

POEMS

Tributes to ASFI At Its 5th Anniversary

Ode to ASFI

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The luminary

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ASFI: The moving pandemic

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ABSTRACT

The African Science Frontiers Initiatives (ASFI) celebrated its 5th anniversary on 14th July 2025. The event recognized the milestones the organization accomplished during the last five years in its pursuit to support African science through its various capacity building programs and collaborative platforms. The event provided an opportunity for beneficiaries of ASFI programs during the last five years to testify about their experiences. Additionally, one of the highlights of the event was the performance of three poems, presented as tributes to ASFI and its accomplishments during the last five years. The poems, written by Drs. **Eunice F. Fondze-Fombele, Patricia Nkweteyim, and Samuel A. Abanigbe**, are presented below. The ASFI community would like to appreciate the authors for taking the time to craft such encouraging poetic tributes to the ASFI cause.

KEYWORDS:

ASFI, Africa, African Science Frontiers Initiatives, Luminary, Ode, Pandemic

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ODE TO ASFI

By Dr. Eunice F. Fondze-Fombele

Rainmaker of African Innovation
Drumbeats of Discovery
Nurturer Beneath the Acacia
Sunrise Over the Continent of Minds
Womb of Wisdom
The Baobab Heart of African Science

Mother ASFI, cradle of dawn,
With arms wide as the Serengeti sky,
You gather the scattered seeds of wisdom
Rain-bringer, soil-keeper,
You whisper hope in the baobab's shade,
Nurturing dreams where rivers run deep.

ASFI, your vision, a sunrise over Kilimanjaro,
Ignites the minds of tomorrow's griots,
Weaving stories of molecules and stars
You are the drumbeat in the heart of the village,
The gentle rain on parched earth,
The guiding wind that shapes the acacia's reach.

ASFI, projects blossom in your fertile embrace,

THE LUMINARY

By Dr. Patricia Nkweteyim

Building bridges across minds, disciplines and
nations of Africa,
Restoring long lost hope that Africa is great and can
rise again
Igniting in all the passion for innovative and
impactful research
Guiding and mentoring the lost, the ignorant and the
confused
Helping each to see potentials in a continent written
off as dark
Transforming them into visionary and innovative
researchers

Each a wildflower in the savannah's expanse,
From the Nile's source to Table Mountain's edge
You teach the children to dance with atoms,
To sing with data, to heal with light,
Their laughter echoing through the open veld.

ASFI, programs flow from your hands like rivers,
Carrying knowledge to thirsty roots,
Bridging deserts of doubt with bridges of trust
You are the lioness, fierce and tender,
Guarding the cubs of discovery,
Your wisdom an ancient drumbeat beneath their feet.

Oh ASFI, you are the morning dew on yam leaves,
The golden sun warming cassava fields,
You are the lullaby in the scientist's heart
With every breath I praise your nurturing spirit,
Your promise to lift Africa's gaze to the stars,
My love for you, endless as the Sahara sands.

Mother of minds, keeper of futures,
You are the pulse of a continent awakening,
A symphony of progress sung in many tongues
In your embrace, African science rises,
Rooted in heritage, reaching for infinity,
And I, your child, am forever grateful.

Noble is your mission to raise scientists with right
competencies
With a nimble mind and visionary heart, you
empower all to advance
Africa's developmental and transformational agenda
Righteously weaving tips and tricks into tools of
innovative research
Unlocking potentials, generational confidence and
resilient systems
Oh, spread the news! Let it sound; Let it ring; Make it
loud
From the North to the East, from the West to the
South

African-based solutions are needed to lift Africa from its woes

Science is the engine for innovation, impact and development

ASFI: THE MOVING PANDEMIC

By Dr. Samuel A. Abanigbe

ASFI, the virus of radical change for sustainable African society!

ASFI, the bug that stink the black scientists; to bring about their potential into manifestation for a beautiful African environment!

ASFI, the eyes that see through various lenses at a Point; to preserve our cultural diversity for African economy!

Frontiers must be expanded for sustainability and equity

Initiatives must be harnessed for the rise of our great continent

ASFI, the echo of capacity building, networking, team building and leadership awareness.

ASFI, the sound of never say-no from the convener, the carrier of the pandemic.

- Can this pandemic stop?
 - Oh nope!
 - Sharp!!
 - It is a moving infection!!!
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- Long live Africa!
 - Long live African science!!
 - Long live ASFI!!!