

Resounding the Past with Easy Sawaba (Posted on Facebook on 04/1/2020)

At the end of a four-hour interview, I asked Fuji legend Easy Sawaba for any written document about his life, career, and exploits, which he generously narrated to me. He struggled out of his sinking chair, walked straight into his bedroom, and returned a few minutes later with a vintage suitcase. After several attempt at unlocking the pass-coded box, he finally succeeded. He then reeled out pages after pages of newspaper cuttings and letters, among other private documents, that highlighted a career spanning from the late 1970s.

Private documents are not just ordinary things to many people. While they have their own independent life, they tell cogent stories about their owners. The social life of documents and newspaper cuttings can provide a glimpse into a historical moment that is glued to the present. Until the advent of the Internet, the print media was a crucial site through which artists validate their popularity. It added a problematic layer to what constitutes the "truth" or the "authentic" in the world of art, characterized by ending tussle for supremacy. Letters, among other private documents, in Easy Sawaba's private archives would assume a new meaning to a historian when read against the era that produced them. To 64 years old Easy Sawaba, who was born in Tema (Ghana), they are artifacts of an ambivalent nostalgia and ruins of a star that has disappeared from the galaxy of Fuji.

From a detailed backstory of his hit album "Pata Olokun" to the origin of his stage name, conflict with fellow artists, promoters, and record companies, to creative process, gender, spirituality, and night life across eras, Easy Sawaba schooled me on a musical culture that is central to how millions of people of the past and present represent themselves. I was exposed to how technology of musical instruments defined artistic stardom. The story of fashion, diaspora, and international cultural networks was told from personal and collective lenses. Above all, Easy Sawaba's careful documentation of his own life solidifies by conviction that a free and accessible online "Archive of Fuji

IYANDA SAWABA SNUBS JOURNALISTS



Iyanda Sawaba

§ § §

Sonny Music Fuji singer Iyanda Sawaba may be biting the finger that feeds him without knowing it. Watched him treat entertainment writers with

scorn at the premises of NTA Ibadan recently and **Starters** wondered where Sawaba thinks that attitude will get him.

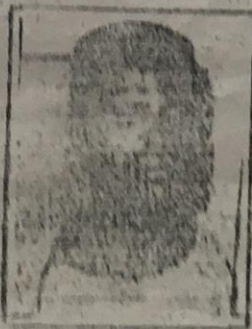
Some writers who had seen Sawaba around and wished to get an on the spot interview with the resurrected Fuji singer were so disappointed when the guy snubbed them, entered his car and drove off even after the writers had identified themselves to him.

Sawaba's Message to Sony Music

Ibadan-born No 3 fuji star, Isiaka Lyanda Sawaba has cried out that Sony Music did not give him royalty on the chart buster MESSAGE he released for the Lagos-based recording company some years back.

Easy Sawaba as fondly called by his teeming fans, stated that, he was greatly disappointed by the "company's (Sony Music) indifference to his welfare and future".

"Despite my tireless



• OKUNOWO

efforts and uncounted 'sleepless nights spent on the album, MESSAGE, I and my band boys have nothing to show for the masterpiece today".

All efforts to get Chief (Mrs.) Keji Okunowo CEO Sony Music proved abortive as she was said not to be in the office when *Weekend Sketch* Entertainment called during the week.

He disclosed that his new album yet to have a name is nearing completion and it will be released on Omo-Aje Records label.

The coming album, Sawaba hinted, contains down-to-earth fuji music at its best, adding "I took my time before I went to the studios for recording and my fans will not regret having me as their idol".

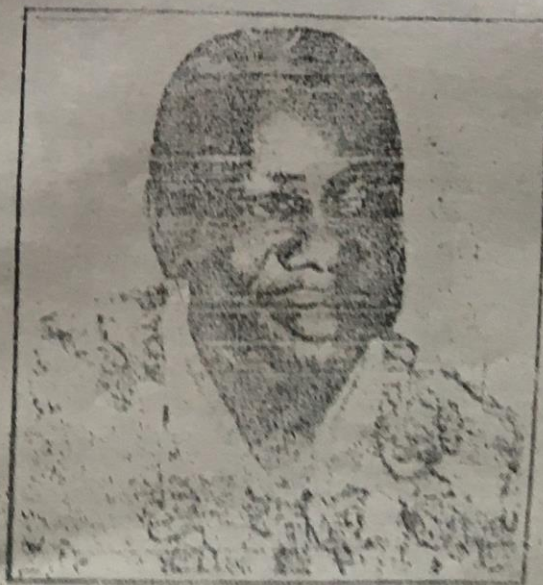
The Pat Ojukun man revealed that he

• *Cries foul play*

• *Alleges total rip-off*

Friday) at Saotone Hotels, Off Elizabeth Road, Mokolu Ibadan stressing that "the show has been recording an appreciable attendance since its inception."

Easy Sawaba claimed that his long silence in the scene was due to re-organisation he conducted in the band saying "the band is now solid than ever".



• SAWABA

The steaming-hot euphonious album is a product of creativity, hardwork and originality. The musical work promises remarkable in-

'Re-Union' from Sawaba

THE long standing feud between the Fuji King of Oyo-State, Alhaj Chief



*•Barry & Iyanda Sawaba
...Indeed a re-union.*

Iyanda Sawaba and the Fuji Lord, Chief Dr. Sikiru Ayinde Barrister has been settled at last and it will be made known to fans on Monday when Chief Iyanda Sawaba releases a new album titled "RE-UNION".

The new album which harps on the settlement of the misunderstanding between him and Barrister is produced by Mr. Liadi Muriana, the Managing Director of Liadi Records Company, Ogunpa Ibadan.

RE-UNION, which is a testimony to the potential of Iyanda Sawaba contains fine lyrics renders in Sawabas unique beats.

Easy Sawaba bounces back ... explains long silence

BOUNCE Back, the new work of a popular fuji musician lyanda Sawaba is making serious waves in the market both here in Nigeria and other neighbouring countries of Africa.

The new work which is a

result of research work comprises of melodious tunes has no doubt launched lyanda Sawaba back to the reckoning.

According to the image maker of the band, Mr. Tunde Agboola, the new album, Bounce Back has promoted it-

self hence, the musician is expected to thrill Nigerians in far away Abidjan come October, courtesy, Mubak promotions an outfit based in Abidjan.

The beautiful work which consists of tracks such as Funky fuji, *Eniyan to ba so Easy nu, Rere Lope, eni oka baso, Idunnu tide, Oba ko fori jinwa, mole mo ba, Nigeria n dara bowwa, Baba ma firni se gbagbe* and many others has sold about 75,000 copies till date.

Mr. Agboola stressed that with this melodious tunes, fans and admirers of *Easy Sawaba* who have been waiting patiently to hear from the amiable musician should sit back as he is fully set to dish out some of the beautiful renditions in his kitty.

Commenting on the long break of the musician, the image maker and promoter of the band, Tasco promotions, noted that the artiste was not given enough publicity by his former

promoter.

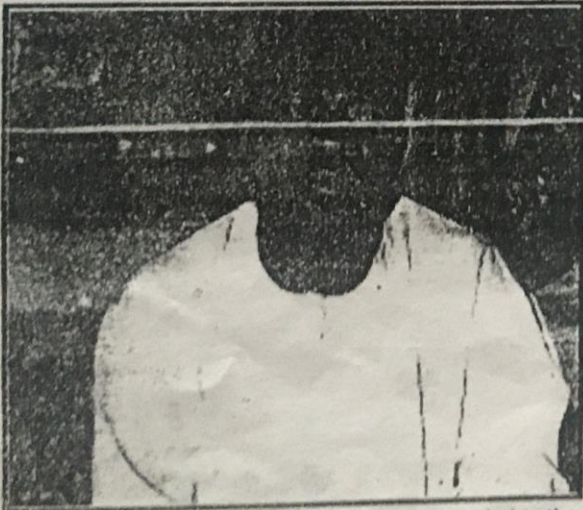
He said, this and many other reasons makes him incur low returns of his works and later prompted the search for new producer and promoter.

"*Nigeria n bo wa dara,*" a track in the album is telling Nigerians that the country will come back to his good old days. No matter the condition or problem, things will come back to shape with prayer and God's intervention.

Alhaji Isiaka lyanda Sawaba a.k.a *Easy Sawaba* was born 46 years ago in a town called Tema in the Republic of Ghana by Alhaji Kareem Amao and Mrs Sabatu Amope Kareem (both deceased).

After his primary education in Ibadan, he developed special interest in music and ran to Lagos for the realisation of his dreams.

He later joined an *Ajiwore* Band in Lagos called *Ewenta Sawaba* where he derived the name *Sawaba*.



Tunde Agboola (TASCO), Sawaba's manager during the interview

is

EASY SAWABA MARKS 32 YEARS

ALHAJJ Jsiaka Jyanda Sawaba's band popularly known as Pata-Olokun will today June 26, mark its fund-raising ceremony and thirty-two years on stage by 12 noon at K.S. Motel, Total Garden,

ON STAGE

Jbadan.

According to the Manager and Promoter of the band, Mr. Tunde Agboola (Tasco) Chief (Dr.) Nzeribe will be the chairman of the day while Alhaja Yemisi Oyaleke will be chairlady and Chief Olufemi Ayeni (Kebe) will be Chief launcher.

Among the Guest Artistes to grace the occasion are Alhaji Rasheed Ayinde, Abass Akande Obesere and Alhaji Wasiu Alabi Pasuma.

Speaking during a chat with Weekend Monitor, Alhaji Jsiaka Jyanda Sawaba said though the band has been in

existence for thirty two years but they have now decided to relaunch themselves and to assure their fans that they have come to stay.

Alhaji Jsiaka Jyanda Sawaba also said that all arrangements have been concluded for his American tour which will commence very soon.

The Jbadan-born artiste called on government to take a cursory look at the activities of agencies responsible for the goods inspection in overseas countries before they are brought in and the present slow pace of clearing goods at our ports say all these lapses importers incur huge of losses."



Alhaji Jsiaka Jyanda Sawaba
a.k.a. Pata Olokun

necessary

use the record is from
d.

FEMI AKINSON

if they can exercise

According to him,

Easy Sawaba ready for 2nd leg Euro tour



EUROPE returnee fuji music icon, El-Hadj Isiaka Iyanda Sawaba aptly dubbed Easy Sawaba who returned to Nigerian in May, 2004 after one-month plus first Europe tour of Germany among other countries where he had a superb and interesting excursion laced with a more matured and talented rhythms and lyrics-courtesy of MR. MUSIC OF EUROPE Raph Dedenuola, the boss of Ife-Oluwapo Int'l Promotions is now set again to commence the much published and expected 2nd leg tour.

Indication to this emerged last weekend in Lagos when the stout-built Nigerian Promotional Manager of RAPH Worldwide Music, Mr. Femi-Caleb briefed the entertainment reporters that, "this 2nd leg Europe tour will take the fuji music giant, El-hadj Iyanda Sawaba, to over 10 countries".

Mr. Femi -Caleb added that the 2nd leg tour has been signed, sealed and delivered and it would cover 10 countries of the world-kick starting from Germany to Britain, Canada, Italy, Holland, Belgium, Trinidad and Tobago, Netherland; France, Austra among oth-

ers and by the special grace of God, it would last over a year.

"You see, the first-leg Europe tour was highly successful due to the fact that, Easy Sawaba had paid his dues in the fuji music industry in Nigeria and overseas.

-Laide Abbas

New classical traditional beats from Oyekanmi Olowokanga

All is now set for the second album of Ode-Aye based traditional star, Chief Oyekanmi Olowokanga.

Chief Olowokanga popularly known as "AKEJU" confirmed recently to *Weekend Entertainment* that his second album will contain 8 good tracks of classical traditional beats with a well packaged video clip for effective marketing and promotion.

Chief Olowokanga who is the *Aforinkomolede of Yorubaland* claimed to have

1980. He however lamented seriously on not being able to get promoters/sponsors which makes it very difficult for him to come out in time.

He however assured his fans to expect something different as he has done his home work very well to make the new album well accepted to traditional music love nationwide.

The celebrated Ode-Aye traditional star whose musical composition and statesmanship is too marvellous continue to wax

and



overdue.





Easy Sawaba launches *Destiny*



Easy Sawaba

EASY Sawaba, Alhaji (Chief) Iyanda Sawaba (Pata Olokun's) latest album titled "Destiny" has been released into the market.

Destiny according to Iyanda Sawaba can never be changed irrespective of what happens to man.

Chief Iyanda Sawaba thanked his fans who stood by him in his tribulation, saying that his latest record has been distributed to all record dealers in the country.

Pata Olokun super Star also revealed that the video clip of the album has been shot in beautiful locations across the country.

Speaking further, Easy Sawaba said that the various locations have been carefully chosen to take care of interest of fuji music lovers.

He further added that all radio and television stations across the country have been sent copies of the album.

The latest album makes the sixth record from Pata Olokun Fuji company.

Born in Ibadan, African most populous city about 42 years ago, where he did both his primary and secondary education before he proceeded to Ghana to complete his secondary education.

Alhaji Iyanda Sawaba is married and the marriage is blessed with children.