

Text of a Speech Delivered by the Chairman, Board of Trustees, Centre for Black Culture and International Understanding, Osogbo, on the 75th Birthday Celebration of Chief Jimoh Buraimoh

Today mark a very significant milestone in the life of our father, brother, colleague and dear friend, Chief Jimoh Buraimoh. For a man of his calibre, and for many here who have had close encounters with the celebrant, you all would agree with me that there is little else to discuss or say today about him. His name speaks for itself but since a golden fish has no hiding place, we have no excuse than to express one or two words about the man of the hour.

The celebrant is a widely acclaimed and influential artist who has been on the spotlight since the 1960's experimental workshop popularly referred to as the Osogbo School of Art. What this suggests is that Chief Buraimoh joined an art movement under the tutelage of the German scholar, Ulli Beier where a number of renowned artists sprang up, becoming a vivid pointer for cultural revivalism ever since.

For those who have consistently followed the celebrant's works, it tells a very rich story of culture, modernity and tradition. Chief Buraimoh's works contains a mix of western media and Yoruba style and motif. He is also a prolific artist whose signature bead paintings and mosaic murals are scattered across Nigeria, the United States and Europe. His works have similarly been exhibited within and outside Nigeria and could be found in Museums in the United States and Europe.

Chief Buraimoh's life has been spent in pioneering modern art in Africa. His efforts saw him represent Nigerian artists in 1972 at the First All African Trade Fair in Nairobi, Kenya while his work was presented as well in 1977 at the Second World Black Arts Festival (FESTAC) in Lagos. Ever since then, the celebrant has grown from strength to strength, making monumental impacts in the art world and having his imprints on the sands of time.

Not only has Osogbo benefitted from the celebrant's artistic innovation, but the global community also which continues to appreciate his genius and in the process, accorded him several accolades. It is this reason among others that on the establishment of the Centre for Black Culture and International Understanding (CBCIU) in 2009, Chief Buraimoh was perceived as a worthy member of the Board of Trustees. I must state here that the celebrant has been a great asset to the CBCIU. In the same vein, his immense contributions to the mission and vision of the Centre as well as her development remain unparalleled.

We are, indeed, proud of his resounding achievements in the last five decades. We are by the same token impressed by the positive effects his work have had on the younger generation here in Osogbo and in the Diaspora which inspires them to do even better. It is consequent on this that as Chief Buraimoh turns seventy-five today, we earnestly pray for more fruitful years in abundance of wealth. We ask *Olodumare* to grant him ebullient health and more life in the service of the arts. On behalf of my family, Board of Trustees and staff of the CBCIU, I celebrate a man of honour, a promoter of Yoruba culture, pioneer of the Osogbo arts movement, a painter *par excellence*, arts innovator and most importantly, the *Baale* of Gbodofon, Osogbo. I wish you long life and prosperity!

Prince Dr. Olagunsoye Oyinlola

Chairman, Board of Trustees,
Centre for Black Culture and International Understanding, Abere,
Osun State.

Sunday, April 8, 2018.