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**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **SIX AFRICAN SCHOLAR/ACTIVISTS AWARDED U.S. FELLOWSHIPS**

Washington, DC, September 12, 2003 – The Africa-America Institute (AAI) today announced the third round of Claude Ake Memorial Award fellows, commemorating one of Africa's leading voices for democracy by supporting six African scholar/activists in their efforts to address the continent's developmental challenges. AAI administers the Ford Foundation funded program in collaboration with the African Studies Association (ASA).

The fellows will each receive one-year, \$6,000 stipends to further their innovative and practical research into promoting Africa's development. Fellows will travel to the United States to attend and present their findings at the 46th Annual Meeting of the ASA, which will be held October 30 – November 2, 2003 in Boston, Massachusetts. The scholars will then participate in 2-week study tours tailored to their specific research interests. AAI will publish their research and distribute it to academic and other audiences.

“Claude Ake's intellectually inspired advocacy for democracy and economic development in Africa finds its descendants in this first round of Ake Scholars. Concerned with a range of modern-day challenges, from managing the oil rich resources of the Nigerian Delta to the impact of new technologies on African political institutions, each scholar is dedicated to finding thoughtful solutions to critical problems facing the African continent,” said AAI president Mora McLean.

Ake, a Nigerian scholar of global standing and activist for democracy, established the Centre for Advanced Social Studies in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Throughout his professional life, he was at the forefront of scholarship that championed social justice, economic development and democracy. He challenged African intellectuals to help construct an African conception of development that would facilitate African solutions to African problems.

### **THE 2003 AKE SCHOLARS ARE:**

**Mr. Ebrahim Harvey** – South Africa  
Student, University of Witwatersrand

Research Topic: Researching the public's perceptions, views and concerns about the planned installation of pre-paid water meters in Soweto, Johannesburg, and the related adequacy or not of the current lifeline supply of six thousand litres of water per family per month.

**Mrs. Adebobola Imeh-Nathaniel** – Nigeria  
Assistant Lecturer, University of Ilorin

Research Topic: Integration of Indigenous Knowledge of Rural Women in Sustainable Ecology, Agricultural Productivity and Environmental Conservation: Nigeria Case Study,  
*Subtitle: Do rural women do more harm to ecology and environment than good?*

**Ms. Annet Koote** – Uganda

State Attorney, Kampala

Research Topic: A Situation Analysis of Child Headed Families in Luwero District

**Mr. Gidion Kaino Mandesi** – Tanzania

Executive Director, Disabled Organisation for Legal Affairs and Social Economic Development (DOLASED)

Research Topic: An Investigation of the Plight of Disabled People in Politics and Elections in Tanzania

**Mr. Richard Nyirenda** – Zimbabwe

PAR-Researcher, Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

Research Topic: Committee for User-based Forest Management?: Alternative Approaches to Community Involvement in Community Based Forest Management – Case studies from Mafungautsi forest, Zimbabwe

**Mr. Abdoulaye Tall** – Senegal

Independent Researcher

Research Topic: Begging Children. Their hope, their future. Do Children's Rights Mean Anything to Them?

An award committee comprised of noted Africanists from ASA and senior AAI and ASA staff members selected the fellows from a pool of more than 90 applicants.

Beverly Grier, President of ASA noted, "The African Studies Association is honored to welcome the Claude Ake Scholars to the United States and to the 46th Annual Meeting of the ASA in Boston. This year's Ake Scholars continue in the now rich tradition of awarding fellowships to African Africanists who, like Ake himself, are committed to wedding scholarship and activism. The subjects the Ake Scholars have chosen to research and present at this year's Annual Meeting promise to enhance our understanding of the many challenges Africa is facing and the many creative solutions Africans are applying to meet these challenges. The ASA is pleased to partner with the African American Institute in this important program."

The African Studies Association was founded in 1957 as a nonprofit organization open to all individuals and institutions interested in African affairs. Its mission is to bring together people with a scholarly and professional interest in Africa. With over 3000 individual and institutional members worldwide, ASA is the leading North American organization that promotes African studies.

The mission of The Africa-America Institute is to promote enlightened engagement between Africa and America through education, training and dialogue. For almost 50 years, AAI has mobilized resources and administered programs that have enabled over 20,000 Africans to pursue advanced degrees and technical training. The Institute conducts informational programs that seek to shape and inform the debate over U.S. policy toward Africa in ways that highlight African perspectives and promote American engagement. Founded in 1953, AAI is a multi-racial, multi-ethnic, nonprofit organization with offices in New York and Washington, D.C., and program alumni in 50 African countries.