

UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS
(UNIVERSITY OF FIRST CHOICE)
(THE NATION'S PRIDE)

Akoka, Yaba.

Presentation During

**55TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF
HRM, DR. (ALHAJI) ALIYU O. OBAJE**

CBE CON, FIAMN, LLD, CFR

*Chancellor of the University of Lagos
on the throne of Attah Igala*

Holding at His Royal Palace

in Idah on 2nd November, 2011

Politics of Knowledge: The Place of Books

presented by:

Prof. S. J. Timothy-Asobele

during Kogi State Education Summit:

29th November, 2010 in Lokoja repackaged



HIS ROYAL MAJESTY DR. (ALHAJI) ALIYU OCHEJA OBAFE,
CBE, CON, FIAMN, LLD, CFR

*President Kogi State Council of Chiefs, Chairman Igala Area
Traditional Council, Chairman Idah Local Government Traditional
Council, The Chancellor, University of Lagos*

Preface

55TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF GAABA IDU, ATTA IGALA DR. (ALHAJI) ALIYU OBAJE CFR, CON, CBE, LLD, FIAMN ON THE THRONE

WHEN on Thursday 20th October, 2011 the Vice-Chancellor of University of First Choice and the Nation's Pride, University of Lagos, Akoka, Prof. Adetokunbo Babatunde Sofoluwe, FCOAN minuted to Alhaji Adama Sule OIK, Secretary to Igala Area Tradition Council's Notice of 55th Year Anniversary Celebration holding today, 2nd November, 2011 at His Royal Palace Idah, that I should discuss, I already had a pet idea of what to expect from my gentleman Vice-Chancellor the usual yearly visit to Idah since the past five years.

This visit is not my first, nor is it my second, nor third that I will make to the Palace or Kogi State summit in Lokoja with the express support of UNILAG Vice-Chancellor. This one is unique because it came at a time when the 7th Annual Research Conference and fair of our great University was holding. The Fair started on Wednesday 19th October, 2011 at UNILAG Multipurpose Hall with the Vice-Chancellor neck deep in its development and workings. I was properly dressed to the occasion in my Aso-oke with Eleti Aja. When the VC saw me he cheered my soul with Prince of Kabba, to which I said Randadede Sir. The following morning Thursday I said the opening prayer on the 2nd day of the Research Fair

not knowing that God has a plan and testimony waiting for me from my amiable Vice-Chancellor.

When you have a leader who believes in you and approved your re-appointment for a 2nd term in University of Lagos, you must thank God and your star for that is a demonstration of the level of confidence he reposes in your leadership. To God be the glory, amen.

The long and short of the story is this pamphlet on the ***Politics of Knowledge the Debate on the place of books***, that I hurriedly put together to distribute as University of Lagos contribution to HRM 55th Anniversary celebration.

The other UNILAG gift to HRM is a book written by me and dedicated to Gaaba Idu Alhaji (Dr.) Aliyu O Obaje CBE, CON, FIAMN, LLD, CFR. The book is titled: ***Cultural Literature Quiz for Kogi State Pupil*** in which we documented for posterity HRM's Odyssey.

We documented HRM'S thirst for education, a thirst that took him to Idah Government School, Dekina Elementary School and Okene Middle School, my own alma mater which is now a sorry sight inspite of having a Deputy Governor and Head of Service and my classmate, Benjamin Agbenyon at the helm of affairs in Lokoja. May God forgive our leaders who hate books.

HRM attended Teachers' College at Ibadan and the Clerical Training College, Zaria. He worked as an Accountant in Training at Ogbofu Kabba Divisional NA 1944 1945.

HRM loves reading. He still reads up till 9.00p.m. without reading glasses.

HRM treats me as his son each time he comes to our University and he personally gave me on 12/12/2006 His Biography The History of Fifty Years Reign of the Attah Igala, Alhaji Aliyu Ocheja Obaje 1956 2006.

So loving and so compassionate he is to my wellbeing in UNILAG that he kept on asking the then Vice-Chancellor and other Professors present at the Lodge: Where is my son, Prof. Timothy-Asobe; go and fetch him. I was in the Library composing as usual one of my sixty-six books. The following morning Prof. Ade Ojo asked me what was your relationship with the Chancellor. He was oblivious of us all and your absence was what was uppermost in his mind and he wanted the Vice-Chancellor to bring you.

I am happy since 2002 the Palace Library at Idah is full of the many gifts of books I donated to the Palace Library annually. It bears repeating HRM reads. Most of my books bear the imprint of his stay in Kabba City and some were dedicated to him like ***Cultural Quiz for Kogi State Pupil*** which

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

PROF. S. J. Timothy-Asobebe, was born in Kabba on the 5th of August, 1949. He is married with children. He attended Government Secondary School Okene (1963-1967); Federal Government College, Sokoto (1968-69); University of Nigeria Nsukka (1970-1974); University of Dakar (1972-1973); The Sorbonne, University of Paris (1975-1979). He holds the following qualifications; BA(Hons) Languages (UNN); Diploma (Dakar); CES, MA, DEA, Doctorat de 3 cycle (Paris); He was awarded a Scholarship by AUPELF-UREF in April 1997. He is a member of New York Academy of Science, Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, Nigerian Folklore Society, Chairman, Lagos State Library Board and Member of the Board University of Lagos Centre for Cultural Studies. He is a specialist in the field of Literary Translation and African and Comparative Literature. He is a Lecturer and the Chairman Coordinator of the Department of European Languages University of Lagos, Post Graduate Committee and Professional degree in Translation respectively. He conceived the Voice of Nigeria (VON) French Programmes on African Literary Masterpieces in 1990. He conceived the Community Theatre for Mass-Mobilisation for DFFRI and MAMSER in 1988, was Chairman, Nelson Mandela reception at CBAAC, where he was Assistant Director of Research and Editor *Journal of Black and African Arts and Civilization* in 1989-1990. He is the author of *Ogu Umunwanyi* a play devoted to the historical Aba Women's War, 1928, *Kabba*; A play, *Gamji* a play devoted to the legendary Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Premier of Northern Nigeria; *Tree of Trinity*, *Lion Head*, *Dispora*, *Brotherhood of Cain*, *Langbasa*, all collections of poems, *Le Francais au Nigeria*; *Une cartographie dynamique*, *New Perspectives in the Training of Translators and Interpreters in Nigeria*. *The Essentials of French Grammar for Predominantly English Speaking Learners*, *Top TV Comedians and Operas*, *Yoruba Cinema of Nigeria*, *Historical Trends in Nigerian Indigenous and Contemporary Music*, *Contemporary Nigerian Arts & Artists: A Modern Guide*, *Essays in World Theatre*. Prof. Timothy-Asobebe translated into French the OAU and ECOWAS Summits Cultural Programmes held in Abuja in June and July 1991 respectively. As a seasoned translator and researcher in the field of translation, terminology, he believes terminologists, translators and interpreters can help build the AU, ECOWAS and UNO. He was a rapporteur during July 2003 Leon Sullivan Summit held in Abuja Nigeria. He was invited by African-Union (AU) to II Conference of Intellectuals of Africa and the Diaspora to present a paper on African Languages in the Educational Systems in Africa and in the Diaspora in July 2006 in the City of Salvador, State of Bahia, Brazil. He used to lecture at the Nigerian Foreign Service Academy, Marina, Lagos, especially on Cultural Diplomacy. He is a patron of the Association of West African Young Writers with the Headquarters at 125A, Apapa Road (Moshood Abiola Way), Ebute-Metta, Lagos. He is the Head of Department of European Languages, Acting-Dean School of Post-Graduate Studies University of Lagos. He is Member, Management Board Unilag Consult. Prof. Timothy-Asobebe reads the Holy Bible at 5a.m. daily as a hobby. He plays lawn tennis and hockey.



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