

Nina' Mba's  
**Insider / Outsider's**  
**Account**



***Oriki* on the occasion of the second  
 birthday of *Democracia Nigeriana*,  
 29th May, 2001**

*Proud scion of noble forebears.*

*Constitutional monarchs, republican elders,*

*Resisters of the colonial invasion,*

*Creators of an independent nation.*

*A child can only be sure of its mother. Yours, Vox Populi, suffered to give you succour while your paternity was battled over by Uncles Sege, Alex, Umaru and NADECO.*

*Midwife Abubakar delivered you gingerly for all feared you would be an Ogbanje like your siblings, Balewa and Shagari who came to lead but did not tarry.*

*When your emaciated mother's milk dried up, you were fed on gari and pap which gave you a big belle but no power. Today your food grows scarce and sour.*

*Your uncles/aunts in the houses are too self-absorbed to arouse themselves from their trips abroad for an ailing and abused ward.*

*You inherited ebony and many oily toys sorely sought by the up-country boys who made them but never got their pay and now demand their sovereign say.*

*At your birth, fervent prayers in unison are said by Muslims, Christians, Animists all galore. Now, by Sharia, they must be separated by the fall of the curtain, prayer mat.*

*Emissaries from abroad hailed your arrival with baskets of loans, alleviations and grants. But few of their people, nor even your own, have returned to invest or work at home.*

*Little Democracia, you may be frail, yet you are the one we all hail. We implore you to grow strong and STAY with us for all our hope on you we lay.*