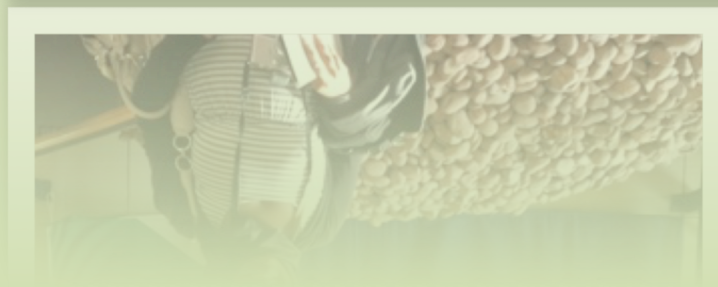


My South African Adventure

August 2016

Salma Hadejia



DAY ONE-ARRIVAL IN SOUTH AFRICA



Aisha Laka, Hauwa Shakiru, Sauda Ibrahim and Maijidda Laka pose for a photo with the Cabin Crew of our flight.

Our flight to South Africa was uneventful and pleasant. The children were so excited; they spent the whole time making and sharing plans about the adventure we embarked upon. We got to our accommodation in time for dinner; our hosts were very pleasant and hospitable.

DAY TWO- VISIT TO SANDTON CITY AND NELSON MANDELA SQUARE



Aisha Laka, Sauda Ibrahim, Maijidda Laka, Miss Salma Hadejia, Zainab Muhammed And Ahmad

We visited the Nelson Mandela Square in the heart of Johannesburg on our second day in South Africa. We stopped and took pictures in front of the dancing statue of Nelson Mandela named "A CELEBRATION OF HOPE" which was unveiled by Ndileka Mandela on the 30TH March, 2004.

We proceeded into the Sandton City Mall for lunch and a little window-shopping. The boys had fun going around sorts and electronics stores while the older girls spent some time in the fashion and accessories department. The younger girls jumped for joy at the sight of book and toy stores.

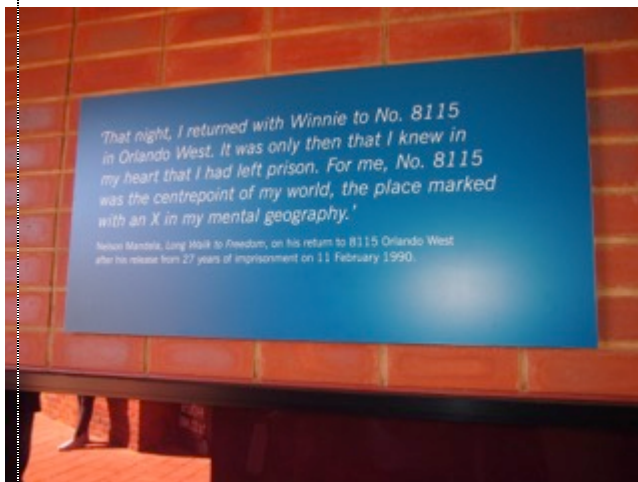
DAY THREE- TOUR OF MANDELA HOUSE AND APARTHEID MUSEUM



The boys and girls standing in front of Mandela House.

We began our day with a ride through Soweto. We drove through the streets where the uprising began and saw the famous town whose young school children made history through strength, pain and the toughest sacrifice of all. DEATH.

On arrival at the Mandela House, we all felt the strength and profound connection to the most influential South African, Nelson Rolihlaha Mandela. There was a lot of excitement, stepping into the house he once called home. With Winnie and their children.



SOME PICTURES FROM OUR TOUR OF MANDELA'S HOUSE



Standing at the front door of Mandela's house(left) and out back (right).



A bullet hole above the front door.



Mandela's in picture with his girls



Miss.Bukki poses with the tour guides while read our PTA Newsletter.



Aisha and Saudah have a chat with they our tour guide.

We proceeded to the Apartheid Museum on the other side of town where an exhibition celebrating the life of Nelson Mandela was on display.

The female chaperones and 'the girls' pose for a quick picture before heading into the museum.



Mr. Nok and the boys.

Below: Miss Bukki(far left), the girls, Miss Salma and Mrs Ayuba(far right)



The **Mandela** exhibition showcased his extraordinary life is explored through seven themes- **character, comrade, leader, prisoner, negotiator and statesman.**

He has become an inspiration to millions of people because of the virtues of his character, virtues such as hope, integrity, compassion and courage.

Earlier on, he had the belief that the struggle for liberation should be led by black Africans alone. Over time, he changed his position as he embodied non-racialism.

His friends were in constant awe of his ability to magnetize a huge crowd. They saw him as a natural leader who was firm, courteous and whose views were always based on thought and reason.

He was sentenced to life in prison in 1964, to Robben Island. His life was to that point was a tale of recurring restrictions.

He took the building of his image very seriously, putting in careful thought and deliberation into crafting a lasting image for himself. He realized his image was going to be pivotal in achieving his goals, most especially in the struggle to overthrow apartheid.

His guiding principle was bringing the apartheid regime to the negotiating table.

On May 10th 1994, thousands of people gathered at the Union Buildings to witness Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela being sworn in as South Africa's first democratically elected president. The whole exhibition was a celebration of the life and times of arguably the most inspiring men in Africa.

There we saw handwritten letters he wrote to his wife(Winnie) and children, a replica of his prison cell on Robben Island, his family albums even the briefcase he used as the first president of South Africa.

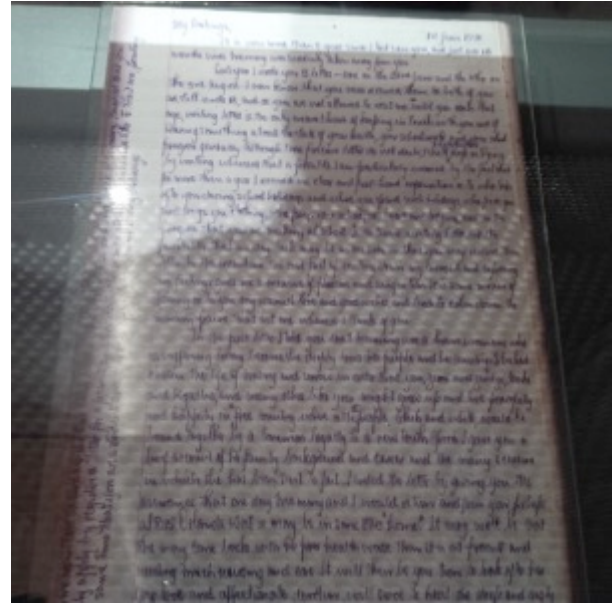


A car that was gifted to Nelson Mandela by Mercedes Benz after his Inauguration as President of South Africa.

PICTURES FROM THE MANDELA EXHIBITION AT APARTHEID MUSUEM



The briefcase he used when he was President



A letter to Winnie from Robben Island

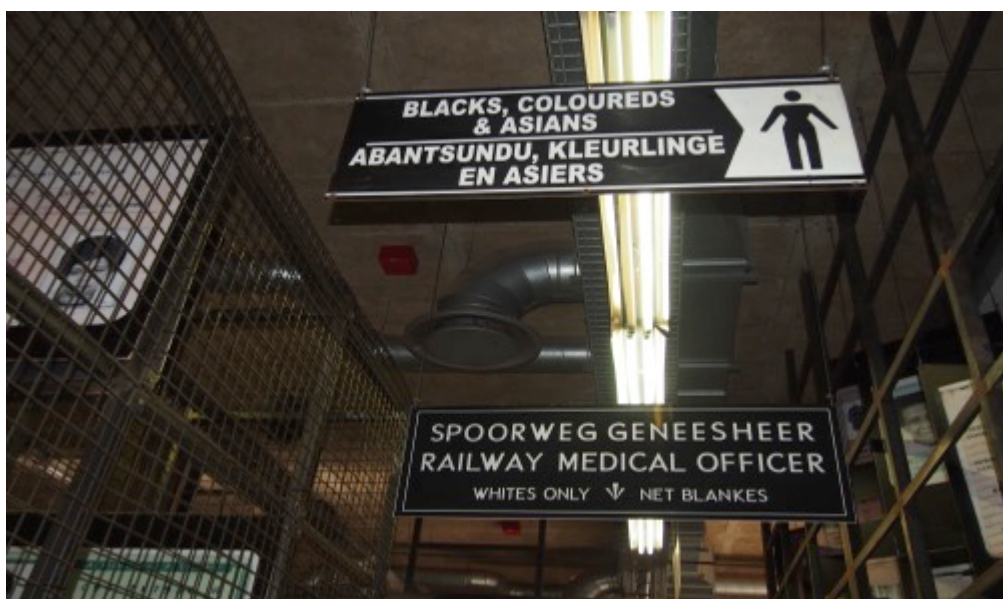
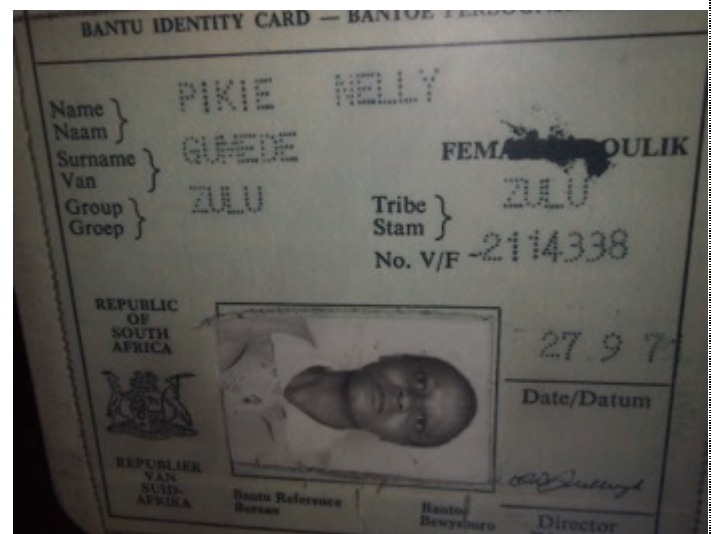
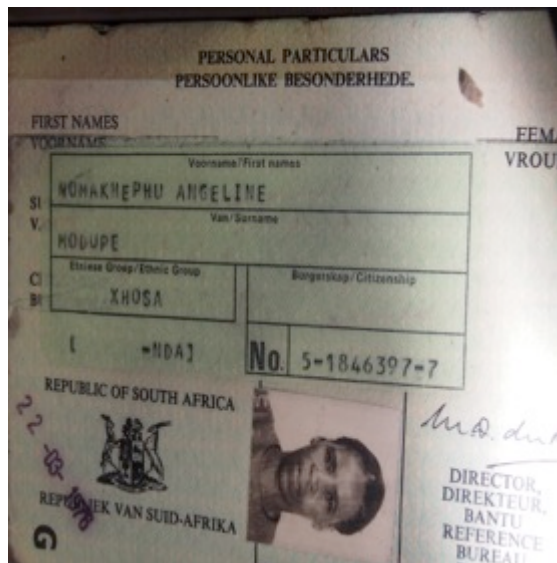


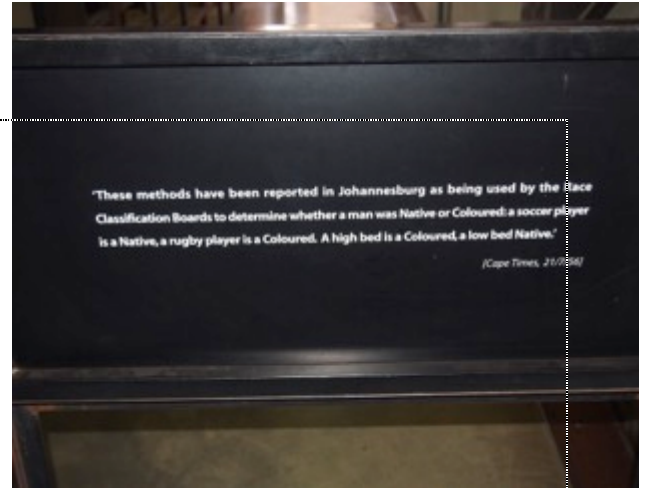
The Apartheid Museum tour was an incredible experience. The entrance, which is classified into two- NON-WHITES AND WHITES prepares visitors for the grim history within the walls of the museum.

Racial classification was the foundation of all apartheid laws. It classified individuals into 'Africans (or Bantu), 'whites', 'colored', or 'Asian'.

Identity documents were the main tools used to implement racial divide.

PICTURES OF SOME STARK REMINDERS OF APARTHEID





The journey to break free from apartheid was a long and difficult one. Walking down the corridors of the museum stirred the deepest emotions; the most humbling feeling overcame me. At a point, I sat down and took a deep breath, quietly said a prayer for the lives that were lost in the struggle. We came across the armored tank that the police used during the Soweto Uprising. The windows were barely cracked in some areas where the protestors threw stones at it. The children had no chance against the offensive launched on them by the police. It was a sad and depressing reminder of the cruelty of that day, and the respect for the children who stood up for what they believed in, undaunted by fear. There were gut-wrenching representations of Political executions without trial, and rooms for solitary confinement.



The armored tank used in 1976 against the protestors in Soweto.

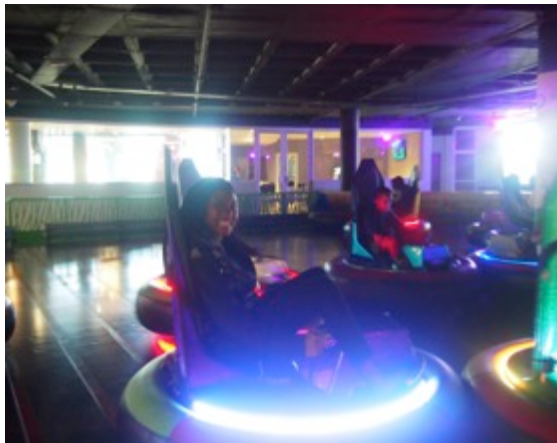


Nooses hanging from the ceiling showing how political executions were done.

DAY FOUR-SHOPPING

We all went to Menlyn Mall for shopping. There were over 100 stores that cater to all ages. The children were able to buy school bags, shoes, and souvenirs for their parents and siblings.

They also had some fun at the Entertainment Arena driving the Bumper Cars.



Hauwa Umar



Mahmud Braimoh



Aisha Laka

DAY FIVE-PRETORIA ZOO AND THE NIGERIAN HIGH COMMISSION

On our fifth day in South Africa we drove to the National Zoo in Pretoria. We wore our beautiful Essence International School shirts. The children were so excited to spend the day in the sun with all the animals.



The boys with the elephants.



The girls in the giant bird cage.



The boys gave their new friends copies of Our PTA Newsletter.



Hauwa Shakiru next to a Komodo dragon's Cage while Maijidda Laka takes a picture.



Suleiman, AbdulMalik, Sadik and Salim.



Maryam Bindawa amazed at the fish in the tank

THE NIGERIAN HIGH COMMISSION

We had an appointment at The High Commission for 3:00PM, so we drove the short distance from the zoo to meet our hosts.

We were met by Mr. Balogun A.K., the Head of Consular Section and Education at the High Commission and Mr. Uka I. U., A Member of the Admin Division.

They were kind and patient with the students, explaining the functions of the Diplomatic Mission and the sacrifices they make for their families and Nigeria on a daily basis. It was an interactive meeting that piqued the interest of some of the students towards having a career in diplomacy.



Mr. Balogun A. K explaining the roles of the Diplomatic mission in South Africa.



A quick picture before the session.



Maryam Bindawa and Maijidda Laka asking questions in the interactive session.



The Essence International School's Chaperones(in red shirts) and the students(in yellow) at the High Commission's entrance.



Fron left: Mr. Uka,Mr.Nok,Mr.Balogun(holding copies our of PTA Newsletter and Postcards) with Aisha Laka and Saudah Ibrahim.

DAY SIX- VISIT TO GOLD REEF CITY THEME AMUSEMENT PARK.

On our last day in South Africa, we all headed to the famous Gold Reef Amusement Park. The students had the day planned out for fun, laughter games and mind numbing thrill rides. They were so excited to encourage the chaperones to go on incredible rides while they laughed and teased us.



Mr.Nok and Mrs.Ayuba having fun on a ride



Hlaawa Shakra



The boys on a ride.



Fatima, Maryam and Juwairiah brace for a thrill ride.



Sauda and Aisha share a laugh on a ride.

DAY SEVEN-HEADING HOME

Our flight was schedule for 11:55pm, so we had time during the day for a last minute shopping trip and an outdoor Art Project.

The students were so excited about the project that they planned and talked about it all morning.

Some chose from pictures they took on their phones while others drew from memory.

It was a very fun trip and the Art project was a great way to round it up.

We left for the airport at 5:00pm, having enough time for the children to wind down and explore the shops at the airport and learn new things.

Just before we boarded for the flight back, we saw the C.E.O and owner of the popular FIFTH CHUKKER Polo Club, Alhaji Adamu Attah, who was on the same flight to Abuja, Nigeria.

A few of the boys are such big fans of his, so I introduced them. They were so excited to meet him, and he agreed to take a 'selfie' with them.





Sadik Hamza, Mahmud Braimoh, AbdulMalik Isa Muazu ,Alhaji Adamu Attah and Suleiman at the airport.

I had so much fun in South Africa, the students were very well behaved and served as exemplary ambassadors of the school and Nigeria.