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HONOROUBLE MNISTER OF FOREING AFFAIRS AT THE SIGNIG
OF THE HEADQUARTERS
AGREEMENT BETWENN THE ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL
OLYMPIC COMMITTEES OF AFRICA (ANOCA) AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA.

Honourable Minister/Chairman, National Sports Commission,
The President of ANOCA
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me a great pleasure to preside over this historic occasion of the signing of the headquarters Agreement between the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) and the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

As an umbrella organization for the Olympic movement in Africa, with direct links to International Olympic Committee, ANOCA is indeed a strategic sports body. It is therefore an honour for Nigeria to host the Headquarters of the Association.

Sports are global phenomenon with a common language that knows no political or cultural barriers. They offer opportunities for personal expression, challenges, growth and fulfilment. Furthermore sports are a key instrument for moral and social development.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria attaches great importance to sports development. As you are aware, we successfully hosted the 8th All African Games in 2003, here in Abuja and we are currently bidding for the hosting of the 2014 Commonwealth Games. At the moment, Nigeria Athletes are undergoing rigorous training in preparation for the 9th All Africa Games to be held in Algiers in July, 2007.

The opportunity being offered Nigeria to host ANOCA Zone 3 Headquarters will no doubt reinforce our credentials to host the Headquarters of the main body of ANOCA. I can assure you that all the necessary facilities will be made available to ensure the smooth take off of the ANOCA Secretariat.

Before I conclude this address, I wish to express my appreciation to the officials of ANOCA and the Nigerian Sports Commission for their strenuous efforts in negotiating the draft Agreement which have made this ceremony possible. I especially commend the leading played by my dear colleague, the Honourable Minister and Director of the National Sports Commission.

It is my hope that the signing of this Agreement and the subsequent relocation of the ANOCA Headquarters to Nigeria will yield the expected positive result

I thank you.