

Mare festival hero, father back from Dubai tour It was an evergreen life changing exposure — 11-year-old Sunday Adewumi Our family ' ll forever be grateful to Mimiko — Father

by Wale Ojo-Lanre

The 11-year-old Sunday Akinwumi, winner of 2009 Mare Mountain Climbing Contest held in Idanre, Ondo State, returned from a tour of Dubai with his father last week.

Speaking with some journalists in Lagos, Master Akinwumi, who was accompanied by the State Commissioner for Culture and Tourism, Mr Deji Falae, disclosed that: "I am short of words in the sense that I do not know how I can thank Governor Olusegun Mimiko and the people of Ondo State enough for the trip to Dubai. It was an evergreen life-changing exposure, which I never dreamt of in my life. An eye opener of immeasurable value which I never dreamt of in my wide imagination could happened to me God used Dr Mimko to make it a reality." He said that the trip to Dubai exposed him to a new level of mountain climbing tactics and techniques, which he was not aware of before. According to him "If our governor had not created the opportunity for me to visit Dubai, I would not have known that by doing certain physical exercises and observing certain rules, one can perform better than the best of form now. I would have been glorifying the local and native techniques which I imbibed in my town."



Master Sunday Adewumi and Mr Deji Falae, the Ondo State Commissioner for Culture and Tourism in Dubai, recently.

He pointed out that "The effective combination of the native and modern tactics and techniques, which I learnt in Dubai, will enable me to have confidence of purpose and mission in any international competition. This is great. I thank Governor Mimiko." In his own response, Mr Akinwumi said: "Our family will forever be grateful to Governor Mimiko not only for keeping his words and fulfilling his promise to Sunday, but for also extending the reward to me, the father. This has never been the case."

Mr. Akinwumi continued: "Those who cannot think deeply will never see the virtue in what the Ondo State governor has done. Now, many parents in the communities will now see reasons why they should encourage and support their children in developing the talents in them." He called on good-spirited Ondo State indigenes to thank Mimiko for what he is doing in Ondo State "Gold or silver I have not. What I have is prayer and I will continue to pray for his success and progress of Ondo State. He is the person God has anointed to lift the state out of the shackles of under-development. Meanwhile the Commissioner for Culture and Tourism, Mr. Falae has said that this year's Mare Festival would be the best ever. Mr Falae disclosed that all hands have been on the deck for a worthwhile celebration that will resonate throughout the global wall of the world. "We are not leaving any stone unturned at ensuring the success of the 2011 Mare festival as we cannot afford to go below the standard of last year. We will set a new pace this year for next year's to run after." Mr Falae said that the Governor was very much interested in the Festival which is taking place in Idanre between 15 and 17 December and he has given the ministry and the committee, a free hand to operate.