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Dancing in Vienna

Austria-based Nigerians thrill themselves at a party organised by the Elite Cooperative Society in the European country

Stories: **Akeem Lasisi**

YORUBA culture exerted itself in faraway Vienna, Austria recently when the Pan-Nigerian Elite Cooperative Society of Austria celebrated its 10th year anniversary.

In a manner that showed that east or west, culture is supreme, members of the society, many of whom have resided in Austria for many years, flowed in *aso ebi* ceremonial uniform dresses, the type which is best appreciated at a mega carnival like the Ojude Oba Festival in Ijebu Ode, Ogun State.

In their *agbada* (for men) and *iro* and *buba* for the female members, they seized the opportunity to remind themselves of home, sweet home. The catalyst for the rite of remembering was Germany *juju* musician, Tola Sholana, and his Osumare Beat, who entertained the elite and their guests at the event. In most parts of the performance, they danced

excitedly and tickled the musician with dollars. Also on hand was, comedian, MC Tenero, who never forgot to amuse his audience that included Dr. Moses Akinpelu and Dr. Rauf Ogunlola – the master of ceremonies – who

cracked jokes built around the notorious inefficiency of Nigeria's electricity generation outfits. DJ David Baba Ewe, also intimated guests with the latest in the Nigerian and international hip-hop music.

According to the treasurer, Mr. Olukayode Parkinson, the need to mobilise members for investment activities and cultural regeneration led to its establishment.

"We started Elites over 10 years ago and had about 25 Yoruba that wanted to be part of it," he recalls in an online interview with our correspondent.

"After screening everyone, we started with 12. *Fahe Omo*



• Osumare entertaining members of the society

Oduduwa Vienna, Austria is our brother association and since it has a different objective.

"We then decided to have elites co-operative society registered with the Austria Police.

"Part of our aims and objectives is to help Yoruba at home and in the Diaspora and to do charity work. Where we feel that our Parkinson studied Aeronautic Mechanical and Machine Construction and works with a Germany-based company, Cincinnati Extrusion in Vienna.

But he and his fellow Nigerians in the horizon are very concerned about the

culture their offspring will imbibe. Hence, they organise programmes where they teach their children Yoruba language and culture.

He says, "When I was the president of *Egbe Omo Oduduwa* Austria, we organised Yoruba Cultural Group, and tried to raise funds so that we could have a place to teach Yoruba Language.

But it is still a dream which I hope will come true one day. Many of us are so much concerned about our language and when you go to *Egbe Omo Oduduwa* website, www.oduduwa.at, there is a place provided for anyone who wants to learn Yoruba."

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