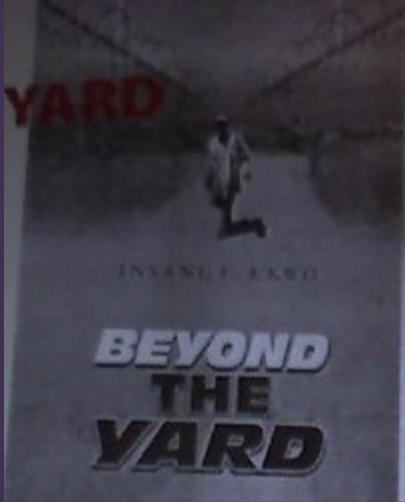


# JUSTICE EKWO AND BEYOND THE YARD



The fact that Justice I.E. Ekwo of Federal High Court is a bundle of talents cannot be disputed. The award winning Author of storm in the will is out again with another publication titled “Beyond the Yard” His Lordship’s passion for writing propels him to write in spite of pressure of work as a Judicial Officer.

Justice Ekwo who can be described as a Master of words in this interesting fiction, Beyond the Yard gives an insight into what is obtainable in our prison system, whether the reformatory purpose is being achieved or not. The Book which is made up of twenty-three chapters tells the life story of a character named Abdul Chinedu Edo whose identity was shrouded with frailty and timidity.

Edo was incarcerated because of his ignorance of Court procedures as he pleaded guilty to charges brought against him apparently on the advice of the Prosecuting counsel in the matter. And this ugly situation reinforces the need for strengthening of the Legal aid Council for greater and better coverage of vulnerable ones in the society.



The cheering news about this character however is the fact that he was able to obtain a Higher National Diploma during his eight years sojourn in prison. The young man who was never visited by any relation during his prison term returned home to meet another shocker, the relocation of his step-mother and the siblings to Uyo in Akwa Ibom State. Consequently, he found himself being on the streets instead of being with the family after the long and tortuous in prison. The suspense-filled story captures the ordeal of inmates in Nigeria Prisons. It reveals the tale of woes of an unjust society, where the weak and vulnerable are not cared for and a case of survival of the fittest. It appeared that demonic forces were determined to keep Abdul Chinedu Edo down and even have cause to send him back to the Gulag.

The uncommon humour and mastery of the language with which My Lord presented this tale of doggedness and determination to survive on the part of Edo in the face of stigmatization in an unjust society, clearly sets Hon. Justice I.E.EKWO as a respected Author of our Generation.

This book, Beyond the Yard is therefore recommended for every member of the Federal High Court Family and the public at large.