

UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, NIGERIA



**BRIEF ADDRESS OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR RAHAMON A. BELLO, *FAEng*
AT THE 2014 FIRST NIGERIAN NATIONAL MERIT AWARD (NNMA) WINNERS'
LECTURE ON THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2014 IN THE MAIN AUDITORIUM, MAIN CAMPUS,
AKOKA**

Chairman of the NNMA Governing Board and Chairman of Today's Occasion, Professor Francis S. Idachaba, *NNOM, D.Sc. (Honoris Causa, UNAAB), FAAAAE, OFR,*

Today's Lecturer, Professor Paulina Makinwa-Adebusoye, *NNOM*

Members of the NNMA Governing Board,

Principal Officers of the University of Lagos,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Gentlemen of the Press,

It is a singular honour and great pleasure for me to welcome you all to the University of Lagos, **the University of First Choice and the Nation's Pride**, for the 2014 First Nigerian National Merit Award (NNMA) Winners' Lecture.

Our University is always glad to host the NNMA Award Winners' Lectures, a major program of the Nigerian National Merit Award. NNMA's assignment is to reward intellectual, academic and professional excellence in Nigeria through according recognition to outstanding contributions by individual Nigerians in specific areas of endeavours (i.e. Science, Technology, Law, Medicine, Humanities, Arts and Culture). Many of our members of staff have received the NNOM awards. These include: Professors T. O. Elias, S. A. Babalola, I. O. Oladapo, J. P. Clark, V. O. S. Olunloyo, A. A. Susu, Laz Ekwueme, David Aradeon, Tolu Odugbemi and C. O. Orangun. We salute the achievements of these worthy Nigerians who inspire in us the confidence and hope that Nigeria has all the ingredients to stand tall in the community of nations.

Today's lecture entitled "**Attaining the Demographic Dividend in Nigeria**" is apt and very relevant to Nigeria's continuing development. I am convinced that today's Lecturer, Professor Paulina Makinwa-Adebusoye, *NNOM* as an astute academic and researcher, will

deliver a thought-provoking and action-inspiring Lecture which will broaden our horizon and help chart a positive course for.

It is obvious that every one of us has a role to play in ensuring the success of this country. This Lecture series provides the right platform for intellectual discourse and exchange of ideas on various issues crucial for nation building and integration.

Let me at this juncture; reiterate our commitment at the University of Lagos to providing the right environment for the promotion of scholarship and academic excellence that would lead to the rapid socio-economic development of our society.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, once again, I welcome you to University of Lagos, the most preferred University and the Center of Excellence. I thank you all for your attention.

Professor Rahamon A. Bello, *FAEng*

Vice-Chancellor, University of Lagos

Thursday, May 15, 2014