



CONSIMA Protocol & Finishing School

Dear Friends,

Deep within the dew-kissed mountain range of northern Cross Rivers State, Nigeria, literally touching the clouds, lies the Obudu Mountain Resort, once the gourmet pasture for grazing cattle, but now transformed into a luscious green wonderland. This geographic masterpiece, 1,800 meters above sea level, with the most magnificent views from dizzying heights and mysterious forests with ancient giant ferns, was the magical site for the First Lady's Retreat on Etiquette, Protocol and Administration.



H.E. Dame (Dr.) Patience Goodluck Jonathan, First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, assembled the wives of State Governors and their Deputies, for four days of intensive interactive training sessions ranging from Protocol and Procedures for Female Dignitaries to Stress Management. It was a memorable experience for everyone. Friendships were forged, elegance was enhanced, entertainment was at its best and the weather played along most of the time!

The general consensus was that ladies in the limelight, public office holders and indeed everyone in general stood to gain immensely from being etiquette savvy, as it not only enhanced one's personal image, but indeed that of the nation. The CONSIMA Protocol and Finishing School was the privileged Consultant to the Retreat. The excitement may be over, but the memories will linger on.

The month of August has ushered in the month of Ramadan for our Muslim brothers and sisters. To this effect, we deem it appropriate to focus this month's edition of our Newsletter on Ramadan Etiquette.

The month of Ramadan is the month that Islam holy book, the Koran, was revealed to Prophet Mohammed. Muslim faithful are called by their religion to observe the month as one of the pillars of Islam by coming together in worship, fasting each day for thirty days from dawn until sunset.

By following a few simple tips, you can show your friend or colleague respect, consideration and tact:



1. The Greeting - "Ramadan Mubarak" or "Ramadan Kareem" or simply "Happy Ramadan."

2. The Lunch Meeting - If you can re-arrange your meetings try to ensure it's not centered on a meal time, it shows consideration. However, don't feel guilty where this can't be avoided.

3. No Water - During the fasting period, not even water is permitted. Do not offer water during this period.

4. Halitosis - In order not to offend with bad breath, your Muslim friend may want to stand farther away from you than usual. Please understand this and do not make an issue of it.

5. Breakfast - The breaking of fast during Ramadan is usually an elaborate affair. Gifts of dried or fresh fruits are always welcome.

Show kindness, consideration and patience to all who may be of a different faith, not only during Ramadan, but all the time.

To all our Muslim subscribers, friends and colleagues, CONSIMA Protocol and Finishing School wishes you Ramadan Kareem! Happy New Month!

