

**AN ADDRESS BY THE CHIEF HOST, THE VICE CHANCELLOR,  
UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN, PROFESSOR WAHAB OLASUPO  
EGBEWOLE SAN, ON THE OCCASION OF THE PUBLIC  
PRESENTATION OF THE BOOK: "HISTORY OF THE EMIRS OF  
ILORIN" BY THE CENTER FOR ILORIN STUDIES, UNIVERSITY  
OF ILORIN, HELD ON THE 12TH NOVEMBER, 2022**

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this landmark event. Today's event is unique as it marks the 27<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of His Royal Highness the Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji Dr Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari CFR on the throne of his forebears. To us at the University, today's event is fundamental to one of our tripartite mandates, another opportunity to fulfil our community development mandate otherwise described as town and gown or Corporate Social Responsibility. There is no iota of doubt that this engagement enhances our understanding and promotes cordial relations with the community in which we operate.

Our Center for Ilorin Studies was established essentially to pursue scholarship that is aimed at enhancing knowledge, understanding and development of Ilorin Emirate. Since its establishment in 2012, the Center has vigorously collaborated with the Town to achieve its core mandate. It has worked assiduously not only to preserve the ancient and historical relics of the Emirate, but also the seminal works of the eminent scholars that were the pride of the Emirate at different times. As a University, we

take the issue of scholarship very seriously and we have continuously through the Centre engage with our accommodating host community.

To this end, I acknowledge the presence of all dignitaries to support this laudable objective. I particularly appreciate the Special Guest of Honour, His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Kwara State, Mallam Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq. The presence of Your Excellency is unquestionable evidence of the support of your government for our University.

We sincerely appreciate your association with our university and look forward to a more engaging, enduring and sustainable collaboration with the array of these distinguished global citizens.

On behalf of the Board and Management of the Center for Ilorin Studies, I also thank the Chairman of today's event, Honourable Justice Abdullateef Kalmaldeen. In the same vein, I appreciate the presence of the Chiroma of Ilorin Emirate, who is the Guest of Honour, Alhaji Abubakar Bature Sulu-Gambari, Senior Advocate of Nigeria designate.

The Chief Launchers, Malam Saliu Mustapha and Alhaja Muinat Bola Shagaya as well as other co-launchers are our benefactors, whom I appreciate greatly for accepting to support our efforts and objective. At a

time when it is becoming obvious that the ambitions of universities extend well beyond governments' preparedness and capability to fund, the generosity of philanthropists like you can provide a significant contribution to the social advances the Centre for Ilorin Studies aims to deliver. While the Centre will be counting on this generosity today, the entire campus of the University of Ilorin is available for your philanthropic contributions.

Still, within the ambit of appreciation, I want to thank the reviewer of the book we are about to present to the public, an academic giant in his own right, for accepting to undertake this assignment. His support to scholarship and Ilorin Emirate through this intellectual engagement is highly appreciated. I also extend my gratitude to the Ikokoro family led by Alh. Pham. Saadu Aluko for the uncommon support to the University in the course of this work.

The book we are presenting to the public today is an embodiment of historical events which we endeavour to document as a way of preserving the body of knowledge that makes Ilorin Emirate great in all its ramifications.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I must thank the experts who worked with the Center in its efforts at achieving one of our primary objectives for the establishment of the Center for Ilorin Studies. I am

particularly grateful to the commitment of these scholars who worked on this project culminating into this book. We saw the need not only to archive the historical values in Sheik Abubakar Omo Ikoro's literary and classic masterpiece but also to make it accessible to a vast majority of the people.

It is my position that this book will further raise the awareness of people in and outside of Ilorin Emirate on its historical antecedent which draws immense benefits to Ilorin emirate. We identified and positively channelled the vigour and intellectual capacity of the interpreters and editors of this masterpiece of Sheik Omo Ikoro. On behalf of the Board and Management of the Center for Ilorin Studies, I appreciate the translators and editors for their intellectual generosity and sacrifices.

This book has added another feather to our radiant and flowery cap of scholarly endeavours as a University. We are committed to building knowledge and innovative ideas that can impact our immediate and wider society. This is what my administration has pledged to pursue vigorously through our renewed principles and mission. Sustainable development, which is one of the goals of my administration, can be achieved through the kind of collaboration that has brought this book to life.

It is on this note I enjoin all our well-wishers and supporters, who believed in our capacity and integrity, to continue to support our efforts at not only sustaining but improving on our better by far status. We particularly appeal for the continuous encouragement and support of this kind of intellectual effort which culminated into the book. We will graciously appreciate endowments that can adequately support our research and intellectual endeavours for the promotion, preservation and advancement of the enviable heritage of Ilorin Emirate.

Finally, I must thank the Director of the Center for Ilorin Studies, Professor O. Y. Abdul-Hamid and his team for their commitment to the mandates for which the Center was established. The management under my leadership will continue to support the Center not only in its efforts at keeping the heritage of the Ilorin Emirate but also in its drive at contributing to the growth and overall development of our dear University at large.

Thank you for coming and for your attention.