

Friday, November 16, 2007

## **OPM Pledges to Sponsor Outstanding Students**

From ISMAIL MUDASHIR, Kaduna, Nigeria

FOUNDER of the Operation Peace of Mind (OPM) otherwise known as, Nigerian-American Centre for Peace and Development, Dr. Sunny U. Ugochukwu has pledged to sponsor outstanding students of Gaskiya Skills International School, Barnawa, Kaduna for further studies in the United States of America.

Dr. Ugochukwu who made the disclosure when he introduced the OPM to the school, said the only way criminal activities can be reduced to the barest level is through the engagement of youth in productive activities.

"Nigerian communities, government, religion bodies, schools and individuals must work together for the common change. To reduce crime, we must have goals to properly ground our youth education and to use new technology in this information age," he said.

Dr. Ugochukwu, who described youth as the future of the country, said "Access to technology-based research, development and training cannot be overlooked opined that we cannot progress with graduates who are not computer-literate. Our youth must be equipped and challenged to be their best," he asserted.

He said OPM was founded in 2002 to promote reconciliation, tolerance and peace among Nigerians and promote viable crime fighting initiatives.

"We are out to encourage patriotism and volunteerism as well as promote Nigerian and American goods, tourism and cultural exchange," he said.

Responding on behalf of the school a parent, Mr. Benson Nwobum reiterated the readiness of the management of the school to collaborate with the OPM in realizing its set objectives.