



UNILORIN BULLETIN

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A Weekly Publication of the Office of the Vice-Chancellor

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2022 VOL. 10 NO 55

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UNILORIN Council Chairman, Abidu Yazid passes on

...His death, very shocking --- Abdulkareem

By Abubakar Imam

The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council of the University of Ilorin, Mallam Abidu Rafindadi Yazid, OON, has passed on.

Aged 79 years, the consummate technocrat died last Thursday (September 22, 2022) in Abuja.

Announcing the sad incident via a memo to the University Community, the Registrar and Secretary to the Governing Council, Dr Fola M. Olowoleni, said, "This is to formally notify you of the sudden demise of our beloved Council Chairman, Mallam Abidu Rafindadi Yazid, OON, which sad event occurred at the early hours of today, Thursday, 22nd September, 2022.

"We pray God for the repose of his soul and also pray God to grant him eternal rest. May God forgive his shortcomings and admit him into Aljannah Firdaus".

Dr. Olowoleni added, "The University Community condole with the family, the Katsina Emirate, the Katsina



■ The late Mallam Yazid

...How he approved my send-forth proposal for Abdulkareem --- Egbewole

By Abubakar Imam

The Vice Chancellor-designate, Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN, has expressed shock over the sudden death of the Pro-Chancellor and Governing Council Chairman, Mallam Abidu Rafindadi Yazid, saying, "To me personally, the news was confounding, confusing and totally unbelievable".

Prof. Egbewole said his shock stemmed from the fact that only a day to Mallam Yazid's demise, they had a prolonged phone chat in which they "discussed extensively on the need to organise a befitting valedictory programme in honour of the outgoing Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sulyman Age Abdulkareem". (Contd. from page 3)

State Government and the entire people of Katsina State. We pray God to grant them the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss".

The late Mallam Yazid, who was an outstanding civil servant and a former Secretary to the old Kaduna State Government, was appointed Chairman of the Governing Council of the University of Ilorin last year.

(Contd. on page 3)

UNILORIN Igbo Community, UNIFEMGA, MMPN, others congratulate VC-designate

By Mustafa Abubakar

Congratulatory messages have continued to pour in for the Vice Chancellor-designate of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN.

Some of the latest congratulatory messages came from UNILORIN Igbo Community, Obafemi Awolowo University Muslim Graduates' Association (UNIFEMGA), the Muslim Media

Practitioners of Nigeria (MMPN), North Central Zone; The Companion and the College of Education, Oro, Kwara State.

In its congratulatory message, a copy of which was made available to **UNILORIN BULLETIN** penultimate Thursday (September 15, 2022), the UNILORIN Igbo Community expressed happiness over the appointment of Prof. Egbewole as the institution's new Vice Chancellor. (Contd. from page 4)



■ Prof. Egbewole

UNILORIN is blessed to have Egbewole, says Dean, Student Affairs

By Mustafa Abubakar

The Dean of the Student Affairs Unit, University of Ilorin, Prof. M. T. Yakubu, has congratulated the Vice Chancellor-designate, Prof. Wahab Egbewole, SAN, saying that the University is blessed to have the Professor of Jurisprudence and International Law as its chief executive officer.

In a congratulatory message sighted by UNILORIN BULLETIN last Tuesday (September 20, 2022), Prof. Yakubu said, "UNILORIN is highly honoured with the appointment of Prof. Egbewole, SAN, an opportunity for a Professor of Jurisprudence and International Law to utilise his past experiences to make his tenure successful", noting that the appointment did not come to him as a surprise "as he has done well in both legal and academic profession".

The Dean added that "Prof. Egbewole, SAN is very efficient, effective and endowed with wisdom, he has been performing excellently well and he should keep the good work going".



■ **Prof. Yakubu**

Prof. Yakubu said that as he looks forward to working with the new Vice Chancellor, he urged him to be prayerful, focused and live above board in the discharge of his duties.

He told the Vice Chancellor-designate, "As you are preparing to take up the leadership position and enormous responsibilities of the reputable University of Ilorin from the outgoing Vice Chancellor,

Prof. Sulyman Age Abdulkareem, who has contributed his quota and given his best towards the development and peaceful coexistence within and outside the university community, the Students' Affairs Unit is ready to work together with the Vice Chancellor-designate with a view to taking the University of Ilorin to greater heights and giving the students of the University the best care, respect and treatment they deserve".

The Dean then prayed Almighty God to give the Vice Chancellor-designate the needed energy, knowledge, insight, wisdom and understanding to work with so that he can succeed in office and surpass the achievements of his predecessors. I also pray Almighty God to guide you, lead you, inspire you, protect you, strengthen you and support you in every of your actions, decisions, and steps so that you can make positive impacts in the lives of the university staff and students, and above all to achieve great success and indelible marks while in office by the grace of God. Amen".

UNILORIN Ladies Circle felicitates with Egbewole

By Mustafa Abubakar

The University of Ilorin Muslim Ladies Circle has felicitated with Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN, on his appointment as the 11th Vice Chancellor of the University.

Members of the Circle, led by the Amirah/Chairperson, Prof. Olayinka R. Karim, conveyed the felicitation to the Vice Chancellor-designate during their visit to his residence penultimate Sunday (September 18, 2022).

The UNILORIN Ladies Circle is a body of a group of Muslim female members of staff, spouses of Muslim male staff and other Muslim female stakeholders in the University.

In her remarks during the visit, the Amirah of the Ladies Circle, Prof. Karim, said that the purpose of the visit was to congratulate the Vice Chancellor-designate and his family on his appointment and to pray for a successful beginning, an impactful tenure and a gracious ending.

Prof. Karim, who is also the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, said, "The Circle deems it fit to felicitate with you on your appointment as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin and to also join you to pray to Allah for a successful tenure".

While leading the prayer session, the Mu'alimat of the Circle, Dr Azizat Adebayo-Amoloye, thanked Allah for the privilege and honour bestowed on Prof. Egbewole to lead the "Better by far"



■ **Members of the UNILORIN Muslim ladies circle with the Vice Chancellor-designate, Prof. Egbewole (middle) and Prof. Oladimeji**

University as from October 16, 2022, and prayed for Allah's guidance and wisdom for him for a successful tenure. She also enjoined the Vice Chancellor-designate to be just, considerate and prayerful.

In their separate remarks, Dr Falilat Rejuaro, Mrs M. A. Oladosu, Mrs Safurat Oloyede and the Imam of the Circle, Prof. L.F. Oladimeji, who rounded up the prayer session, also admonished the Vice Chancellor-designate on how to have a good start and a better ending.

In his response, the Vice Chancellor-designate, Prof. Egbewole, who was with his wife, Mrs M. A. Egbewole and Mr Y. B. Ibrahim, to welcome the visitors, appreciated

members of the Ladies Circle for the courtesy visit.

Prof. Egbewole prayed for Allah's guidance to deliver on his onerous task, promising not to disappoint.

Other members of the delegation were the Coordinator of the mini campus, Alhaja Habibat Ayo; the Coordinator of the main campus, Dr Saudat Hamzat; Dr B. A. Raji, Dr R.A. Oyekunle, Dr N. T. Surajudeen-Bakinde, Dr N. A. Adedokun-Shittu, Dr K. W. Salle; Mrs Muhammad Bashar, Mrs B. I. Giwa, Mrs K.W. Garba, Mrs Azeezat Ibrahim, Mrs R.B. Ahmed-Zakariyah, and Mrs Sariyu Oloyede, among others.



■ Advance team of University of Ilorin Governing Council members on condolence visit to the family of the late Council Chairman in Katsina at the weekend

UNILORIN loses Council Chairman

(Contd. from front page)

In one of his last official assignments on earth, the late Pro-Chancellor announced, a fortnight ago (Thursday, September 8, 2022), the appointment of Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN, as the University's new Vice Chancellor, following the conclusion of a thorough selection process.

In his reaction to the sad news, the University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sulyman Age Abdulkareem, described the death of Mallam Yazid as "very shocking, unexpected and one that is very painful to the entire management, staff and students of the University, particularly at this point in time when his services were most needed by the institution and the nation's university

system.

Prof. Abdulkareem, in a statement signed by the institution's Director of Corporate Affairs, Mr Kunle Akogun, said that the late Mallam Yazid was a fantastic and hardworking leader who served the University with competence and dedication, recalling that the late Pro-Chancellor brought to bear great humility, uncommon civility and infectious sensitivity in the discharge of his responsibilities.

The Vice-Chancellor stated that the University and the nation would surely miss the services and patriotism of Mallam Yazid, who was evidently one of the best of his generation.

Prof. Abdulkareem condoled with the Honourable Minister of Education, Mallam Adamu Adamu, and the Chancellor

of the University, who is also the Emir of Katsina, His Royal Highness, Alhaji (Dr) Abdulmumini Kabir Usman, CFR, as well as members of the Governing Council of the University of Ilorin over his death.

The Vice-Chancellor also condoled with the Governor of Katsina State, Alhaji Aminu Bello Masari, CFR, and the people of Katsina State on the loss of a great son of the state.

He also sympathised with the family, friends and colleagues of Mallam Yazid.

While praying Allah to grant the University of Ilorin and members of Mallam Yazid's immediate family the fortitude to bear his death, Prof. Abdulkareem prayed Allah to forgive his shortcomings and make Aljannah Fridaus his final abode.

How he approved my send-forth proposal for Abdulkareem --- Egbewole

(Contd. from front page)

The Vice Chancellor-designate, whose appointment was announced by the late Mallam Yazid on September 8, 2022, said, "The late Chairman graciously approved my proposal", which, he described as "another act of the Chairman's magnanimity" but which, regrettably, he would no longer be around to consummate "as the will of Allah has been done in this case".

Prof. Egbewole, who is also a member of the Governing Council, said, "I have had the very rare opportunity of sitting in Council with the late Chairman and wish to put on record the way he conducted proceedings depicting extreme candour,

courage of conviction and always putting the University of Ilorin first.

"He was a thoroughbred administrator, astute manager of human and material resources. He was a firm believer in Almighty Allah. He was incorruptible, highly detribalised and a great thinker".

The Vice Chancellor-designate pointed out that for all the times he interacted with the late Mallam Yazid on the floor of Council, "he remained focused, determined and highly committed to the assignment".

Prof. Egbewole recalled that during the visit of the Governing Council to the Governor of Katsina State in September last year, Governor Aminu Bello Masari

"described the late Governing Council Chairman in flowery terms and counted University of Ilorin extremely lucky to have him".

The Vice Chancellor-designate said, "As painful as the demise is, we are consoled that the late Mallam Yazid used the opportunity to serve Allah, his creator, and he discharged the assignment as part of his divine worship (Ibadah).

"May Allah be pleased with him, forgive his Aand grant him Aljanah Firdaus. May Allah comfort the family and grant them the fortitude to bear this great and irreparable loss".

UNILORIN Igbo Community, UNIFEMGA, MMPN, others congratulate VC-designate

(Contd. from front page)

The message, jointly signed by the President and Secretary, Prof. U.B. Eke and Dr C.I. Kanji, respectively, stated that "Nnoko ndi Igbo, the umbrella body of all Igbo people working in the University of Ilorin and allied institutions, prayed God to grant Prof. Egbewole "good health and wisdom to steer the ship of the Better-by-far University to greater heights. May the Almighty God guard and protect you and your family and the University. Congratulations".

In its own message, UNIFEMGA, the Muslim alumni of the Vice Chancellor-designate's alma mater, said, "We heartily rejoice and very warmly congratulate our own Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN, as the newly appointed 11th Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin.

The message, made available to UNILORIN BULLETIN, partly read, "The appointment of this Professor of International Law and Jurisprudence, an erudite legal luminary, a worthy scholar and academician, is well deserved.

"Prof. Egbewole's contributions to the development of Law as a teacher and a practitioner of Law have contributed greatly and singled him out for this job. His service to the University community, the society and humanity at large and his contributions to many other associations he belongs to are additional proofs of his being worthy of this appointment."

"Prof. Egbewole had served as the National President of Obafemi Awolowo University Muslim Graduates' Association (UNIFEMGA), recording monumental achievements. Indeed, the

appointment of a former President of our Association as the VC of a foremost University in Nigeria is for us in UNIFEMGA a dream come true. We are confident that Prof. Egbewole will garner all his experiences, skills and capacity in the discharge of the appointment. We hope that he would not only consolidate the achievements of his predecessors but equally attain greater heights in the annals of the institution's history.

"We nonetheless use this medium to call the attention of the new VC to the challenges in administering a public University in Nigeria, particularly at a time when students have been out of the schools for more than six months and urge him to use all within his powers to contribute his quota to reverse this trend that portends grave danger to the country. We also wish to remind the VC that this appointment is a trust from Allah and he should constantly remember this in the discharge of his duties.

Also, the North Central Zone of the Muslim Media Practitioners of Nigeria (MMPN) has congratulated the Vice Chancellor-designate on what it described as his "well-deserved appointment".

In the message signed by its Coordinator, Mallam Mustafa Abubakar, the Association said, "Looking at your records it is obvious that you have a clean slate and template that will propel you to deliver, by Allah's grace, as the 11th Vice Chancellor of the Better by far University".

The MMPN urged the Vice Chancellor-designate to ensure "good service delivery, progress and staff welfare and other legacies that would be

left behind for him by his predecessor for the mutual benefit of the University community and its environs".

On its part, The Companion, an association of Muslims men in business and in professions, lauded the selection process that culminated in the emergence of Prof. Egbewole as the 11th Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin.

In a statement signed by its National Amir, Engr Kamil Olalekan, The Companion described the Senior Silk as a round peg in a round hole, adding that "he is a reputable scholar imbued with requisite qualifications, cognate experience and wisdom to take the University of Ilorin to enviable heights".

The Companion added that by the appointment of Prof. Egbewole, the University has found a passionate administrator whose DNA reflects the vision, values, yearnings and aspiration of the institution.

Also, while congratulating the Vice Chancellor-designate, the Provost of the Kwara State College of Education, Oro, Prof. Mikhail Aremu, on behalf of the Governing Council, Management, Staff and the entire Students of the institution, said, "The appointment, no doubt, is the product of your selfless service to the development of the institution and your endeavour to work as a team with others in raising the standard of education of the University".

Prof. Aremu then prayed Almighty God to give him "the strength, sound health and wisdom to discharge the responsibilities ahead and move the University to a greater height".

IEMF congratulates Egbewole, urges him to consolidate on Abdulkareem's achievement

By Mustafa Abubakar

The Igbomina/Ekiti Muslims Forum (IEMF) has joined other well-meaning Nigerians in congratulating the Vice Chancellor-designate of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN.

In a congratulatory message signed by its President, Alhaji Nasir Olabisi Ibrahim, and made available to UNILORIN BULLETIN last Tuesday (September 20, 2022), the Forum described Prof. Egbewole's appointment as key in the annals of the University of Ilorin continuous development.

The message partly read, "Your

appointment would not have come at a better time than now. It is a period when the University needs a goal-getter like you to consolidate the already perfect work done by the outgoing Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sulyman Age Abdulkareem, who is a worthy son of Igbominaland.

"As an organisation whose goal is to uphold the sanctity of Islam and humanity within the Igbomina/Ekiti land in Kwara State, the Forum, being a supporter of good governance across the board, believes that your coming will bring more prosperous periods for the University and its environs.

"We wish you the best as you embark upon this journey of ensuring the

up-scaling of the core academic mission for the University of Ilorin. We are confident that more great things will emerge, guided by your insight and passion for innovation, learning and inclusion".

The Forum also expressed the belief that "despite the challenges ahead, the Vice-Chancellor-designate shall, by Allah's grace, keep the spirit of the University intact".

"On behalf of the entire Muslims in Igbomina and Ekiti areas of Kwara State, we say congratulation and wish you sound wisdom, health and intellect to lead the University", the Forum prayed.

Akogun, 2 other Unilorites make Igbomina/Ekiti Muslims Forum exco

By Mustafa Abubaka

The Director of Corporate Affairs, University of Ilorin, Mr Kunle Akogun, and two other members of staff of the University have been elected into the reconstituted National Executive Committee of the Igbomina/Ekiti Muslim Forum (IEMF).

While Mr. Akogun was elected the Forum's Vice President, Mr. Mustafa Abubakar, a Principal Information Officer in the Directorate of Corporate Affairs, was elected General Secretary and Mr. Abduraheem Abdulhafiz of the Sports Unit of the University became the Assistant General Secretary.

The trio's appointments were announced by the Shurah Committee of the Forum penultimate Sunday (September 18, 2022).

Other members of the executive include a retired Permanent Secretary in the Kwara State Civil Service, Alhaji Nasir Olabisi Ibrahim, National President; Hajia Bintu Bolanle Abioye, Amirah; Ustaz Salahudeen Imam AbdulQuadri, Chief Missioner; Mall. Yahaya Adebayo Haruna, Financial Secretary; Muritala Adebayo Olodan, Publicity Secretary; Barr. Ganiyu Atofarati Legal Adviser; Mallam Raji Yunusa, Welfare (male); and Hajia Risikat Abdulwahab Ahmad, Welfare (female).

Speaking at the event, the outgoing National President, Prince Abdulazeez Kolawole Olawuyi, appreciated the royal fathers in Igbomina and Ekiti land, various committees and members of the Forum for their support and love during the five-years tenure of his executives.

Prince Olawuyi disclosed that his executive committee made some achievements in the areas of regular spiritual activities, annual Ramadan lectures, human capital development, scholarship and job



■ Members of the newly Inaugurated Executive Committee

placement, among others.

He urged the new national executive committee members to continue from where the previous exco stopped, especially the implementation of the five years development plan and other suggested advice in the interest of the Forum, to the letter.

Earlier, in his sermon, the Chief Imam of Oke-Owa, Oro-Ago District, Ifelodun Local Government Area of the State and a member of the Forum's Mission Board, Imam Yunus Abdulquadir, charged Muslim leaders and governments at all spheres of life to live up to their promises to their people.

Imam Abdulquadir, however, prayed for the success of the newly inaugurated national executives.

Similarly, the Chairman of the Shuraa Committee, Barr. Ganeey Abidoeye, commended the members of the immediate past national executives for their selfless services and prayed for the successful tenure of the new national executive committee members, charging them to always see the Forum as their own and treat

all its functions as such.

In his acceptance speech, the new National President of the Forum, Alhaji Nasiru Ibrahim, appreciated Allah for His guidance, the immediate past executives and the Shurah Committee for the smooth transition. He promised to take the Forum to the next level.

Alhaji Ibrahim, however, called for support from all members, including the past executives for the smooth running of the Forum's activities.

While thanking members on behalf of the national executives, the Vice President of the Forum, Mr Kunle Akogun, appreciated members for their steadfastness and their commitment to the goals and aspirations of the Forum.

Mr Akogun pledged that the new executive committee members would not disappoint the members for the confidence reposed in them.

Highlights of the event included the presentation of certificates of returns to the newly inaugurated national executive committee members, and special prayers.

US-Nigerian don lauds Adedimeji's scholarship

By Mustafa Abubakar

Nigerian-born Professor of Journalism and Emerging Media at the Kennesaw State University, Georgia, USA, Farooq Kperogi, has described the efforts of the University of Ilorin alumni who are former mentees of Prof. Mahfouz Adedimeji of the Department of English, Faculty of Arts as a testament to his kindness, humility, excellent human relations, student-centeredness, and competence.

Prof. Kperogi made the observation in a goodwill message to Prof. Adedimeji during the public presentation of two books in his honour recently by his mentees.

According to Prof. Kperogi, the Vice Chancellor of Ahman Patigi University "is the most talked-about professor from the University of Ilorin's Linguistics Department by former students of the



■ Prof. Kperogi

department—at least from my admittedly limited perspective. It's no surprise that he has risen through the academic and administrative ladder with such meteoric velocity. It's a testament to his kindness,

humility, excellent human relations, student-centeredness, and, of course, competence".

The professor of Journalism and Emerging Media, said, "It gives me immense delight to send this goodwill message on the occasion of the celebration of Professor Mahfouz Adedimeji by his former students. I have never met Professor Adedimeji in person, but I've heard his name mentioned approvingly by several of his past students who are my Facebook friends".

Prof. Kperogi said, "I admire Prof. Adedimeji not just because of his stellar scholarship, which his former students nudged me to look up, but also because of the passion with which his former students talk about him. It tells me a lot about the effectiveness of his pedagogy, the depth of his humanity, and the excellence of his human relations.

Oloyede urges ASUU to change strategy, as he bows out of UNILORIN

By Mubarak Oladosu

Two-time pioneer Vice Chancellor at the Fountain University, Osogbo, and Summit University, Offa, Prof. Hussein Oyewole Bukoye Oloyede, has urged the Academic Staff Union of Universities to consider new strategies towards achieving its objectives, given the irredeemable damage that the ongoing industrial action has done to the future of the country.

Prof. Oloyede gave this advice at a special event organised penultimate Saturday, (September 10, 2022) by his mentees, children and associates to mark his retirement from service upon clocking the age of 70 years on September 4, 2022.

The don, who has been a Faculty member at the Department of Biochemistry, University of Ilorin since his employment as a Graduate Assistant at the University in 1977, noted that there are four critical stakeholders in the University system. These, according to him, are the government, the students, the lecturers and parents and the common objective that binds them is quality university education for the Nigerian youths.

He, however, lamented that the objective is not being achieved because the government has consistently reneged on its own words.

Prof. Oloyede, therefore, counselled ASUU to consider other instruments of negotiation such as lobbying, which, he said, is an effective instrument of negotiation.

The former two-time Vice Chancellor also advised lecturers to be exemplary before their students so that they would fit into the role of a mentor.

Pointing out that no two students are alike, the don noted that a good teacher or lecturer would not leave any of his students



■ Prof. Oloyede

behind.

Prof. Oloyede attributed his success to divine favour, saying he feels fulfilled seeing one of his former students, Prof. Adenike T. Oladiji, become a Vice Chancellor and another, Dr. Folasade Alu-Ayoade, becoming the Secretary to the Government of Kogi State.

In his lecture on the occasion, entitled "The Imperative of Living an Impactful Life", Prof. Oloyede's former colleague at the Department of Biochemistry, who is a former Vice Chancellor at the Federal University of Technology, Minna, and Al Hikmah University, Ilorin, Prof. Musbau A. Akanji, described him as a community builder and a scholar who has supervised eminent persons among whom are nine professors in the university system and Directors in Research Institutes, adding that Prof. Oloyede's first Masters student in 1991 is the current Vice Chancellor of Federal University of Technology, Akure.

In her goodwill message, the Vice Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Akure, Prof. Oladiji, who

spoke on behalf of other mentees, appreciated Prof. Oloyede, whose persistent persuasion, she said, culminated in her joining the University system. She disclosed that Prof. Oloyede knew her late father and knows her mother, adding that the retiring don extended his characteristic kindness to all his students.

Also speaking, the Olofa of Offa, Oba Muftau Esuwoye, who was represented by the Bobaselu of Offa, Chief (Mrs) Wosilat Atinuke Macarthy, described Prof. Oloyede as a worthy Prince of the town, given the role he has played in uniting the town over the years.

Among the eminent personalities that graced the event were the Vice Chancellor-designate of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Wahab O. Egbewole, SAN; the Chief Imam of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Nasir Abdulsalam; the immediate past former Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), University of Ilorin, Prof. Sylvia O. Malomo; the Vice Chancellor, Ahman Patigi University, Prof. Mahfouz A. Adedimeji; Former Vice Chancellor, Fountain University, Osogbo, Prof. Bashir A. Raji; a former Vice Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Prof. Sulymman Adeyemi, who chaired the occasion, and a former Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, who is also a former Vice Chancellor of Thomas Adewumi University, Oko, Prof. Kolade L. Ayorinde.

Others included the Pro-Chancellor, Osun State University, Osogbo, Mallama Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN; the Pro Chancellor, Summit University, Offa, Alhaji Rafiu Adisa Ebiti; the Vice Chancellor, Summit University, Offa, Prof. Abiodun M. Aibinu, and the Deputy Registrar, College of Health Sciences, University of Ilorin, Mrs. M.A.O. Oladosu.

Unilorin student to represent North-Central Region at Entrepreneurship Challenge

By Mubarak Oladosu

A 300 level student of the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ilorin, Michael Kayode Lawal, has emerged as the first runner-up at the North-Central Zone Regional Competition of the National Entrepreneurship Challenge (NEC) and one of the three flag bearers of the region at an event held online last Wednesday, (September 21, 2022).

Mr Lawal had earlier won the preliminary stage of the challenge, which is a campus-based version of the competition. It was held on the 19th of July 2022 with an entry he titled "Commercialisation of Food Security and Safety".

At that stage, Lawal defeated eight competitors who had also scaled through the screening stage earlier along with him, from the 14 entrants.

At the regional stage, however, Lawal competed with 15 young innovators who were pruned down to five finalists, and joins the three man team of the region that will compete at the finals coming up between November 14 and 20 during the Global Entrepreneurship Week.

Reacting to the development, the Director of the Technical and Entrepreneurship Centre (TEC), University of Ilorin, Prof. P.O. Adeoye, congratulated the Unilorin flag bearer and pledged the University's continued support

for the remaining stage of the competition.

In a statement he made available to **UNILORIN BULLETIN**, Prof. Adeoye said, "The competition which is an initiative of the Directors of Entrepreneurship Centres across Nigerian Universities is supported by the National Universities Commission (NUC) and it is geared towards improving the entrepreneurial mindset of Nigerian University students and motivating them to start and run ventures even while at school which will provide them self-employment and possibly make them employers of labour rather than looking for employment after graduation."

World Peace Day: Stop discrimination, Olademo charges Nigerians

By Abubakar Imam

The Director of the Centre for Peace and Strategic Studies (CPSS), University of Ilorin, Prof. Oyeronke Olademo, has charged Nigerians to consistently speak out and work against every form of discrimination.

Prof. Olademo made the call last Wednesday (September 21, 2022) while participating on 'Table Talk', a current affairs programme of the **UNILORIN 89.3 FM**, specially aired to commemorate this year's International Peace Day. The programme was anchored by the duo of Mr Temitope Olawuyi and Ms Bimbo Durojaiye.

Prof. Olademo said that it was very important for the government and other stakeholders as well as the generality of citizens to ensure that no one was denied of his or her rights and privileges, pointing out that this was the only way the peace and progress of the country can be guaranteed and maintained.

Prof. Olademo, who is a former Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Ilorin, said that the theme of this year edition of the International Peace Day, which is "End Racism, Build Peace", was apt and timely as she urged everyone to ensure that no one was discriminated against because of his age, gender and physical challenges.

The renowned academic contended that the phenomenon of discrimination was not prevalent before the imposition of cultural imperialism.

Prof. Olademo, who spoke on the issue of discrimination against women, said that it was appalling that women have been denied of their right positions in the scheme of things, particularly in politics and political leadership.



■ L-R: Prof. Olademo, Dr Raji, and Dr Mbombo during the radio interview

She noted that women only constitute 4% of the membership of the National Assembly, saying that the same trend is obtainable across all the states of the federation. She pointed out that female legislators in the Senate and House of Representatives were not more than 20 out of the 469 members.

The don also decried the discrimination the physically challenged citizens of the country were often exposed to, explaining that in the advanced countries, the physically challenged hold sensitive public offices.

Prof. Olademo, who was accompanied to the station by two other lecturers at the CPSS, Dr Raji Shittu and Dr J. M. K. Mbombo, also condemned the discrimination individuals of certain ages are often exposed to. While saying some were denied of their rights and privileges because of their young ages, a number went through the same treatment based on their relatively advanced age.

To curb the incidents of discrimination, Prof. Olademo called for continuous conversations on the issue. She noted that the more the abuse of human rights and privileges are reported and discussed the more the possibility of arresting its continuity.

Prof. Olademo also called on religious leaders to join the campaign against discrimination, saying that the involvement of churches and mosques in the campaign would definitely reduce the tendencies.

She similarly proposed a stiffer legislation and enforcement against those who perpetuate the act, pointing out that adequate punishment of those who engaged in discrimination would serve as deterrent to others.

Prof. Olademo also enjoined her colleagues to devote more attention to scholarship and researches on the incidents of discrimination, noting that doing so would eliminate ignorance of the cankerworm among members of the public.

Adimula canvasses establishment of Peace Commission

By Abubakar Imam

The Federal Government has been urged to establish the National Peace Commission as part of the efforts targeted towards the evolvement of a strong, peaceful and progressive society.

The appeal was made by a Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Peace and Strategic Studies (CPSS), University of Ilorin, Dr Abiola R. Adimula, last Tuesday (September 20, 2022) while participating on 'Oro to Nlo', a popular current affairs programme of **UNILORIN 89.3 FM**.

The programme, which was anchored by the Head of the Station, Mr Idris Akintola Ibrahim (Alooma), was part of the initiatives of the UNILORIN FM to commemorate this year's International Peace Day.

Dr Adimula, who is currently the Director of Al-Hikmah University's Centre for Peace Studies, explained that the establishment of the Commission had become imperative because of the need to



■ Dr Adimula

stem the growing culture of violence pervading the country.

She added that the Commission, when established, would be expected to address inter and intra-ethnic violence as well as conflicts among adherents of

different faiths and social inclinations and also organise constant public enlightenment programmes that would promote harmony and understanding in the society.

Dr Adimula, who is also a prominent legal practitioner, and a former Special Adviser to the former First Lady of Kwara State, Mrs Omolewa Ahmed, explained that the pervasive poverty and ignorance that had taken roots across Nigeria are among the greatest factors responsible for the increasing violence in the society.

The don also noted that lack of access to means of survival had been explained as a necessary factor that had led many to pursue violence instead of peace.

Dr Adimula condemned the increasing rate of incest and rape of minors particularly among family members, saying that nothing but insanity could propel a man to forcefully have carnal knowledge of girls that are young enough to be their grandchildren.

**FUND SOURCES AND UTILIZATION REPORT FROM 15TH TO 22ND SEPT. 2022**

RECEIPTS:	AMOUNT
Academic Transcript	82,500.00
Staff I.D Cards	1,000.00
Sunday Other Income	48,500.00
Departmental Income	151,554.00
Income from Dental Clinic	38,438.75
Income from Diagnostic Centre	50,932.50
Income from Verification/Screening	5,000.00
Undergraduate Convocation Charges	20,950.00
Remedial Application	30,300.00
Total Receipt for the Period	₦429,175.25
PAYMENTS	
PAYMENT TO CONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS:	
JOS Hansen and Soehne Nig Ltd Supply of Parts and Repair of Water Pump.	4,393,975.00
Abuhaz Global Services Ltd Supply of Street Light Poles	130,000.00
Mulgan Engineering Nig Ltd Water Connection	1,565,819.20
2 White Dove Global Services Construction of Block work Drainage.	2,045,040.23
Rasimto Nig Ltd Construction of Block work Drainage and Erosion Control.	230,429.08
Engr Shabram Intl Ltd Repair and Replacement of Skyline	922,064.00
Nimmus Nig Ltd Supply and Installation of Equipment	1,928,550.00
S.O. Alani and Son Ent Supply of Office Items	1,146,014.50
Sunilar Nig Ltd Construction of External Works	3,068,652.00
Tejusco Multibiz Ventures Supply and Installation of LapTop Intel Core.	1,971,550.00
Foling Engineering Nig Ltd Construction of Advancement Centre Building (TETFUND).	9,000,572.92
OTHER PAYMENTS:	
Various Various i.e. DTA, IMPREST, REFUND etc	7,123,797.00
Purchase Advance Various	250,000.00
Faculty Staff August 2022 Salary	9,952,000.00
Unilorin Petrol Station Supply of Fuel	182,050.00
Total TSA Charges	85,677.00
Total payment for the period	₦43,996,190.93

*Signed***O.H. Sonde FCA****Bursar****Life and times of late Mallam Abidu Yazid, OON***By Abubakar Imam*

Mallam Abidu Rafindadi Yazid, OON, the late Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council of the University of Ilorin, who died last Thursday (September 22, 2022), was a thoroughbred administrator and astute statesman who served the nation and humanity for more than five decades in several capacities.

Born on April 30 1943, the late Mallam Yazid was educated at home and abroad. He was a seasoned economist of outstanding repute and a proud graduate of the prestigious London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), a College of the University of London.

A cosmopolitan personality, Mallam Yazid held a Postgraduate Diploma in Industrial Economics. He was also a holder of Master's degree in Development Economics from the University of East Anglia, Norwich.

Following the completion of his first degree and return to Nigeria, Mallam Yazid taught briefly at the Barewa College, Zaria, Kaduna State. He subsequently transferred his services to the Kaduna State Ministry of Finance & Economic Planning, where he served as a Planning Economist from 1968 to 1973. During this period, he was a part-time Lecturer at the famous Kaduna Polytechnic,

Kaduna.

Mallam Yazid was, thereafter, seconded to the New Nigerian Development Company (NNDC) where he served as the Controller of Operations between 1973 and 1975. He was subsequently appointed Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Governor of Kaduna State.

As a Permanent Secretary, he was placed in charge of Economic and Political Affairs. Consequent upon his accumulated experience and exceptional discharge of his responsibilities, this departed statesman was appointed Secretary to the Government and Head of Civil Service of the old Kaduna State. He held the strategic office from 1979 to 1981.

The deceased technocrat and the late Waziri of Katsina, Mallam Hamza Zayyad, founded the Phoenix Investment Services Limited, a management consulting company. The firm consulted for various State Governments, the Federal Government and the World Bank at various times.

Aside serving meritoriously in the civil service and attaining the pinnacle of his career, Mallam Yazid equally held several Board positions including the President, Kaduna Chamber of Commerce; Chairman, Nigeria Universal Bank Ltd (now FCMB); Chairman, Nigeria Arab Bank (now Access Bank); Chairman, Northern Nigeria

Investments Limited (NNIL); Chairman Nigerian Cotton Board; Chairman, Katsina State Economic Development Committee and Member, Vision 2010 as well as a Member of the Vision 20-20-20.

The late Mallam Yazid was also involved in several non-governmental organisations. In addition to being the Chairman of Jaiz Takaful Insurance Limited, he was also the Chairman, Savannah Center for Diplomacy, Democracy & Development, Abuja; a research outfit, which was established by the Chief of Staff to the President, Prof. Ibrahim Agboola Gambari, CFR. The last public position held by this great patriot was as the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Council of the University of Ilorin.

A well decorated technocrat, Mallam Yazid was conferred with several honours and awards in recognition of his sterling contributions and services to his fatherland. He was a recipient of the award of the Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON), which was bestowed on him by the Federal Government.

The late Mallam Yazid was married and blessed with many successful children and grandchildren. May Almighty Allah have mercy on his soul. May the Almighty Allah give his family the fortitude to bear this great loss. Amin.



Happy Birthday

S/N	Name	Department	Birthday
1	Ahmed Kabir Sholagberu	Agric Extension & Rural Dev	Sep 25
2	Adebayo Muhmud Kayode	Private & Property Law	Sep 25
3	Ohuneneise Emmanuel Kehinde	Security Division	Sep 25
4	Ibrahim Kazeem Olatunde .O.	Pathology	Sep 25
5	Mustapha Olanike Wosilat	Registry	Sep 25
6	Awolola Olufemi Paul	Anatomy	Sep 25
7	Adana Mistural Yetunde	Anatomy	Sep 25
8	Igbayiloye Oluwatosin Busayo	Jurisprud. & Interna. Law	Sep 25
9	Banjoko Alabi Waheed	Statistics	Sep 25
10	Kawu Yakub Kola	Pharmaceutics & Industrial Pharmacy	Sep 25
11	Adeoti Omotayo Morenike	Crop Protection	Sep 25
12	Ajidagba Saka Amudalat	Registry	Sep 25
13	Salihu Nurat Basambo	English	Sep 25
14	Ismaila Taofeeq Olawale	Works:Works/Maintenance Office	Sep 25
15	Ishola Yusuf Olatunji	Works: Works/Maintenance Office	Sep 25
16	Oyerinola David Sunday	Economics	Sep 26
17	Alao Mathew Omeiza	Bursary	Sep 26
18	Osague George Prince	Human Kinetics & Health Edu.	Sep 26
19	Oyegoke Rukayat Abiodun	Biochemistry	Sep 26
20	Hamid Bashir	Registry	Sep 26
21	Oniye Ridwanullahi Kolapo	Social Science Education	Sep 26
22	Suleiman Jamiu Dare	Water Resources & Environmental Engineering	Sep 26
23	Onoja Abah Gabriel	Security Division	Sep 27
24	Fadeyi Abayomi	Medical Microbiology & Parasitology	Sep 27
25	Ajala Muftau Babatunde	Security Division	Sep 27
26	Lawal Bilqis Abiola	Pharmacognosy & Drug Development	Sep 27
27	Sunmonu Ganiyat Olajumoke	Registry	Sep 27
28	Ahmed Khadijat Motunrayo	University Lodges Unit	Sep 27
29	Ajala Josephine Mosunnmola	Registry	Sep 27
30	Ogunjimi Mayowa Olurotimi	Adult & Primary Education	Sep 27
31	Alfa Stephen	Unilorin Staff School	Sep 28
32	Olaleye Ifeoluwa Mathilda	Geology & Mineral Sciences	Sep 28
33	Yusuf Toyeeb Ishola	Science Education	Sep 28
34	Motilewa Oluwakemi Mary	Registry	Sep 28
35	Abdulkareem Ahmed Kayode	Centre For Archives & Documentation	Sep 28
36	Aina Babatunde Olagoke	Microbiology	Sep 28
37	Majiyagbe Samuel Mobolaji	Industrial Chemistry	Sep 28
38	Sulaiman Abdulrasaq Onagun	Registry	Sep 29
39	Adelodun Bashir	Agricultural & Biosystem Engineering	Sep 29
40	Abdulkadir Rihanat Idowu	Finance	Sep 29
41	Agbaji Sunday Daniel	Security Division	Sep 29
42	Yakubu Toyin Musa	Biochemistry	Sep 29
43	Imouokhome Ebun Omoniyi	Marketing	Sep 29
44	Okia Nkechi Franca	Registry	Sep 29
45	Abdul-Rauf Hakeem	Registry	Sep 29
46	Yahaya Khadijat Adenola	Accounting	Sep 30
47	Adegboye Iyabo Feyisola	Registry	Sep 30
48	Chijioke Adindu	Medicine	Sep 30
49	Ariyo Nafisat Olabisi	Registry	Sep 30
50	Buhari Oluwabunmi Ideraoluwa Nimata	Behavioural Science	Sep 30
51	Abubakar Jos Usman	Mathematics	Sep 30
52	Durojaiye Mary Abimbola	Directorate Of Corporate Affairs	Sep 30
53	Salman Mikail Olaitan	Health Services	Sep 30
54	Kperogi Ibrahim Ismaila	Health Promotion & Environmental Health Edu	Sep 30
55	Oyewo Oluwaseun Makinde	Procurement & Maintenance Support	Sep 30
56	Olawoyin Mujidat Abio	Veterinary Medicine	Oct 01

Centre For Research Development and In-house Training (CREDIT) Commonwealth PhD Scholarships tenable in the United Kingdom: Call for Applications

Applications are invited from qualified members of academic staff for fully-funded PhD Scholarships tenable in the United Kingdom starting from the 2023 Academic Year. To be eligible, prospective candidates are expected to:

1. be available to start academic studies in the UK by the start of the UK academic year in September/October 2023.
2. hold a relevant postgraduate qualification (a Master's degree).
3. NOT be registered for a PhD, or an MPhil leading to a PhD, at a UK university before September/October 2023.
4. NOT have commenced and be currently registered for a PhD, or an MPhil leading to a PhD, in Nigeria or elsewhere.
5. have the support of a potential supervisor from at least one UK university.

Please submit your expression of interest to dcredit@unilorin.edu.ng and cc: wahab.kw@unilorin.edu.ng by 11:59 pm on 18th November, 2022 attaching PDF copies of:

- Admission letter
- Detailed CV
- Personal Statement (one page)
- Your completed application form submitted to Commonwealth Scholarship Commission clearly showing your six-digit electronic application number.

Kindly note that late submissions will NOT be accepted.
Thank you.

Signed
Prof. K.W. Wahab
Director
20/9/22



- Students' Union leaders of the University of Ilorin have described as unrealistic the call on the incoming Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Wahab Egbewole, to lead the University chapter of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) out of the national body of the union.
("UNILORIN ASUU can't leave national body now", *New Telegraph*, Friday, September 16, 2022, P.27)
- A former Dean of the Postgraduate School, University of Ilorin, Prof. Badmas Lanre Yusuf, was mentioned among other dignitaries that paid glowing tributes to the late Ambassador Abdulkadri Muhammed Imam Sambo.
("Gov. AbdulRazaq, others extol virtues of late Amb. Imam", *The Herald*, Friday, September 16, 2022, P.19)
- The University of Ilorin Alumni Association has congratulated the Vice Chancellor-designate of the University, Prof. Wahab Egbewole (SAN).
("Unilorin Alumni congratulates VC-designate, Wahab Egbewole pledges support", *Nigeria Tribune*, Saturday, September 17, 2022, P.9)
- A Professor of Anaesthesia at the University of Ilorin, Benjamin Olusanmi Bolaji, has noted that multidisciplinary approach of medical practitioners is required to tackle the rising cases of maternal mortality in the country.
("Multidisciplinary approach require to curb maternal mortality, says Unilorin Don", *The Herald*, Sunday, September 18, 2022, P.6)
- The Director of Grassroots Sport Development in the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, Patrick Okeke, has disclosed that the 2022 National Youth Game (NYG), may hold between December 7 and December 17
("Ministry Proposes December dates for 7th National Youth Game", *Daily Trust*, Tuesday, September 20, 2022, P.30)
- The Vice-Chancellor -designate of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Wahab Egbewole, SAN, has pledged that his in-coming administration will be fair and just to all members of the university community.
("UNILORIN VC-designate pledges to be fair to all", *Nigerian Tribune*, Thursday, September 22, 2022, P.18)
- The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the University of Ilorin Governing Council, Mallam. Abidu Rafindadi Yazid, OON, has passed on
("Unilorin loses Pro-Chancellor

<https://solarenews.wordpress.com/>: "UNILORIN mourns Pro-Chancellor, Abidu Yazid", <https://breezynewsnigeria.com/>: "UNILORIN loses Pro-Chancellor", <https://www.sunnewsonline.com/>: "Unilorin confirms death of Pro-Chancellor, Yazid Rafindadi", <https://afripost.ng>, "UNILORIN Council Chair, Yazid is dead", <https://leadership.ng>, "UNILORIN loses Pro-Chancellor", *Daily Newscraft*, <https://dailynewscraft.ng>, "Unilorin Announces death of Pro-Chancellor, Rafindadi", <https://midandpost.ng>, "Unilorin loses Pro-Chancellor", <https://thereflection.com.ng>, "Unilorin Pro-Chancellor Rafindadi is Dead", <https://choice-reporters.com>, "Pro-Chancellor of University of Ilorin Rafindadi dies", <https://von.gov.ng>, "UNILORIN Pro-Chancellor Yazid Rafindadi passes on", <https://www.the-times.com.ng>, "UNILORIN Pro-Chancellor, Yazid Rafindadi passes on", <https://www.trendynewsreporters.com>, "UNILORIN Pro-Chancellor, Yazid Rafindadi passes on", <https://newsdiarionline.com>, "UNILORIN Pro-Chancellor Habidu Yazid Rafindadi Dies weeks After Naming New VC", <https://www.tori.ng/news/21496>, "UNILORIN Pro-Chancellor, Yazid Rafindadi passes on", <https://nnn.ng>, "Breaking Unilorin's Pro-Chancellor Rafindadi dies 2weeks after new VC appointment", <https://freshinsightnewstv.com>, "Unilorin Pro-Chancellor Yazid Rafindadi's death painful-Unilorin VC", <https://thenewsguru.com>, "Unilorin Pro-Chancellor Yazid Rafindadi's death painful-Unilorin VC", <https://realnewsmagazine.net>, "UNILORIN Pro-Chancellor Yazid Rafindadi passes on", <https://punching.com>, "UNILORIN Pro-Chancellor Yazid Rafindadi passes on", <https://www.premiumtimesng.com>, "UNILORIN Pro-Chancellor Yazid Rafindadi passes on", <https://www.pulse.ng/news/local>, "UNILORIN Pro-Chancellor Yazid Rafindadi passes on", <https://theeagleonline.com>, "Unilorin Pro-Chancellor, Yazid Rafindadi passes on" *The Herald*, Friday, September 23, 2022, P.3; "Unilorin Pro-Chancellor Abidu Yazid dies at 79", *Daily Trust*, Friday, September 23, 2022, P.5; "UNILORIN loses Council Chair", *The Nation*, Friday, September 23, 2022, P.6)

- The Association of Muslim Businessmen and Professionals has lauded the selection process that culminated in the emergence of the Professor of Law, Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, as the 11th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin.
("The Companion Felicitates Egbewole on Unilorin Vice-Chancellor Appointment", *Daily Independent*, Friday, September 23, 2022, P.22)

Salawu's son weds

Mr Nurudeen Oluwashola, the son of Mr Fatai Kolawole Salawu, a Principal Transport Supervisor in the Office of the Vice Chancellor, University of Ilorin, will this Saturday (October 1, 2022) tie the

nuptial knots with his heartthrob, Rukayat Opeyemi Durojaiye.

According to a wedding notice made available to **UNILORIN BULLETIN**, the Nikkah ceremony will take place at

the Erin-Ile Town Hall, Kwara State at 10:00 a.m. prompt while the Reception follows immediately afterwards at the same venue.

Members of the University community and the general public are cordially invited.

(Contd. from back page)

Impactful researches and patents

A major hallmark of the Professor Abdulkareem-led administration was its relentless commitment to and pursuit of excellence in research endeavours. In his first media interview on assumption of office, Professor Abdulkareem, who was the Director of Unilorin Laboratory to Product Centre (LABTOP), told the **UNILORIN STAR** that his focus would be on aggressive “research generally across board”. He said that when he assumed office as the LABTOP Director in 2015, he met only five patented researches on ground but just two years into his directorship, these had increased to 21. He then gave a commitment that all researchers would be enabled to do their work, “so that more of these innovative and first-class researches would give us more patents for this University”.

True to his words, the University now proudly boasts of eight patented researches within the five years administration of this veritable research buff. Indeed, the University's untiring research efforts were duly recognised in 2021 by the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology's National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) as the institution with the highest number of Patent Certificates for its various researches, innovations and inventions.

It is noteworthy that two out of the eight researches from the stable of the University of Ilorin that got the NOTAP's patent certification, were the handiworks of Professor Abdulkareem.

MoU with the Nigerian Army

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Nigerian Army and the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON) for the development of Polymer composite by the University for strategic and protective defence. As part of the implementation of the MoU, the University, under Prof. Abdulkareem, invented bullet-proof vest, which was tested and accepted by the Nigerian Army for use by soldiers

University Library extension

Upon Professor Abdulkareem's assumption of duty, a new library extension was one of the approved projects awaiting funding. Within a year into his tenure, the administration was able to access the fund and the Library extension was constructed and handed over in 2020.

In July 2020, the e-library was relocated to the new library extension to create an avenue for wider outreach and usage for all the members of the community. A total of 110 new computers were installed in addition to over 100 old ones, for smooth access to subscribed databases. The Law Library, College Library Faculty of Veterinary Library and senior staff offices also benefited from the distribution of the computer systems for their online operations.

With all these, the University Library has been acknowledged as “a reference point in the country, considering the available resources and the organization of the reading environment”

Establishment of Molecular Lab

The administration of Professor Sulyman Age Abdulkareem raised the bar in public healthcare delivery in the country with the establishment of the ultra-modern Molecular Diagnostic and Research Laboratory. It has already secured the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control's (NCDC) certification as a Public Health Laboratory for diagnosis of COVID-19 and the surveillance of other infectious diseases like poliomyelitis, Lassa fever and other viral haemorrhagic fevers. A multi-million naira Sequencer was procured for the laboratory, making it the first Molecular Laboratory in a public university to acquire one.

The novel diagnostic and research laboratory will go a long way in strengthening the nation's health emergency response.

Proactive headlong tackling of the Coronavirus challenge

With the sudden outbreak of the dreaded Coronavirus pandemic in 2020, Professor Sulyman Abdulkareem promptly took a proactive measure to prevent the spread of the deadly virus on the University campus. This he did by setting up the COVID-19 Prevention Committee headed by Dr Idayat A. Durotoye of the Department of Haematology, College of Health Sciences. Among the preventive measures taken by the Committee that ensured the control of Coronavirus at the University were the construction of about 60 wash-up points around the campus to encourage the practice of regular hand hygiene, procurement and distribution of face masks and hand sanitizers to staff and students of the University, and regular enlightenment of members of the University community through hand bills and regular radio jingles and discussion programmes.

Out-maneuvering COVID-19 disruption to academic activities

The unfortunate pandemic that ravaged the world in most part of 2020 – Coronavirus – wreaked a lot of havoc on the entire humanity. Not only did it constitute a major health hazard, it also disrupted many human activities, as the entire globe was literally shut down.

The education sector is one of the worst hit. The inevitable lock-down of schools, to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, caused far-reaching disruption to academic activities. In Nigeria, especially, academic calendars were redrawn in many tertiary education institutions, with some universities either outrightly cancelling the 2019/2020 academic session or merging it with the ongoing 2020/2021 session.

However, in its characteristic pursuit of excellence and sustained determination to protect the interest of our students and their parents, the management of the University of Ilorin, under the leadership of Professor Sulyman Age Abdulkareem, refused to join the bandwagon of institutions that scrapped or merged academic sessions. It was resolved that the Unilorin would not lose the 2019/2020 academic session for whatever reason!

This uncommon feat made it possible for the Better-by-Far citadel to seamlessly sustain its scheduled academic calendar despite all odds.

***To be continued next week**



TOWN & GOWN

by Kunle Akogun

@UniversityOfIlorin

@unilorinofficial

@TheUNILORIN

As Abdulkareem bows out gracefully

How time flies! The five-year stewardship journey of Prof. Sulyman Age Abdulkareem, which began on October 16, 2017, comes to an end in less than a month from now, precisely on October 15. It has been a wonderful experience for the Better-by-far University, as its 10th Vice Chancellor has made his mark, bestriding the landscape like a colossus, and stamping his feet on all aspects of the University's tripodal mandate of teaching, research, and community service. Indeed, Prof. Abdulkareem is leaving office with head raised high up!

His landmark achievements, and these are legion, have been well documented in a book slated for public presentation soon. But in the meantime, let's have some teasers in form of excerpts from the upcoming publication, tagged **"THE UNILORIN LEADERSHIP SERIES II"**.

In his maiden address to the University's Congregation barely 10 days after his assumption of duties as the 10th Vice Chancellor, Professor Sulyman Abdulkareem made a pledge to the staff of the University. He promised to reward the efforts and dedication of every staff member that showed exemplary commitment to the growth and sustenance of excellence of the University. He said, "If we are to seize this moment together, we must enjoy it together".

In the address, the Vice Chancellor noted that aside staff welfare, his administration would place emphasis on infrastructural development, service excellence, research and innovation, as well as increasing the institution's internally generated revenue.

Describing the efforts of his immediate predecessor in infrastructural development as "astonishing, monumental and impressive", Professor Abdulkareem said, "It is my desire to sustain the tempo of physical and infrastructural development in order to push it in my own way to attaining the world best environment for learning, research, and community service".

Professor Abdulkareem stated that the vision of the University was to become an International Centre of Excellence and as such, his administration would pursue the vision "vigorously", particularly in the areas of teaching and research because "it is our agenda to fundamentally drive this University on a course of becoming more reputable for research outputs that can change the world".

At the end of his tenure, despite some intervening circumstances beyond his control, such as the two prolonged strikes in 2020 and 2022 by university workers' unions and the 2020 national lock-down occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, Professor Abdulkareem has evidently discharged his duties creditably, having fulfilled most of his promises. Several landmark achievements were recorded in all spheres of the University's core mandates of teaching, research and community service.

Staff welfare

In line with his promise to "reward the efforts and dedication

of every staff member that shows exemplary commitment to the growth and sustenance of excellence of the University", Professor Abdulkareem sustained the tradition of heavy investment in human capital development through the massive sponsorship of deserving academic and even non-teaching staff members to Learned Conferences within and outside the country. Several staff members were also sponsored or encouraged and supported to acquire higher degrees between 2017 and 2022.

Also, the Professor Abdulkareem Administration ensured adequate motivation of workers through regular promotion as and when due as well as massive approval of cadre conversion for deserving staff.

No fewer than 3, 326 staff members, comprising academic and non-teaching, junior and senior, were promoted during the first four years of Professor Abdulkareem's five-year tenure. A breakdown of this figure shows that 1,019 were promoted in 2018, 863 in 2019, 632 in 2020, and 812 in 2021. Of the 1, 019 promoted staff in 2018, Two hundred and forty-eight (248) were academic, Four hundred and forty-five (445) were senior non-teaching staff and Three hundred and twenty-six (326) were junior staff. The 2019 promotion exercise lifted Two hundred and seventy-one (271) academic staff, Four hundred and fourteen (414) senior non-teaching staff and One hundred and seventy-eight (178) junior staff.

In the same vein, One hundred and eighty-three (183) of the Six hundred and thirty-two (632) promoted staff in 2020 were academic staff, Three hundred and nineteen (319) senior non-teaching staff and One hundred and thirty (130) junior staff. Of the Eight hundred and twelve (812) promoted staff in 2021, One hundred and forty-eight (148) were academic staff, Four hundred and fifty-four (454) senior non-teaching staff, and Two hundred and ten (210) junior staff. ****(The 2022 promotion exercise is yet to be conducted due to the prolonged university workers' strike)***

Also, no fewer than 2, 441 staff members, academic, and non-teaching, junior and senior, benefited from the various staff development awards (SDA) tenable in local and foreign institutions. Of this figure, 1,349 academic staff benefitted from TETFund sponsorship for local and international Learned Conferences; 877 non-teaching staff also got similar sponsorship for local and international Learned Conferences; while 215 junior staff were granted staff development awards (SDA).

Liberalisation of access to TETFund/NEEDS awards

Access to TETFund and NEEDS II awards for academic and non-teaching staff was liberalised such that the awards were based on merit and totally open to many researchers without any sentiment. Therefore, a large number of deserving staff benefited from the funds.

(Contd. on page 11)