



## **‘Owning my Space’ Leadership & Life skills program for graduates (youth corpsers)**

**May 14, 16, 17, 2024: Victoria Island Programme Report**

‘Owning My Space’ Leadership and Life Skills programme is an initiative of boys to MEN Foundation. Its core purpose is to support male graduates transition into effective contributors to society. Through real-world conversations, focused discussions, and core training modules, this programme provides a path to personal development and growth. Founded in 2017 by Mrs. Ifeoma I. Idigbe, the Foundation acknowledges the challenges young men face in trying to find their place in the world and is focused on supporting males to be the best they can be. It recognizes the challenge of absent mentors and poor role models, toxic masculinity, and oppressive societal expectations on young men. The modules are designed to tackle these challenges and foster a shift in their mindsets and attitudes towards distorted cultural norms that many young men may have adopted.

On May 14, 16, 17, 2024, the Foundation ran an Owning My Space programme with three cohorts of corpsers from the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Victoria Island LGA, sponsored by Zenith Bank Plc. Facilitators engaged participants through presentations and discussions on a range of topics, including The Real World (a discussion of a video on monologues from *About Men: Random Poems, Monologues and Reflections*) as well as the challenges men face in today’s world, a Leadership module, including Emotional Intelligence; Personal Branding, Managing Your Finances, Public Speaking and Navigating a Corporate Career facilitated by Nonso Elue of Zenith Bank. The impact of these sessions was measured using participants feedback. There were 86 participants, corpsers from the Victoria Island LGA.

## Programme Modules

1. The Real World (video) and Gender: A Paradigm Shift
2. Leadership: Emotional Intelligence, Defining Success as a Leader, Leadership & Accountability and Time Management
3. The Corporate Life
4. Managing Your Finances
5. Personal Branding
6. The Rudiments of Public Speaking

### Facilitators:

**Ifeoma I. Idigbe**, a business and financial analyst/consultant and 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).

**Chinonso Umeh** from Zenith Bank spoke on the Corporate Life at Zenith Bank. Mrs. Pearl Kalu was also in attendance.

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

## Feedback

Participants provided some immediate feedback.

*Personally, the boys to MEN Foundation has acted as an eye opener for me as well as an avenue to propel me for the life ahead; post NYSC. In addition, I have come to realize what it entails to be Productive and relevant wherever I find myself as an individual especially in a corporate setting. I sincerely want to seize this privilege to appreciate the organizers and sponsors of this amazing Foundation for this wonderful avenue... - Anthony Chuks.*

*The boys to MEN Foundation has honestly been a safe space for me. This is my second time here and honestly it has been worth it. It has been a space for intentional conversation that has been so engaging. Thanks for having time for we "MEN" – Obingonye Chima Aguocha.*

*I was surprised to see a "foundation" focused on men, that really blew my mind. The training for me is worth is, especially in this time of my life when I need counselling and guidance. I am sincerely grateful for this programme – Israel Obot.*

*It was very informative. I learnt a lot from branding to finance and I know I would be better for it – Odiase Kelvin.*

*The programme was very insightful and really educating especially to me as a male. It cuts across all areas of the male way of seeing life. From the beginning to the end of the programme. It was really great. – Emmanuel Orukpo*

