

**Speech delivered by Amb. Kennedy Kator Ajom at the Award/Public Presentation of "Royal Tussle".**

28 November, 2023.

The Chairman and Chairlady,

Your Excellencies, Your Royal Highnesses,

Awardees, Special Invitees,

My Principal and Teachers, J.S.S Karshi Students,

My Parents and Siblings, Members of the Press,

Distinguished, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I thank God for making this day possible and to all of you who have honoured my invitation, I appreciate your love and support.

My literary journey started in 2019. Two of my elder sisters, whom are also published writers, were my source of inspiration. I felt challenged by them as the only boy in the family and thought I should also showcase my literary skills.

When I was nine years old in Primary 5, I wrote "My Father Loves Me" after observing and immersing in my father's love for me.

Time went by and I realized that for any human to succeed, they need support of other humans. No one achieves success alone but with team work. With that, I wrote "Together".

"Royal Tussle" tells the story of a quest and brutal fight for a throne. However, I have based my argument on the saying that, "What God has destined for-you, nobody can take it away" I believe it's better we support ourselves to achieve success than fight for what does not truly belong to us. Well, my distinguished book reviewer, Dr. Becky Aliegba is here to give you more details.

Today, I stand tall among my peers as a self-published author of three books as a boy who has attended only public schools in his life. I commend the efforts of Government, especially, Federal Capital Territory where I school for making their school fees highly affordable. However, the PTA levy is hard to come by for most parents.

In this regard, I hereby appeal to the Honourable Minister of Education to kindly advice the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the need to make public Primary and Secondary schools absolutely free and mandatory for all Nigerian children. If this is implemented, I strongly believe insecurity will be curbed and the

Almajiris, children hawking on streets, those begging and wandering will go back to school and crime will also be reduced greatly.

As an Advocate and self-acclaimed Ambassador of the public schools in Nigeria, I will continue to seek Government's attention till public schools are reformed.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with great joy that I commend Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) for approving my book "My Father Loves Me" under the 2021 Instructional Resource Material for Junior Secondary Schools in ten states namely; Adamawa, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Ogun, Oyo, Plateau, Sokoto, Taraba and Zamfara.

Worthy of mention also are

1. His Excellency, Boss Mustapha, 2. Alhaji Yakubu Ibn Mohammed,
3. Dr. Mansur Liman, 4. Rt. Hon. Titus Uba,
5. His Royal Highness, Alhaji Ismaila Mohammad (Sarkin Karshi),
6. Her Excellency, Dame Pauline Tallen,
7. Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu Candido,
8. DIG Frank Mba, 9. DIG Bala Ciroma,
10. His Excellency, Umaru Dikko Radda, Executive Governor of Katsina State,
11. Mallam Adamu Adamu, 12. Mr. Danladi Betusan,
13. Mr. Nsu Rabo 14. Hajiya Mariam Ibrahim Baba Karshi,
15. Dr. Garba Abari, 16. Mr. Terverr Tyav, and Dr. Shola Okpodu.

These people have stood by me throughout my literary journey and I have penned some of them down to be honoured by me at this very event. My special thanks goes to my Principal, Teachers and students of Junior Secondary School, Karshi for their support and love.

I wouldn't stand before you today if not for my family, my father, Lix Terfa Ajom, my mother, Rose Mbateren Ajom and my siblings, I cherish you for standing by me.

Ladies and gentlemen, my siblings are all products of public schools and they will be performing as the programme progresses just like my younger sister Michelle and elder sister, Lucilla who gave the welcome address and my citation respectively.

Finally, I appeal once again to the owners of public schools in Nigeria not to turn their backs at us. The public school has all it takes to give the much required result for a better Nigeria.

"I love you all" thank you.

