



ONE GOOD TURN DESERVES ANOTHER

By

PROF. Wahab Egbewole SAN
Vice-Chancellor
University of Ilorin, Nigeria

**Being the Vice-Chancellor's address at the
Investiture Ceremony for the Award of
Excellence, Distinguished Alumni and
Unilorin Ambassadors at the University
Auditorium on Wednesday, July 16, 2025**

Distinguished guests, esteemed awardees, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Management, Senate, and students of this great citadel of learning, I warmly welcome you to today's investiture ceremony. This event is a significant part of the ongoing celebrations marking our 50th anniversary as a university. Your presence here is a testament to your deep admiration for our university and its leadership, and for this, we are sincerely grateful.

We commenced our Golden Jubilee celebrations on January 6th with the unveiling of the 50th Anniversary logo. That historic moment was followed by an engaging International Conference hosted by our Centre for International Education. The event drew distinguished academics, policy makers, and Ambassadors from across the globe, a clear indication of how far we've come as an institution of global relevance.

Today's ceremony focuses on three categories of honourees, each selected for their remarkable contributions to our university and society at large. Chief among them are our **50 Ambassadors**, **10 Distinguished Alumni**, and **2 recipients of the Award of Excellence**.

The Ambassadors were nominated by their respective Faculties and the nominations validated by the Centre for Advancement. These individuals have consistently demonstrated loyalty to the values of our university and have given back meaningfully whether through mentorship, resources, or collaboration. Some honourees were added in recognition of their extraordinary acts of generosity and support, reaffirming the saying that *one good turn deserves another*.

For the **Distinguished Alumni**, the University Management carefully selected exceptional graduates who have excelled in their respective fields while maintaining an unwavering commitment to their alma mater. Their lives and careers exemplify the ideals, values, and culture of our *Better by Far* university.

The **Award of Excellence** is particularly special. It is not exclusive to our alumni but reserved for individuals whose dedication to our university has been profound and self-initiated.

One such individual is **Dr. Tunji Olowolafe**, a 1984 medical graduate, who this year alone sponsored **40 academic staff** to international conferences supporting each with **₦5 million**, amounting to **₦200 million** in total. He also donated a brand new **Hilux vehicle** to enhance our campus security and contributed to the purchase of an **Anatome machine** through his class set.

Another is **Dr. Murthada Adeniji**, a proud alumnus of *Great Ife*, who has supported our university by donating a **90 KVA solar power system** drastically reducing our monthly energy bills. Our Senate Building and other offices now benefit from this kind gesture. He also donated a **Hilux vehicle** to support our transportation needs.

What is inspiring about these two awardees is their **unsolicited support**—they gave generously without being asked. Their actions reflect a deep belief in our vision and a personal commitment to advancing the University of Ilorin. It is our hope that others similarly endowed will emulate their noble examples.

As we express our heartfelt gratitude to all honourees, we also extend a formal invitation to the **grand finale of our 50th Anniversary celebrations** scheduled for **23rd–28th November 2025**. We count on your support to make it a memorable event.

In the spirit of our golden jubilee, we are also unveiling **legacy projects** including the **Transcript Hub** and **Innovation Hub**. Looking ahead, we are seeking your support for two other strategic initiatives: the **Techno and Industrial Park** and the **Centre for Stem Cell Research**. We hope that you will identify with these projects, contribute directly or through your networks, and help us set a standard for excellence.

We also see this occasion as an opportunity to build **bonding platforms** among awardees in each category fostering collaboration and dialogue for the university's continued growth and development. We hope that the golden class will remain united and use this platform to support the aspirations of the University.

Let me assure you that we are committed to maintaining strong, enduring relationships with each of you. We also respectfully call on you to serve as **mentors to our students**, helping to guide them into impactful futures much like your own.

Once again, thank you for accepting our invitation and honouring us with your presence and partnership. We look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with each of you.

Thank you, and may the legacy we are building together continue to flourish.