

## #MalesMatterToo



# Report on 'Owning My Space' Leadership & Life skills programme for graduates (youth corpsers)

**March 12 – 14, 2024: NYSC EtiOsa LGA**

**May 21 – 23, 2024: NYSC Obalende LGA**

Established in 2017 by Mrs. Ifeoma I. Idigbe, boys to MEN Foundation was established to support the development of males to become their best selves and so make positive contributions to the communities in which they live. The Foundation recognizes the problem of absent positive male role models, toxic masculinity, and the harmful societal expectations of men. These are challenges faced by young men today as they try to navigate an increasingly complex world, the challenges it poses, and to find their place in the world.

One of its key initiatives, 'Owning My Space', is a Leadership and Life skills programme designed to support young male graduates to become productive and engaged members of society and change the prevailing patriarchal narrative which is a stumbling block to their social and mental equilibrium. By incorporating a video of monologues of male experiences, focused discussions, and training in leadership and essential life skills, the programme offers a route to personal development through mindset and attitude change.

In March 2024 (12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>), Sun Trust Bank Limited sponsored 'Owning My Space' programmes for three cohorts of corpsers from the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), EtiOsa LGA. The bank also sponsored three programmes for corpsers in the Obalende LGA from May 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. Core modules in all programmes include The Real World, a group mentoring session that addresses male roles and challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (including the changing

gender narrative), a Leadership module that includes Emotional Intelligence, Leadership and Accountability; and modules on Managing Your Finances, Personal Branding and Public Speaking.

For the first time there were some female corpers attending (23 of them) in one of the Obalende programmes, and the class dynamic was certainly different. One of the facilitators in Obalende was the Executive Director of Sun Trust Bank, Mr. Innocent Mbagwu. He spoke about expectations from the Corporate Life.



## Programme Modules

1. The Real World; Gender: A Paradigm Shift – focused discussion
2. Leadership: Emotional Intelligence, Defining Success as a Leader, Leadership & Accountability and Time Management
3. The Corporate Life/An Entrepreneur's story
4. Managing Your Finances
5. Personal Branding
6. The Rudiments of Public Speaking

### Facilitators:

**Innocent Mbagwu**, the Executive Director and Executive Compliance Officer for Sun Trust Bank Limited, and a Fellow of ICAN and the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria.

**Ifeoma I. Idigbe**, a business and financial analyst/consultant, is the Founder and Executive Vice Chairman of boys to MEN Foundation. She also teaches Critical Thinking and Public Speaking to graduate scholars at the Nigerian University of Technology and Management (NUTM).

**Chiemezie Ilozulike**, is an accountant and serial entrepreneur who operates across industries.

**Christopher Oare Aneni**, is project manager and business operations strategist.

## Feedback

The feedback was as usual positive and validates why we run these programmes.



*The whole program was very impactful and I will look forward to inviting and attending more of such – Abdulhafees A.*

*The most profound and useful CDS I have ever attended. I thoroughly admire what you do and it is really useful to young men and the society at large. It*

*is essential to remind boys that we are only human. The presenter also communicated well – “effectively and efficiently”. I want to inquire about follow up – is this a one-off session or is there a forum where young men can have a safe space to communicate and bond? I would love to volunteer if you have weekend activities – Ephraim Sheka*



*Educationally refreshing – Babatunwa Braithwaite.*

*It was an impactful session touching across many topics which are relevant in our day to day activities. It has been helpful as some of the points taken today would be useful for me personally in the nearest future. Thank you. – Adegbite*

Daniel A.

*The Owing My Space Leadership and Life skills programme is a very interesting and educative programme I believe more young men should be a part of. It is beneficial & more boys and young men need to be aware... so as to help reshape their mind & e very useful to themselves and the society at large. Thank you.*

*This program is really an eye opening program to what men are facing in real world. It also helps with leadership insight. Hoping for the continuity of this program.*

*The boys to MEN foundation has really been INSIGHTFUL more like a WAKE UP CALL to do things differently and DO THINGS BETTER. The HEALTH OF MEN matters. Thank you very much.*

*An interesting open -minded conversation. Great speakers. Lovely short film.*

