WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR RAHAMON A. BELLO, FNSChE, FNSE, FAEng ON THE OCCASION OF THE MAIDEN EDITION OF THE UNILAG STAFF DONORS DAY ON THURSDAY, 22ND MAY 2014.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic & Research, Professor Babajide Alo
Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Management Services, Professor Duro Oni
Registrar, Dr (Mrs) Taiwo Folashade Ipaye
The Bursar, Mr. Lateef Odekunle
The University Librarian, Dr. (Mrs.) Olukemi Fadehan
Provost, College of Medicine, Professor (Mrs.) Folasade Ogunsola
The Chairman, Advancement Board, Mr. Mac Ovbiagele, Our Host today,
Deans, Directors and Heads of Departments here present
Distinguished Staff Donors of the University of Lagos
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Council, Management, Senate, Staff and Students of the University of Lagos, "The University of First Choice and The Nation’s Pride", I warmly welcome you all and especially the Staff Donors to the first edition of the University of Lagos Staff Donors Day, a day set aside to honour, appreciate and celebrate all staff donors to the Staff Endowment Check-Off Scheme.

The Staff Endowment Check-Off Scheme came into existence in 2006 and was established as a staff give-back programme to secure the support of staff in boosting the University of Lagos Endowment Fund through individual staff contributions. It serves as a medium of getting Unilag Staff involved in the advancement efforts of the University through their individual contributions to the Endowment Fund.

Contributions to the Scheme may be in the form of deduction of a token amount monthly from staff salaries over a given period of time or as a lump sum donation. The Scheme has been slowly but gradually gaining grounds. It is strictly voluntary and contributors are free to give any amount.

The University of Lagos, like other Universities is faced with funding challenges, which militate against the provision of infrastructure, and facilities essential for the attainment of academic excellence. The Governing Council of the University of Lagos, under the able leadership of Professor Jerry Gana, OFR, FNIM, FCIB, FCS, in collaboration with the present management is relentlessly pursuing the University’s vision of being a world-class institution by achieving excellence in knowledge through learning and research. This makes the support of the Staff through this Check-Off Scheme very encouraging, so that the University of Lagos
can achieve its ultimate goal of being a globally acclaimed Centre of Academic Excellence.

I seize this opportunity to commend all members of staff who are contributors to the Staff Endowment Check-Off Scheme, as their total contributions as at 20th March 2014 stood at N11,263,184. Based on this significant contribution by members of staff, I appeal, through you to other members of staff, who are not yet contributors, to join the scheme. It serves as the staff social responsibility.

Once again, I warmly thank all the Unilag Staff Donors for their kind gesture and also thank other invited guests for finding time in spite of your busy schedules to attend this event.

Finally, I encourage all members of staff to join the University of Lagos Advancement Train and make a Difference.

God bless you all.