



# ICC Centenary Expectations in Nigeria

Presented by

*Tunde Akinleye*

*Chairman, Club Cricket Committee, Lagos*

# Outline

- Overview of Cricket
- History of Cricket in Nigeria
- Cricket in Nigeria Today
- Cricket & Nigeria - Opportunities
- Cricket vs Other Sports
- Expectations

# Overview of Cricket

- No one sure when it first began
- Rules have existed since time immemorial but were first codified in 1744 and then modified in 1774
- MCC founded in 1787 at Lord's and became custodian of the Laws
- We are celebrating the Centenary of ICC founded on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1909
- Nigeria is an Associate Member of ICC
- Ultimate Status is to attain Test-playing status – Full Member

# Cricket in Nigeria

- Cricket was introduced to Nigeria by our colonial masters – the British in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century
- First recorded international against Ghana in 1904
- NCA (Expatriates) formed in 1932 and in 1933 Nigerians responded with NCA (Indigenous)
- The 2 bodies amalgamated in 1957 to form NCA and name changed to NCF in 2006
- Nigeria led the formation of a sub-regional body West African cricket-playing countries met in Sierra Leone in 1965 & WACF (later WACC) was formed in 1976
- Nigeria achieved Associate membership of ICC in 2002

# Cricket in Nigeria (contd)

- Cricket is played in Nigeria as follows:
  - Club Level: Club Leagues developing rapidly
  - University: University teams compete at the biennial University Games
  - Secondary Schools: Compete against each other
  - Primary Schools: States now introducing cricket at this level
  - National Club Championships
  - National Sports Festival
  - Cricket now introduced at the Polytechnic Games

# Cricket vs. Other Sports

- Required more facilities and higher level of funding
- Takes more time
- Restricted to schools that had the funding and was therefore not played widely
- Considered a gentleman's game and demands a high-level of discipline and strict adherence to the Laws
- Contributes positively to character-forming of players
- Unfortunately, not very popular or widespread
- Government-funding is highly limited compared with all other sports
- Cricket is mainly funded by sponsorship at all levels

# Future of Cricket in Nigeria

- Introduce White Balls and Coloured Clothing to One-Day Cricket to conform with ICC standards
- Develop Turf Wickets
- Increase the level of funding for Cricket by developing more commercial opportunities which can attract sponsorship
  - Equipment
  - Clothing
  - Venues
  - Advertising
- Make Cricket Self-sustaining
- Introduce Professional Cricket

# Expectations from Cricket

- Develop discipline in cricketers especially at the formative stages of Primary & Secondary Schools
- Provide mentoring opportunities for young cricketers
- Provide economic opportunities to support Cricket – Clothing & Equipment manufacturers & marketers, Development of Venues, Advertising opportunities, Refreshment Vendors etc.
- Propagate a Positive Image for NIGERIA
- Improvement in the Quality of the game in Nigeria
- Continuous improvement in the International Rating of Nigeria culminating in the achievement of ICC Full Membership in the next decade!