



Inaugural Meeting of Renegade Book Club: Opening Remarks - 'Wale Irokosu

On behalf of RJL, I thank you for your interest in this Hip-Hop and Lagos biased book club.

Renegade was set up primarily to promote Hip-Hop and Lagos history and culture. We believe Hip-Hop culture dominates the world regardless of race, nationalities and gender. Whilst Lagos culture dominates Nigeria. We stand a chance of changing our narrative of the black race and Nigerians, if we understand Hip-hop and Lagos culture and history. History changes. Culture evolves. Lagos has one of the most understated liberal cultures in the World and it's the mother of Nigeria. Hip-Hop is owned by blacks and it's one of the things that can't be taken from us. It has served as a bridge to prosperity and education for the black community all over the world. The only other ideas that competes with the influence of culture over the human race are religion and politics.

Also, this Club is being promoted to create a community of book lovers and like minds. Most importantly, to encourage the reading culture. It's partly a war against ignorance. We can't move forward without ideas and they are usually hidden in books. Your interest in reading influences your children and friends in the same direction. Publishers struggle to sell 1000 books in a country with 200m population. People don't read anymore. Like they say, to hide anything from a black man: put it in a book. We have to make an effort. We can't change the world but we can do our bit and leave knowing we tried our best.

The 1st book was chosen for obvious reasons. We are in Lagos and we should be familiar with the history of where we are based and love. And, "This Is RapJointLagos". That's aside from my personal unapologetic interest (and obsession) with Lagos history and culture.

Going forward, RJL is only the convener of this Club. We are bequeathing it to the community. The guidelines, regularity of meetings and times are to be determined by the members. We believe this is key to the sustainability of the club. Though we will plead that you make RJL the home of Renegade Book Club to assist us in achieving our objective of creating a community of Hip-Hop and Lagos lovers.

Once again, we thank you for your interest and your time.

Let's 'Beat the Norm' together.