



HADIZA IBRAHIM ALIYU SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

HIASFEST 2026

8TH EDITION



Organised By:



14th-17th
January
2026

Legbo Kutigi International Conference Centre, Minna, Niger State - Nigeria

MODALITIES FOR PARTICIPATION

For further information, visit HIASFEST website:

www.hiasfest.org.ng; facebook: Hiasfest; Twitter: Hiasfest;
 Instagram: Hiasfest; Facebook: Hilltop Creative Arts Foundation



HILL-TOP CREATIVE ARTS FOUNDATION

HEADQUARTERS, P.O. BOX 4070, MINNA, NIGER STATE - NIGERIA



Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation (HCAF) is a registered NGO indigenous to Niger State, Nigeria. Since 2004, it has been in the vanguard of promoting teen arts across Nigeria. The Foundation, whose national headquarters is in Minna, along David Mark Road, Maitumbi, has branches in about twenty States in Nigeria.

HCAF, through her mentoring facilities at the national headquarters, has been promoting Creative Writing, Photography, ICT, Innovation, Songs, Cultural Activities, Painting, Drama, Spoken Word, Short Videos, Citizen and Leadership Education, Reading, Festivals, Prizes, Tuition Scholarships in teenagers and youth in Nigeria.

Our Art Centre, within the headquarters, is home to teen and young artists in the country. The Art Centre is the first and only of its kind in Nigeria, exclusively dedicated to this all-important group of artists, in the society. In addition to these, we are the publishers of two exclusive online journals for reviewing and interviewing writers around the world (www.literaturevoices.com.ng and www.nigeriareview.com.ng)

In April 2017, the Foundation inaugurated the maiden edition of the Nigerian Festival of Teen Authors (NIFESTEENA) HCAF is the

organiser of HIASFEST, the largest teen arts festival in Africa; the Niger State Photography Contest; Annual Painting and Photography Exhibitions; and the largest producer of published teen authors in Nigeria.

Our activities are embedded in the free, liberal but disciplined atmosphere at the Art Centre, with members bound by a simple philosophy of 'training for life' as the guiding verse. The idea is to encourage critical thinking, enterprise, unlimited flow of creativity, service and togetherness, as tools for the growth and prosperity of society.

Our National Headquarters which doubles as the mentoring centre is currently being developed into a national monument of art. It is a beautiful, cool and inspiring arena for young creative minds to develop their artistic potential. Members are obsessed with its presence and are very proud of it. The Centre is well-ventilated and lighted to cast brilliance and glow from the alluring colours on the walls. The inscriptions and works of art on the walls that first greet you with abundant aesthetics show the glamorous nature and the glowing spirit of the minds you find there, happy for creation.

The summary of the Foundation's activities focuses primarily on mentoring teen and young artists for quality productions and responsible citizenship.



About **HIASFEST** HADIZA IBRAHIM ALIYU SCHOOLS FESTIVAL



HIASFEST is Hadiza Ibrahim Aliyu Schools Festival. It was initiated by Alhaji Bala Abdullahi Kwatu. You don't have its type anywhere in Nigeria. It is a brand from Niger State to the world.

HIASFEST is built around eleven major categories exclusively designed for teen artists in secondary schools. They are: On-the-spot Poetry Writing, On-the-spot Non-Fiction writing, On-the-spot Short Story Writing, Painting, Spoken Word, Contemporary Song in English, Cultural Dance, Quiz, Innovation, ICT/Technology and Drama. There are 36 trophies to be won, including the Overall Winning Schools. It is a 4-day festival minus arrival. Independent students can attend on their own with the support of their parents if their school is not attending and win cash prizes.. However, there are some categories that are open to all ages.

There are scholarship schemes, special awards, and national literary prizes like: The Nigeria Prize for Teen Authors (poetry and prose). There are Nigeria Prize for Indigenous Languages (Hausa, Igbo, Gbagyi, Nupe, Yoruba, Fulfulde, Pidgin, French and Arabic) in Creative Writing and Science Books as well. The indigenous languages category is open to all ages.

HIASFEST has the following awards too: HCAF prize for the Most Performing Branches; HCAF award for Excellence in Creative Writing; the Golden Awards for

Nigerian Art Administrators; **HIASFEST** Star Prize winners for male and female teen writers in Nigeria; the Most Valuable Contestant awards for male and female at **HIASFEST**; the best Teacher in-charge of schools for male and female; Tuition Scholarship for science and art; and Honorary Awards for distinguished sponsors. The overall winning schools (three in all) get cash prizes as well. Similarly, the Overall First Position takes ₦2,000,000 for a grand science project to be conceived, invented back in their school and presented at the next edition of **HIASFEST**. The 1st runner-up gets ₦1,500,000 while the 2nd runner-up gets ₦1,000,000.

The four-day event see teen artists gather and engage in rigorous show of skills, guts and intellectual power in a contest that is wholesomely rewarding. We see beauty in contest, shocking performances, unlimited friendship, unity and camaraderie; we see cash prizes, trophies and plaques; we see tears and joy for feats achieved or missed; we see the euphoria of setting forth the new generation of Nigerian craftsmen and women, in the most formidable and functional way, daring to go and break bounds; and we see young investors and craftsmen. This is **HIASFEST**.

The apex gathering of teen artists, in the biggest black nation of the earth, Nigeria, is sponsored by Alhaji Bala Abdullahi Kwatu and the Aliyu Trust Foundation.



2026

MODALITIES FOR PARTICIPATION



HADIZA IBRAHIM ALIYU SCHOOLS FESTIVAL 2026

CATEGORY A

ON-THE-SPOT POETRY WRITING

This involves presenting two students from a participating school to write on the topic chosen on-the-spot, on the day of the contest. (14 Lines max).

Scoring Template (100 Marks)

Contestants will be scored on adherence to theme, word choice, grammar, spelling, personality (voice), literary device, originality, form and flow, rhyme and any addition specified by the Judges on the day of the contest.

**PLAGIARISM ATTRACTS
DISQUALIFICATION FOR TWO YEARS**

CATEGORY B

ON-THE-SPOT SHORT STORY WRITING (450 WORDS MAX)

This involves presenting two students from a participating school to write on the topic chosen on-the-spot, on the day of the contest.

Scoring Template (100 Marks)

Contestants will be scored on theme, word count, characterization, setting, plot, vocabulary, grammar, style, craft, etc.

**PLAGIARISM ATTRACTS
DISQUALIFICATION FOR TWO YEARS**

CATEGORY C

ON-THE-SPOT PAINTING

A participating school shall present two painters who shall paint on the spot, on any OF THE FOLLOWING THEMES. (Size 24 by 30 or 20 by 24)

RECOMMENDED THEMES:

1. *My Nigeria my pride* - Celebrating national identity, culture, and the beauty of the country through students' eyes.
2. *Voices of Tomorrow* - A theme that allows students to express their hopes, dreams and visions for the future of Nigeria.
3. *Our Environment, our responsibility* - Encourages awareness of environmental issues like climate change, pollution and conservation in Nigeria.
4. *Legends and Folktales* - Inspires creativity by exploring Nigeria myths, heroes, and traditional stories through art.

Scoring Template (100 Marks)

Contestants will be scored on theme interpretation, quality, use of colours, concept, originality, detail, etc.

Note: the title of the painting must be written behind the painting and also, the finished works shall remain in the custody of the organizer

All schools are responsible for their painting materials necessary for the contest, including easel. Painting must be framed and well labelled. Aesthetics in finishing attracts extra marks.

CATEGORY D

ON-THE-SPOT NON-FICTION WRITING (450 WORDS MAX)

This involves presenting two students from a participating school to write on a topic chosen on-the-spot, on the day of the contest.

Scoring Template (100 Marks)

Contestants will be scored on grammar, content, expression, mechanical accuracy, style, craft, etc.

**PLAGIARISM ATTRACTS
DISQUALIFICATION FOR TWO YEARS**

CATEGORY E

SPOKEN WORD

Each school shall present one student or a duet to perform a Spoken Word written by the student on any of the themes. Schools shall be given 5 minutes to render their piece. Each school shall submit, on the stage, three copies of the Spoken Word to the judges before commencing performance. The themes are:

1. *Mind Shift*
2. *Jungle Justice*

It shall be a piece that has never been presented elsewhere.

Scoring Template (100 Marks)

Contestants will be scored on subject matter, appearance, composure, delivery, originality, etc.

CATEGORY F

CONTEMPORARY SONG IN ENGLISH

Not more than eight students shall form the team for each school for the Contemporary Song in English on the theme given by the organisers. No instrument shall be deployed. Each school has five minutes to perform her song. Three copies of the written song shall be submitted on the stage to judges before commencing performance. The theme for 2026 is **Let's make it happen.**

Scoring Template (100 Marks)

Contestants will be scored on title, number of participants (adherence), costume, adherence to time, theme, composition, stage management, expression, audience appeal, originality, etc.



CATEGORY G

CULTURAL DANCE

There shall be a team of not more than fifteen participants including drummers for ten minutes(10m) from each school to present a cultural dance from any tribe below:

1. Gbagyi Dance
2. Maliki Dance
3. Ohafia War Dance
4. Apala Dance.

CULTURAL DANCE (RULES)

Rule 1: A school in a Geopolitical zone shall not pick a dance from his zone.

Rule 2: Before presentation, the school shall introduce the Dance, Tribe and State.

A school may deploy all the elements of performance for maximum score.

Scoring Template (100 Marks)

Contestants will be scored on general performance, choreography, originality, theme, music, instruments, costume, props, makeup, stage management, etc.



CATEGORY H

QUIZ

It is the traditional format of questions from the science, art and general knowledge.

POETRY

1. Cardever of Red Roses by Zainab Iliyasu Bobi
 2. Strong Bond by Sa'ada I. Yahaya
- Call 09169 310499

NOVEL

1. Broken by Fatima Bala
2. The Road to the Country by Chigozie Obioma

PLAY

1. Wedlock of the gods by Zulu Sofola
2. Otaelo by Ahmed Yerima

CATEGORY I

INNOVATION

THEME: Innovation for People with Special Needs

1. Entry must be conceived and created by a student of the school.
2. Perspective
3. Inspiration/Originality
4. Aesthetics
5. Functionality
6. Innovation
7. Ingenuity/creativity
8. Executive summary, design and charts
9. Presentation

CATEGORY J

ICT AND TECHNOLOGY

THEME: AI and Education

1. Entry must be conceived and created by a student of the school.
2. Specification of what is being presented.
3. Executive summary of the entire application/solution
4. Clarity of Idea/originality
5. Wireframe/framework/ Algorithms/flowchart.
6. Ingenuity/Creativity
7. Quality of presentation/Knowledge of the area
8. Execution/Functionality
9. Safety/Security
10. Readability/Writability

GENERAL RULES FOR CATEGORY I & J

1. All innovations **MUST PROJECT INTO THE FUTURE** in utility, versatility and function to society.
2. A petty or common product shall be outrightly disqualified.
3. A project must be original to the owner or presenter.
4. No joint entry.
5. **NOTE:** Detailed proposed entry of the project must be submitted on or before December 31st, 2025 to hilltopcart@gmail.com

Scoring Template (100 Marks)

Contestants will be scored on design, materials, techniques, form, function, need, etc.



CATEGORY K

DRAMA

Each school shall present a One-Act-Play (15 minutes only) with not more than eight characters both major and minor. The use of real live weapons or taking the life of animals or birds will attract outright disqualification. A school **MUST** deploy all the elements of performance (drama) for maximum score.

THEME: The Soar Path to Greatness

NOTE: It must be creatively presented.

Scoring Template (100 marks)

Contestants will be scored on adherence to time, theme interpretation, originality, costume, props, makeup, stage management, etc.

HADIZA IBRAHIM ALIYU SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

HIASFEST 2026



RANGE OF PRIZES

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

9.00am daily • 14th - 17th January, 2026

Legbo Kutigi International Conference Centre, Minna - Niger State

MOST VALUABLE CONTESTANTS (MALE AND FEMALE)

Participants who feature in not less than three categories and win prizes, either individually or collectively are selected as Most Valuable Contestants (MVC). They receive certificates and cash prizes of ₦500,000 for male and ₦500,000 for female.

BEST TEACHER (MALE AND FEMALE)

Two teachers are selected as winners based on punctuality, organisation, consistency, exemplariness and performance of their schools. They receive certificate and cash prizes of ₦50,000 each.

HIASFEST STAR PRIZE (MALE AND FEMALE)

This prize is awarded to two teen authors who have demonstrated high productivity, visibility, progressiveness, influence on their peers, contribution to journals, anthologies, books, conferences, workshops, promotion of literary art and teen authorship in Nigeria. They receive ₦500,000 each and a certificate.

MOST WELL-BEHAVED SCHOOL

A school emerges as the most well-behaved mainly on decorum, neatness, organisation, observance to rules, descent socialisation with other schools, great sportsmanship and discipline. They receive a certificate.

GOLDEN AWARD (MALE AND FEMALE)

Individuals who have contributed tremendously to the development of Nigerian literature in text and administration especially to the young ones by creating platforms for them towards discovery, honing and growth of talents are selected for this award.

TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS

This award of ₦100,000 goes to an undergraduate student in arts who apply for it from any University in Nigeria toward assisting in offsetting of school fees. The winner must have a manuscript in any genre. The winners of science are contestant who win in Innovation and ICT & Technology categories. They win cash prize of ₦300,000 for each category.

OVERALL WINNING PRIZES:

The school that has the highest points from HIASFEST categories wins 1st position. The one that follows gets 2nd position. The next gets 3rd position. They all have trophies and the initiator's cash prizes of ₦2,000,000, ₦1,500,000 and ₦1,000,000 respectively.

Note: The overall grand prize of ₦2,000,000 is for a science project to be conceived and invented by the school and presented at the next edition of HIASFEST.

HCAF BEST PERFORMING BRANCHES AWARDS

Are given to state branches that are very active in state-wide secondary school literary festivals, inauguration of Hill-Top clubs, engaging in partnerships with organisations, Publishing of anthologies, featuring of members in national and international journals and winning prizes, visibility and frequency of activities as well as other variety of programmes. The prize is for ₦300,000

HCAF HONORARY AWARDS

Are given to individuals who are friends of the Foundation, its members and activities and who have contributed variously to the continuous honing and growth of talents in the Nigerian child.

HCAF EXCELLENCE IN CREATIVE WRITING AWARD

The ₦300,000 cash award and certificates is presented to six members of HCAF nationwide irrespective of age who must belong to a branch, and the branch's WhatsApp group for over a year; must be published in at least a minimum of 15 online journals in the outgoing year; must be published in a minimum of 2 anthologies (physical books) within or outside Nigeria in the outgoing year; must have published a physical book or more of his/her own whether through HCAF or other means; must have won at least one or more notable literary awards within the outgoing year and must be one who shares opportunities and encourages other young writers within the HCAF community.

THE NIGERIA PRIZE

For Indigenous Languages in Creative Writing & Science



email: hilltopcart@gmail.com

Entries are hereby invited for the following:

CREATIVE WRITING (PROSE ONLY)

Gbagyi, Nupe, Hausa, Fulfulde, Yoruba
Igbo Pidgin, French and Arabic

**₦100,000
EACH**

Submission Procedure

- It must be a new full book (published or unpublished).
- The unpublished work must be prepared into a final dummy, ready for publishing.
- This prize is open to all ages, except Hausa which is open to 15-35 years only.
- The book must have been published between 2024 and 2025
- Books previously entered for the prizes are not allowed.

SCIENCE BOOKS (GEOGRAPHY) Translated or Written

Gbagyi, Nupe, French and Arabic

₦100,000 each

Yoruba, Hausa and Igbo

₦150,000 each

Submission Procedure

- It is open to all, irrespective of age and place of residence.
- It must be a written or a translation of any Geography book with a written copyright permission from the publishers or author.
- It could be a published or an unpublished work.
- The unpublished work must be prepared into a final dummy.
- For Yoruba, entries must be from Primary four to six
- The book must have been published between 2024 and 2025
- Books entered for the same prize in an earlier contest are not allowed.

GENERAL RULES

- Your work must reflect the culture of the language you are writing in.
- Use clear and unambiguous language.
- Use illustrations in your science books.

These prizes are for original works of the entrants. The sponsors or the administrators of the prizes shall not be responsible for the consequences of any plagiarized work.

Send three (3) hard copies of the entry, a covering letter, your profile, a studio portrait, a copy of the copyright permission for translated works, email address, residential or office address and phone number(s)

TO

Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation,
David Mark Road, P. O. Box 4070,
Minna, Niger State, Nigeria.
0803-452-4787 0806-434-4947

**CLOSE
OF ENTRY**

**All entries
must come in by**

**30TH Sept
2025**

f Facebook: **Hiasfest** t Twitter: **Hiasfest** i Instagram: **Hiasfest, Hiasfest (popular site)**

f **hilltopcreativeartsfoundation**



Nigeria Prize For Teen Authors 2026

NIGERIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY

POETRY

₦300,000

FICTION

₦300,000

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Entries are hereby invited for the Nigeria Prize for Teen Authors. The prizes are for Poetry and Fiction (Novella or collection of short stories) and is open to only Nigerian residence. The prize carries a reward of ₦300,000.00 for Poetry and ₦300,000.00 for Fiction. First prize winners in each category will get ₦150,000.00. Second prize winners will get ₦100,000.00 while third prize winners will get ₦50,000.00.

Submission Procedure

Three hard copies of the entry with evidence of Nigerian citizenship (photocopy of Nigerian passport or National identity card), birth certificate, letter of recommendation by school and parents, last term's report sheet, should be submitted by the authors in accordance with the genres, in hard copies.

Published or unpublished books shall be mailed or submitted to the **Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation headquarters, P.O. Box 4070 David Mark Road, Maitumbi, Minna - Niger State** by the stipulated deadline. **NO EMAIL SUBMISSIONS.**

Books published before 2024 will not be accepted. Complete contact information, including full contact address, emails, phone numbers of school and parent and other relevant contact information plus passport photograph in school uniform should accompany each submission. A student-writer will enter only one published or unpublished work. An entry (whether published or unpublished for each genre) must never be repeated in this prize.

The Sponsors or the Administrators **SHALL NOT** be responsible for the consequences of any plagiarised work.

Note: No further publications of winning entries.



Close of Entry

All entries must come in by
30th September, 2025

Announcement of Winners

Winners shall be announced and presented with their prizes at the finals of Hadiza Ibrahim Aliyu Schools Festival (HIASFEST 2026) on 17th January, 2026 at Legbo Kutigi International Conference Centre, Minna, Niger State, Nigeria by 10.00 am.

Send To: Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation, P. O Box 4070 David Mark Road, Maitumbi, Minna - Niger State.

Contact: National Coordinator **Makama** 08034524787 Assistant Coordinator **Abel** 08064344947

For further information, visit **HIASFEST** website:
www.hiasfest.org.ng facebook: **Hiasfest**
 Instagram: **Hiasfest**
 facebook: **Hilltop Creative Arts Foundation**
 email: **hilltopcart@gmail.com**



TUITION SCHOLARSHIP

For Art Students of Tertiary Institutions

Criteria for Arts

Open to students from Niger State and other Nigerians born in Niger State.

Open to any student of tertiary institution with GPA of 3.5 and above, in ANY LEVEL studying Art Courses with a completed manuscript of any genre or a project by participant in category I or J of HIASFEST, for science.

Applicants must include admission letter, certified GPA sheet, manuscript, short profile and a portrait picture with the application letter.

No electronic application.

The deadline is 30th August, 2025.

This scholarship is for off-setting the Annual School Fees of the winner. The scholarship is for one student per year in Art at **₦100,000**.

Criteria for Sciences

The scholarship for science is for **₦300,000** for winners of ICT & Tech category and **₦300,000** for winners of Innovation category of HIASFEST. The 1st position gets **₦150,000**, 2nd position **₦100,000** and the 3rd **₦50,000** respectively.

This scholarship is for off-setting the **Annual School Fees** for the winner. The scholarship is for one student per year in Art

Hiasfest General Rules

- All participating schools shall be responsible for their own feeding in Minna, Niger state.
- All cash prizes belong to the winning students and it shall be paid to their individual or parent's account. Ex-Students of a school re-sitting their exams and other mercenaries are not qualified for HIASFEST. Defaulting leads to disqualification of the school.
- Incomplete provision of information on the registration form shall lead to disqualification.
- Fighting, drug abuse, sexual escapades by students and teachers will be handed over to the police and schools of the students banned.
- Any contestant promoting religious, ethnic and political agenda or intolerance shall be banned from HIASFEST.
- All environmental and personal health safety protocols should strictly be adhered to during the festival.

at

₦100,000



Send application to:

Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation, P. O Box 4070
David Mark Road Maitumbi,
Minna - Niger State.
Contact: 08034524787, 08064344947

Award Ceremony at:

Justice Idris Legbo Kutigi Int'l Conference Centre,
Minna, Niger State - Nigeria

On Saturday, 17th January, 2026

Facebook: **Hiasfest** Twitter: **Hiasfest** Instagram: **Hiasfest, Hiasfest (popular site)**

Facebook: **hilltopcreativeartsfoundation**



Daily Programme Schedule

Arrival

Tuesday, 13th January, 2026

7:30pm-9:00pm - Arrival of participants from outside Niger State

Day 1

Wednesday 14th January, 2026

Justice Idris Legbo Kutigi Int'l Conference Centre, Minna

8:00am - Registration

10:00am-1:00pm - Opening Ceremony

1:15pm-2:30pm - Panel Discussion

2:30pm - Song Category

Himma International College, Minna

3:00pm-4:00pm - On-the-spot Non-Fiction Writing -

4:30pm-5:30pm - On-the-spot Short Story Writing

Day 2

Thursday 15th January, 2026

Himma International College, Minna.

8:30am-9:30am - On-the-spot Poetry Writing

Justice Idris Legbo Kutigi Int'l Conference Centre, Minna

10:00am-1:00pm - On-the-spot Painting

8:00am-11:00am - ICT and Technology Category

11:00am-2:00pm - Innovation Category

Abdulkadir Kure University

09:00am - Quiz Category (Workshop)

9:00am-1:00pm - Drama Category

1:30pm-3:00pm - Spoken Word Category

HCAF Headquarters

8:00pm-9:30pm - Night of Drama

Day 3

Friday 16th January, 2026

Abdulkadir Kure University

9:00am-1:30pm - Cultural Dance Category

HCAF Headquarters

8:30pm-10:30pm - Night of Spoken Word

Day 4

Saturday 17th January, 2026

Justice Idris Legbo Kutigi Int'l Conference Centre, Minna

9:00am - Award ceremony



Wakaso Quarterly Women Poetry Prize

Quarterly
POETRY PRIZE OF
₦50,000

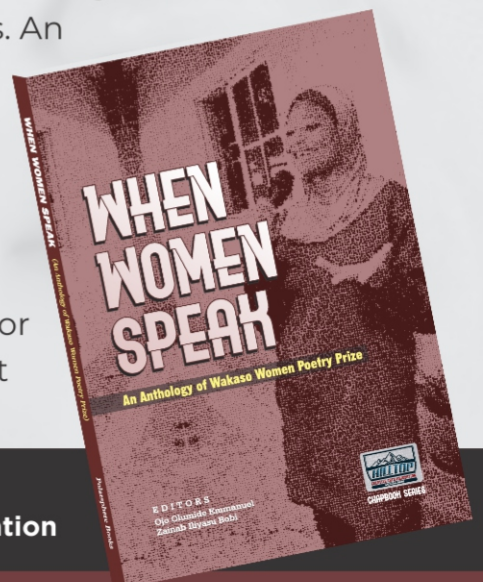


Mrs. Aisha Wakaso, a veteran journalist, child's right activist, girl-child promoter, matron of Niger youths, fearless public affairs commentator and social crusader found it necessary to support arts in Nigeria by endowing **a quarterly poetry prize of ₦50,000** which started from November 2019. The prize is in honour of her late father, Captain Mohammed Wakaso from Niger State.

The Wakaso Quarterly Women Poetry Contest is open to women Poets in Nigeria, especially young ones. An Anthology for 2024 would be unveiled soon.

Madam Aisha is currently the Special Adviser to the Governor of Niger State on Print Media.

✉ hilltopcart@gmail.com
f [hilltopcreativeartsfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/hilltopcreativeartsfoundation)



MINNA CREATIVE WRITING ACADEMY

WRITE YOUR OWN BOOK SCHEME

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

In April, 2024, the Hilltop Creative Arts Foundation (HCAF) added another feather to its cap. It is tagged - the Write Your Own Book Holiday Program, a 3-week program where registered teenagers from different schools are admitted into the project and mentored on writing their own books.

The program was hatched to increase the needs of students desiring to become writers. Their vision to become authors of their own books someday is being created by HCAF. At the Write Your Own Book holiday program, students were coached mainly on two genres: poetry and prose, including grammar and public speaking. The program is run on a two-semester basis.

Calls for admission were sent to schools for interested students to register, with a stipulated registration fee paid by individual students, and another requirement was for them to select an area of specialty between the two genres (poetry and prose).

TIME ALLOCATION

A normal day at the Write Your Own Book Program consist of the following hours of rigorous study, mentoring, and writing:

1. One hour of general class. This is the first event of the day. Students from the two genres converge daily for a general class, which consists of lessons from the two genres and general writing tip as well as general or basic knowledge about many areas of life. You pick one genre of focus but you are also equipped with knowledge from the other areas of relevance to writing and education.
2. The next two hours are for mentor-mentee interaction. Every student is assigned a mentor based on his area of study. The mentor guides the student to put their greatest ideas into words. The enchanting environment of the Art Centre is a bonus for bringing out the hidden talents of the students. They are allowed to use whichever resources are available to them at the HCAF. This includes the library, ICT, the garden, and other spaces within the art arena to realize themselves artistically.
3. The fourth hour is for a return to another general class. Students converge for the last time for the day to share ideas, learn from each other, and learn from other mentors before calling it a day. This includes recitations and general interactions. It is a loose but serious session with everyone around, including parents.

Just as in every conventional institution in Nigeria, this program is divided into two academic sessions; first and second semesters. There is a mid-semester test at the end of each week, and then a semester exam at the end of the semester. Students are assessed and results are compiled and given at the end of each semester. The first semester has been done. The second semester began during the long vacation of 2024. As the students were coming up with their manuscripts, they were granted access to the HCAF ICT facility to type their manuscripts themselves. At the end of the three-week training program, they can still be coming to HCAF every Saturday to type their work or meet their mentors (This is based on the Mentor- Mentee agreement).

At the end of the second semester, all students will graduate from the certificate course at a graduation ceremony organized by the Directorate of Creative Writing of HCAF in the presence of dignitaries invited from around the State. The program is ongoing. So far, more than 30 students from both public and private schools have attended the program.

LIST OF MENTORS

These are the names of mentors for the program:

1. Fatima Salihu
2. Ibraheem Uthman
3. Zakiyyah Dzukogi
4. Abdulrazaq Salihu
5. Emmanuel Umeji
6. Abubakar Auwal
7. Aliyu Umar Muhammad

THE COURSES OFFERED

1. Figures of Speech
2. Punctuation
3. Creative Writing (Poetry and Story)
4. Art of Public Speaking
5. Grammar

PROJECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

HCAF is looking to expand the exercise into a creative writing school and admit not just students of secondary schools in Minna but interested fellows from the 25 Local Government Areas of the Niger State and the whole of Nigeria at large.

A hostel is being sought to accommodate mentees coming from outside Minna. Our programmes will be registered, and the awarding of certificates will commence soon. We are looking to reach a point where we will award Diploma Certificates, including MFA programs, to interested applicants from around the world. The Write Your Own Book is going to be bigger than just a holiday programme. This project will cater for the needs of individuals who have only dreamed but didn't have the environment to achieve that dream.

FOR ENQUIRIES AND REGISTRATION

1. Ojo Olumide Emmanuel (Program Director) - 08133631637
2. Fatima Salihu (Principal) - 08131633913

FORMS IS NOW ON SALE



VISIT US:

Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation Headquarters,
David Mark Road, Maitumbi, Minna, Niger State.



Mukhtar Aliyu Art Residency Minna - Nigeria

Mukhtar Aliyu Art Residency (MAAR) is an initiative of the Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation, Minna, Nigeria. It is situated at the exotic national headquarters of the foundation, along David Mark road, Maitumbi, Minna, Niger State, Nigeria. It is the fourth Art Residency in Nigeria, and the second in Northern Nigeria, after Imodoye in Ilorin, Kwara State. It is named after Late Mukhtar Aliyu who was a son to Mallam Ibrahim Aliyu, the Sardauna Minna, and Chairman, Urban Shelter Ltd.

Mukhtar Aliyu was managing the Aliyu Trust Foundation who is the co-sponsor of Hadiza Ibrahim Aliyu Schools Festival (**HIASFEST**), and the charity trust of Urban Shelter Ltd. He was always with us at **HIASFEST** before his sudden death in 2022. Hence the decision of the Board of Trustees of the Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation to name her residency after him.

MAAR is a place for both professional writers and artists, as well as amateurs and teen authors.



www.themaarreaview.com.ng



Please visit our website www.hiasfest.org.ng

and also like our social media pages: Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for updates.

[f](https://www.facebook.com/hilltopcreativeartsfoundation) [hilltopcreativeartsfoundation](https://www.instagram.com/hilltopcreativeartsfoundation) hilltopcart@gmail.com



MINNA PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

In memory of Ambassador JT Kolo

**Secondary
Schools** *Only*



1st Position

N70,000
With Medal

2nd Position

N50,000
With Medal

3rd Position

N30,000
With Medal

4th- 8th Position

N10,000
Each

SPONSOR



Organizer

Hill-Top Creative Arts Foundation,
David Mark Road, P. O. Box 4070,
Minna, Niger State, Nigeria.

Contact:
0803-452-4787; 0806-434-4947
For enquires & further information





CALL FOR SPONSORSHIP

Kiddies Painting CONTEST



Pick One or More of our Prizes & Sponsor

You can purchase them and bring to us or call the number below to pick them up:

1st - Bicycle (Big) | 2nd - Bicycle (Medium) | 3rd - Bicycle (Medium)

10 sets of painting materials (colours, easels, brushes, canvasses, etc)

You can Institute cash prizes too.

Call 0805-8685-505

Thank you, as you join us in creating platforms for our talented children.





HIASFEST 2026

**All Schools MUST follow
our social media platforms
for regular updates:**

 Facebook: Hiasfest

 Twitter X: Hiasfest

 nstagram: Hiasfest

Foundation Facebook:

 hilltopcreativeartsfoundation

Foundation e-mail:

 hilltopcart@gmail.com

Please Log on to
www.hiasfest.com.ng
to download the Hiasfest modality

For further information, also visit:

www.hilltopfoundation.com.ng

www.nigeriareview.com.ng

www.literaturevoices.com.ng

www.themaarreview.com.ng

www.minnacityofliterature.com.ng

www.northernwritersforum.ng

www.nwfjournal.com.ng

National Coordinator

Makama ■ 08034524787

Assistant Coordinators

Abel ■ 08064344947



Alh. Bala Abdullahi Kwatu
Initiator & Sponsor



Co-sponsors

ALIYU TRUST FOUNDATION

...Providing care and support for the less privileged

HIASFEST - Africa's Largest Teen Arts Festival