



# The Foundation for Democracy in Africa

1612 K Street N.W., Suite 1104, Washington, DC 20006

Tel: (202) 331-1333 • Fax: (202) 331-8547

E-mail: [comments@democracy-africa.org](mailto:comments@democracy-africa.org)

Website: [www.democracy-africa.org](http://www.democracy-africa.org)

Remarks by Fred Oladeinde, President, Foundation for Democracy in Africa at 2nd Fela Day Celebration, Camden Park Plaza, Brooklyn, NY  
August 6, 2005

Good evening, friends, brothers and sisters. On behalf of the board of directors of the Foundation for Democracy in Africa (FDA), and members worldwide, I would like to thank African Shrine Productions and the COUMBA Foundation for organizing this important event today celebrating the memory of Fela Anikulapo-Kuti --- the legendary musician and visionary political activist who spent a significant part of his lifetime fighting Military totalitarian regimes in his country Nigeria and all over Africa using Afro-beat - his creation and contribution to modern music - as a platform for spreading freedom among the African people.

Even though some of us never agreed with Fela on all issues, at no time did we doubt his love and commitment, and willingness to fight tyranny even at personal cost, Fela was a pan Africanist, Afro Optimist.

I would also like to thank Mr. Ogugua - the president and founder of African Shrine Production, his staff, partners and sponsors for using this important occasion to help raise badly needed awareness to the plight of some of the worst victims of the HIV/AIDS scourge - millions of orphans and vulnerable children, particularly in Africa.

Friends, brothers and sisters, HIV/AIDS is killing the young and brightest worldwide at the peak of their careers and contribution to humanity, and "littering" our communities with orphans and vulnerable children.

Our gathering here today at Camden Plaza Parks to celebrate the second Fela Day underscores this important point because on August 2, 1997, Fela died, became a victim, and all of you would agree with me that he died at the peak of his musical career, his political activism, and all his other contributions that led to the now fragile democracy in Nigeria.

Friends, brothers and sisters, please join me in 2 minutes of silence in honor of Fela and his contributions to freedom and democracy, and in honor of all the other friends, brothers and sisters who have fallen victim to this evil and deadly virus.

The organization that I serve, the Foundation for Democracy in Africa, FDA is a non-governmental organization founded in 1994. The mission of FDA is to implement

culturally intrinsic programs that will support and enhance the fundamental principles of democracy, freedom and liberty in the countries of Africa, thus cultivating the pathway for peace and prosperity in Africa.

The House of Nanny is a program of the Western Hemisphere African Diaspora Network (WHADN). WHADN is an initiative of the African Union. It was created in 2003 in Washington, DC.

The mission of WHADN is to utilize the collective talents and discipline of Africans and Africans in the Diaspora to address the development needs of the African people globally.

To achieve this, FDA serves as the secretariat for WHADN. Our goal today is to provide information on the House of Nanny programs, and to ask you to donate generously to the House of Nanny program fund.

Let me share with you the details of the House of Nanny program. Monies that are collected will be given out to select non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and other institutions in countries of Africa to provide support services, resources and other assistance to the paternal and maternal grandmothers who lost their children to AIDS and now have to provide parental care and support for their grandchildren in family settings, providing family values and maintaining close family ties.

The good news - ladies and gentlemen - is that there are many functional, organizations in the countries of Africa and in the Diaspora willing to work with WHADN in avoiding the warehousing of these future leaders in orphanages.

However, we need a lot of money to guarantee a future for this children and to mitigate the hopelessness of their situation.

Please let me tell you how you can help us, For a donation of five dollars today and a pledge of five dollars a month, for one year you will help support the House of Nanny program, and in return we will recognize you with our Afro-optimist button, "If I can do and you can do, Africa Can Do"

For a donation of ten dollars today and a pledge of 10 dollars a month for one year, we will recognize your contribution with ,,,Reach Access Power Flosser.... courtesy of Johnson & Johnson.

For a contribution of 25 dollars today and a pledge of 25 dollars a month for one year to support the House of Nanny, we will recognize your contribution with FDA T-shirt compliments of The Foundation for Democracy in Africa.

For a contribution of 150 dollars today and a pledge of 150 dollars a month for one year, we will give you a bag filled with the t-shirt, power flosser and the afro-optimist button.

Please visit the FDA table now to give your donations and receive your gifts, or call our

office 202-331-1333, visit our website [www.democracy-africa.org](http://www.democracy-africa.org).

All supporters will also receive information on the House of Nanny program on an ongoing basis. We also welcome your suggestions.

As you make your generous contributions to support the House of Nanny, we also ask you to register to volunteer to work for the House of Nanny program here in the United States and in Africa.

If Fela were alive today, I'm sure there is no doubt in anyone's mind - he would have been up here on the platform collecting donations and registering volunteers and using his Afro-beat music to bring Africans and friends of Africa globally together to fight and defeat HIV/AIDS, as he succeeded in fighting military dictatorships in Africa.

Thank you all for joining us this evening. Please join me in giving a round of applause for Africa Shrine productions and the COUMBA Foundation, their sponsors, partners and other leaders in the community who have worked tirelessly to make this event a success.

Please go to the FDA table and make a donation to the House of Nanny and receive the gifts

God Bless you all

God Bless Africa

God Bless the United States of America

Thank you.