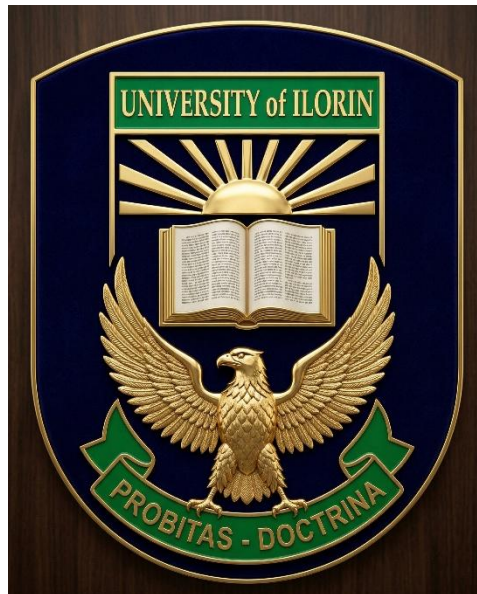


A FAVOUR REPAID

By

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



**Being the Vice-Chancellor's address at the Homecoming
Celebration and the Investiture Ceremony for the Award
of Excellence, Distinguished Alumni and Unilorin
Ambassadors at the University Auditorium on Monday,
August 17, 2026.**

Protocols

It is with immense joy, profound gratitude and a deep sense of pride that I welcome you all to this very special occasion—which is a four-in-one programme:

- Homecoming of Professor Emeritus Is-haq Olanrewaju Oloyede, CON, FNAL
- Award of Excellence on distinguished Nigerians
- Recognition of our distinguished Alumnus
- Appointment of our Unilorin Ambassadors 2.0

All these culminated into celebration for us as a University in honour of our highly revered Alumnus, partners and friends.

Today is more than a ceremonial gathering. In the first place, it is a celebration of excellence, service, scholarship, leadership and, above all, the enduring bond between a distinguished scholar and the institution that helped shape his remarkable journey. It is also an avenue to acknowledge the contributions of our Alumni who are making exploits globally, as well as to recognise the great work our friends have done for us. The Yorubas say: *Yinni, yinni, keni semi*, which translates to one good turn deserves another. At the 2025 edition of the honours programme, I emphasised that one good turn deserves another, and today I wish to emphasise that we are repaying a favour to our highly revered alumnus, our critical stakeholders, partners, and our proud alumnus.

Professor Emeritus Ishaq Oloyede represents, in many respects, the very best of what the University of Ilorin stands for. His academic accomplishments, administrative leadership, intellectual contributions and commitment to national development have earned him recognition far beyond the walls of this University.

His journey from this University to positions of immense responsibility is a source of inspiration to generations of our students and staff. His accomplishments remind us that education is not merely about acquiring

knowledge; it is about using knowledge, character and leadership to make a meaningful difference in society.

As a University, we are particularly proud that Professor Oloyede's story is intertwined with this institution's history and development. His contributions to the academic community and his service to the University have left footprints that will remain relevant for years to come. Today as we celebrate this highly cerebral academic and great administrator, we believe that one of the befitting ways of recognising his contribution is to endow a Professorial Chair named **IS-HAQ OLOYEDE PROFESSORIAL CHAIR OF ISLAMICS** in the sum of **Two Hundred and Fifty Million Naira (₦250,000,000.00)** which we respectfully call on the audience to support today in appreciation and recognition of this great scholar, dedicated academic, highly disciplined leader, courageous outstanding unilorite and uncommon ***Better by Far Ambassador.***

Our Award of Excellence has been carefully given to the three advertised distinguished Nigerians, but a fourth person will be unveiled later today at this event. No doubt all the four represent the best of the human community and have in various capacities demonstrated their love, support and admiration for our University. I recall the exploits of the great Jagunmolu of Igbominaland, Baba Oba of Offa and Arogundade of Lagos, Alhaji (Chief) Abdulraheem Oladimeji, OFR. In spite of his challenges growing up, he founded the first faith-based University in Nigeria, Al-Hikmah University. Baba to our University is a great benefactor, as his contributions are dotted in many spaces on our campus, materially and otherwise.

Otunba Olusola Adekanola, a Fellow of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, who, when philanthropy is not commonplace in Nigeria, donated a whole building to our Department of Accounting. Equally, Chief (Mrs) Victoria Adunola Samson, is more than BOVAS to us, as she has ever been very supportive of our university and always ready to lend a helping hand at critical periods.

Our distinguished Alumni are being honoured for their various exploits in Nigeria and globally, spanning traditional institutions, commerce, oil and gas, health, legal and education. We have also recognised our Ambassadors who have consistently supported and positively represented our University.

We are very proud of your various achievements, which collectively reflect what we stand for as a university. We are elated by your contributions to education and national development; we are indeed extremely proud that you continue to embody the values of excellence, integrity, diligence, and service associated with our great institution, the University of Ilorin. As earlier emphasised that this programme is repaying favours, our Creator told us in the Quran that ***the reward for goodness is goodness***. Thus, we appeal to each of our awardees in the category of excellence to identify a project that they will deliver in our University in recognition of this honour. Equally, our distinguished alumni should deliberate and decide on a project that will stand in their name within the university. I also request the Ambassadors to interact and collectively fund a project in their name. It is our expectation that by the time we meet here again next year, all these projects will have been accomplished.

We most sincerely appreciate all our esteemed guests for taking the time to be part of this epoch-making ceremony today. To some of you, we extended this invitation within the last 48 hours because one of our honourees may not have allowed us to invite you, or even hold this programme, if he had known it was being planned in his honour.

Let me confess publicly that I brought Professor Emeritus Is-haq Oloyede CON here today using the Executive Secretary of TETFUND as my bait. ES TETFUND, thank you, sir, for being a wonderful brother to Professor Emeritus Is-haq Oloyede, because when I told him you agreed unconditionally to preside over this ceremony, he dropped all his arguments against holding the homecoming. I must also single out the Chairman of our Advancement Board, Dr

A.W.A. Ibrahim, who, within five minutes of extending the invitation to him, sent this reply: "...I just came back to Nigeria, but I will attend the event by God's grace." Sir, we must sincerely thank you for this uncommon humility and good-naturedness.

I appreciate our guest speakers and, indeed, all our guests from across the nation for their willingness to support our University. To the planning committee, thank you for pulling this off. I know I have pushed you too hard and I am impressed on the outcome of this event today. To the Management and Staff, I most sincerely appreciate you all for coming out to honour these distinguished Nigerians who offer various representations to us as a University but collectively depict our identity as a University, driven by integrity and set to rule the world.

May God continue His blessings on us.