to thank my father - I can't even imagine my life now without a father like him. He has passed away now. And yet I know that, on this day, he look down on me with great pride. I also want to thank my mother for her uniqueness.

Big thanks to my partner Michael, the unyielding support of my best friend, the rock of our family, the love of my life, who believed in this project from the beginning and helped to make it possible.

And the country I live in, Germany, my second home. A country that taught me the importance of a modern democracy.

Their simple creed is: That as they come together to build their country block by block, street by street, we can also build ours. Instead of permanent exodus.

And I also want to thank all members of my family, my brothers and my sisters, my friends, all those who worked here, and most importantly, Mr. Eboigbe. And all our neighbours who help us watch over this place and gave us water.

And a woman called IYAMEN – who gets up and use a wheelbarrow to buy me cement and more. May god bless her. (RIP)

Mr. Eboigbe was honest and helpful from day one, with incredible courage. His leadership role gave us the power to start. He is a wonderful person, the kind of man that you don't read about in the newspapers every day. Somebody doing the right thing. And I could not be more proud to know him and build SOTA next to him.

Thank you, Mr. Eboigbe! You are like a father to me.

May the almighty God protect you from all evil and bless your children.

Mrs. M. M. O. Asemota (grandma) who from the very beginning encouraged and supported our vision. Grandma believed in us and our idea.

Barr. Idahagbon took some of his precious time to visit SOTA. Mr. Idahagbon appreciated and praised the idea of SOTA and recognized its value for the society. Also Dr. Obayuwana and some of his friends visited SOTA and recognized its value for the society.

Sandra Scire has been part of this project and supportive of the idea in words and action from the beginning.

Sandra is a philanthropic person by nature. She is employed and is working in one of the best vegetarian restaurants in Germany. Sandra believes without a single doubt that "no act of kindness is ever wasted".

Ms. Sandra Scire, somebody who I just love and I'm just such a huge fan of - because she's a great person. She is a true sister in addition to being very helpful and supportive in total. Sandra had sacrificed for Sota

Big thanks to Mr. Lambert Okao, Mr. Tony Okao, the Okao family.

Mr. Lambert Okao whose love, prayers and blessings means the world to me.

Mr. Afolabi, who is dear to me.

Alile family, Agatha Alile, V. Idehen family.

Late Father Festus Ogbomwan family.

And so many others. All who have been praying and encouraging me.

We should all unite to help our children in sport. Encourage them to read and appreciate community service.

That's what SOTA is all about. I thank you all!

SOTA is built because we want to help a few children to play and to learn. But we can't do it all alone, we need a few strong hands.

My dear seniors and friends, we should not expect our government to solve all our problems, and it shouldn't try to solve all our problems. There are certain things we can do on our own if we all contribute time and knowledge and energy:

1st: Being nice to another – we don't need our government to teach us that

2nd: Removing dirt from the ground, or not throwing dirt on the street.

3rd: Telling a child to go and read. Or teaching a child to play a game or two

4th: Being a mentor helping a child for home work maths.

5th: Eating healthily - we don't need government to teach us that

6th: Not to eat 3 portions of food at once or, like my boss angrily said, not to eat five peoples food at once
We don't need government to teach us that. Although I have done that more than once myself. But not today.
I learned from my parents and from my directors that no government or institution or education policy can take the place of a parent's love and attention, and occasional scolding. Or a neighbour love to each other. So that's why the bulk rest on us. I hope you all agree with me.

That there is no government program that can make as much of a difference as the kindness and commitment of a caring soul to one another. So join us and help in any way convenient to keep SOTA playing ground running.
We must understand the importance of small place like SOTA. It's a charity organisation. And if a few people will appreciate and protect such a small place, because it is for children, SOTA will be operating for a long time.

If our children are willing to train and to learn, I believe they would have the ability to improve and may be win some games in the future, locally and internationally.

Successful people do not need to escape through the sea in hobby plastic boats, what have lead to thousands of life lost or being sponsored by criminal strangers. We can do better with our children !
They should be able to travel legally without problem and compete in Europe, America or Asia and even defeat other opponent and win huge sum of money, and travel back to origin. It starts with us all. We built from bottom up.

Our children should be given the platform and the equipments to try and learn these games, they should start early like the Germans and Americans or Japanese children. They start at from 6 years of age.
SOTA is about sport. Sport is healthy and good for children. The more sport children do, the happier the children. Sport also improves academic performance. It is scientifically proven.

It bears repeating -SOTA is ours, and not mine.

Starting early to practice in sport and holding on to anything is the key to talent and success in life.

Europe, Asia and America invest in sport and they invest in science.

Because they know there is future in it.

Must our children be the last in all fields? Is there any one here who doubts that we can produce children who could be No. 1 in the world? Who could be logic and more...

There is a saying: You can't teach new tricks to an old dog, but a young child that learn quick here at SOTA. If we give our children everything they need, they will succeed.

Deep rooted in our belief is that: All children should have a fair chance to sport, no matter who they are, no matter where they come from, no matter what they look like, no matter what their last name is, no matter what profession their parents are in. They should have the chance to learn and play this game to international standards. And may be become professionals.

I repeat: We should be reflective of what's best in us. We are a great people. We need to work hard.

That's who we are. That's what would make us competitive overseas.

We build our children's future in sports, talent and knowledge by ourselves.

SOTA isn't about me; it's about kind and generous people coming together to help our young children ,
People making a commitment of any type to support SOTA, try to bring sport to our children's door step.

Because our children should not stay away from hope and the faith that we care.

I am pleading to all of you, not to let SOTA fall like a house build of cards or a house build with straw or sand.

We all know it is tough. Generous people have proven they are tougher -so don't quit. They give the little they can, so our dream and hope will not perish.

We all know our country need time to grow. And it's growing surely.

We as people are making progress. Are we satisfied? Of course not. But we won't stop.

All the progress we want cannot happen overnight. We may fall but we will lift each other up.

We would draw the right lesson from our experiences, be it good experience or bad – and continue.

We believe these things made us all richer. They gave our children opportunity. They moved us all together, all forward, as one family, and as one people.

SOTA is not for the purpose of profit. SOTA IS A SPORT CHARITY, A CHILDRENS PLAY GROUND. It's to show our children they too are worth it. And that we care and love them. We want them to have a place to play and upgrade their skills in sport.

By the end of this decade, more of our children would play lawn tennis, basketball, badminton, volleyball and chess etc., and know the rules and theory like other children in the world.

I want that to happen here in SOTA.

SOTA is FOR CHILDREN ONLY.

We are of the opinion that no child who is willing to learn these sports should be denied of it.

That's the choice ...That's why SOTA was built.

The children who are invited to attend SOTA are children whose parents couldn't afford playing things but have shown that they have the interest in sport and the will to move beyond challenging circumstances of their birth.

SOTA also provide school materials in extreme cases, and lunch once in a while as resources permits

It is my great honour to open the doors of the children's Academy and play ground to our children.

Welcome!

With your help, when we look forward four years from now, or 10 years from now, or 20 years from now, will we be better off if we invest in things that benefit our children? And will our children not have the courage to keep moving forward? And stand up tall on any platform?

When you help support SOTA in any way, to drive a group of children here, sponsor a match, help us with your knowledge, advice influence, offer a free lesson, give a speech, stay for a day, send us a female, buy a lunch, invite your friends to watch a match, help us sweep voluntarily, pray and watch over this place, progress will come.

When SOTA survives, another person might have the courage to do some thing greater.

And that's the spirit that we need.

If people ask you: What this is about? You tell them it's still about faith in our children's future.

You tell them it's about the believe in education.

You tell them it's about ordinary people who believe that in the face of great odds, we can make a world champion in this country.

Because we believe, we still believe that God will lift this country up and turn this place into a land full of opportunities.

I believe in all of you. I know you are all trying every God given day.

And that's why we built SOTA.

Let me say it now: We, who built SOTA, we're not perfect. We admit it. We accept it. Maybe John and James have already told you, but we can learn from our mistakes and thereby evolve into even more awesome versions of ourselves. We're always on the lookout for professional advice that can help,

Secondly SOTA is not a perfect place. But with your help we will improve.

SOTA students will not be perfect either. But we will always tell you the challenges we face.

SOTA is ready to host important debates and dialogs about important topics like

- **How many children can a woman living in Africa conveniently cater for?**
- **What do young people value, and why?**
- **What are the right priorities in life? What is really important, and what is not?**
- **Child labour – advantage and disadvantage**

We, the owner of SOTA are not rich. We earn our money as employees, and we have our money problems like other persons. But we just want to make a few children happy and spread hope.

Please support our work for your support would make a difference

Only with voluntary services and support will sustain SOTA.

If you are able to serve in any way, please contact us.

Less I forget, there's nothing new or special about SOTA's ideas. Or SOTA's house.

But there is something special about you all, coming together to keep SOTA strong with ideas and support.

So we can give the children a fair chance to learn and play a few games at professional and hobby level.

Some of you might wonder how many children can this small facility take- see pictogram pictures below.

Every hour we can train 20 to 30 kids.

In a day we have space for 100 or more.

Our regular student will complete course as early as a year if attendance regular.

A training lesson lasts an hour maximum.

This is a pictogram how it look like in a computer animated drawing.

10 children learning chess

Chess is a strategic game... Chess is a recognized sport of the International Olympic Committee

Sven Magnus Carlsen (Norwegian: born 30 November 1990) is a Norwegian chess grandmaster, No. 1 ranked player in the world and reigning World Chess Champion in classical and rapid. His peak rating is 2882, the highest in history.

In recent years, chess has become part of some school curricula.

The winner of the world championship typically gets \$1-2 mln. (1,300,000 euros for Anand in 2010). By winning a top event.

International completion *World Chess Championship* Match between World Champion Magnus Carlsen and Challenger Vishy Anand took place in Sochi, Russland



4 table tennis students

Number one in the world is MA Long.

Ma Long; born 20 October 1988) is a Chinese male table tennis player. As of December 2015, he is ranked number 1 in the world, in the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF).

Ma Long Earned Over \$120,000 Usd In 2011

Patrick Tan Jan. 2, 2012, 6:21 a.m.



A total of 16 stations was recorded in last year's tournament season of the ITTF. After checking on the inventory of prizes, the Chinese team of Ma Long, Zhang Jike, Wang Hao, Xu Xin and Ma Lin topped in this list of male players who have received most of the cash prizes. In addition, the Japanese Jun Mizutani occupies the sixth spot.

Spread the love for Table Tennis!

Email

The Chinese Men Team really had a big victory last season dominating in every tournament they participated. The Chinese player who made it to the top of the list is Ma Long.

Table tennis is an international

The 2014 World Team Table Tennis Championships were held in Tokyo from 28 April to 5 May 2014.^[1] The Championships was staged in Japan for the seventh time and was the 52nd edition of the team competition.

TENNIS current World No.1 Novak Djokovic,

Novak Djokovic born 22 May 1987) is a Serbian professional tennis player

4. Novak Djokovic

Earnings 2014: US \$33 million

Rank: No. 1

Age: 27



Tennis competition is held every year in France, United Kingdom, Germany and USA.

The best female

3. Serena Williams (AMERICANS)

Earnings 2014: US \$22 million

Rank: No. 1

Age: 32



For tennis we can take four kids per hour.

Tennis competition is held every year in France, United Kingdom, Germany and USA.

Goal kick type competition 4 to 6 boys or girls (football need to expand)

This completion is held every where . it part of foot ball .

Who can get 6 goals in 6 trial . . (This is to improve football skill)

Gets cash –



We have 6 Basketball net plus 2 movables

We have movable basket ball nets for a match.

Every hour we can train 20 or more students.



LeBron Raymone James born December 30, 1984) is an American professional basketball player who currently plays for the Cleveland Cavaliers of the National Basketball Association (NBA)

He earned 24 million USD (2015)

King James, The Chosen One,
LBJ, L-Train, LBJ 23,
Lebdog

Height 203 cm^[1]

Again, we will wake up every single day with the same believe that our children are our country's most valuable assets.

We are still fired up. We are still ready to go. Because Nigeria is unique. It is our birth place.

Thank you, everybody. God bless you all.

Thank you so much.

Agnes Osas Odia Simi

Between 30 and 40 kids can train simultaneously per hour, plus 20 watching from the sitting steps.

SEE Pictogram



