

UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, NIGERIA



OPENING ADDRESS OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR RAHAMON A. BELLO *FAEng* AT THE 6th INAUGURAL LECTURE IN THE 2013/2014 ACADEMIC SESSION DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR AYODELE VICTORIA ATSENUWA ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2014

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Research),
Professor Babajide Alo, *FAS*,

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Management Services), **Professor
Duro Oni,**

The Registrar and Secretary to Council, **Dr. (Mrs.) Taiwo F.
Ipaye,**

The Bursar, **Mr. Lateef Odekunle,**

The University Librarian, **Dr. (Mrs.) Olukemi A. Fadehan,**

The Provost, College of Medicine, **Professor Folasade T.
Ogunsola,**

Dean, Faculty of Law, **Professor Imran Oluwole Smith,**

Deans of other Faculties,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Gentlemen of the Press,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Sixth Inaugural Lecture
of the University in the 2013/2014 Academic Session entitled:

IN SEARCH OF TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE: THE PROSELYTISM OF LEGAL FEMINISM.

Today's inaugural lecturer is Professor Ayodele Victoria Atsenuwa of the Department of Public Law in our Faculty of Law. Born on July 23, 1964, Professor Atsenuwa attended the University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife) from 1980 to 1984 and obtained the Bachelor of Laws Degree (LLB) in 1984. She was at the Nigerian Law School, Lagos from 1984 to 1985 and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1985. She later attended University of London, United Kingdom from 1986 to 1987 and got a Masters of Law with *Merit* in Criminology and Criminal Justice in 1987.

Professor Atsenuwa's tenacity earned her the 1997 British Chevening Scholarship awarded by the United Kingdom Government which took her to University of Warwick in the United Kingdom from 1997 to 1998 where she received a Masters of Law in Law in Development with *Distinction* and was the 1997/98 Best Graduating Student in Law in Development Degree Programme awarded by the University of Warwick Law School.

The distinguished Solicitor and Advocate of the Supreme Court of Nigeria started her academic career in 1990 as a Lecturer Grade II at the Lagos State University, Ojo.

She joined the services of the University of Lagos as Lecturer Grade II in 1991 and moved through the ranks to Lecturer Grade I in October 1991, Senior Lecturer in October 1995, Associate Professor in October 2002 and Professor in April 2012.

Professor Atsenuwa who, is actively involved in teaching and supervision of students at all levels, has served the University meritoriously as member of the Committee on Work Study Programme from 1997 to 1999, Committee on Re-Admission of Students Expelled for Cult Activities from 1999 to 2000, Student Disciplinary Board from 2002 to April, 2010, Security Council from 2005 to 2007, Human Resources Development Board from 2005 to 2008, UNILAG Consult Board from 2008 to April 2010 and Central Research Committee from 2012 to date.

Outside the University of Lagos, the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies appointed our Inaugural Lecturer as Research Professor from April 2010 to July, 2011 and Adjunct Research Professor from July 2011 to October, 2013. She has served as External Assessor for Professorial appointment at the

Faculty of Law, University of Ibadan and as External Examiner to the Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye (2010 – 2012) and Ahmadu Bello University Zaria (2011). As a Consultant, she has worked with several government and international agencies such as the Lagos State Ministry of Justice to develop Guidelines and provide training for the Implementation of Non-Custodial Sentence Measures for Offenders (2010-12); Lagos State Law Reform Commission to develop Guidelines for Sentencing for Criminal Courts (2012); ENHANSE/USAID to prepare Draft Bill of HIV-Based Discrimination in the Workplace (September 2005).

The renowned don has also worked as Lead Researcher, Researcher, Co-Researcher and Coordinator of several local and international projects. These include: the Report of the Legal Aspects of the Privacy Impact Assessment of the National Identity Database established by the National Identity Management Commission Act No. 23, 2007 commissioned by UNILAG Consult (2008); Lessons Learnt Study (an Evaluation Study) of Citizens Legal Assistance in Lagos, Ekiti, Enugu and Jigawa State commissioned by the Security and Justice Programme of DFID/UK (2008); Restatement of Customary Law Project, Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (2010-2011); BEIJING + 15: Nigerian Country Assessment Report commissioned by UNICEF (2010); Study to Assess

Prospects for the Enforcement of Economic and Social Rights in Nigeria commissioned by Social and Economic Rights Action Project (2010) among others.

Professor Atsenuwa's academic and administrative prowess continues to earn her top positions within and outside her immediate environment. She was the Chair of the Criminal Law Reform Committee of Lagos State (2008 – 2009) and currently chair of Advisory Committee of Annual Professor Jadesola Akande Interactive Forum; Counselling Unit and Education Committee of New Heritage Baptist Church, Lagos (2012 – date). She is also currently a member of the: Orderly Society Trust; Board of Directors, Legal Research & Resource Development Centre (1995 – date); Board of Trustees, Girls' Power Initiative (2003 – date); Governing Council of Radiance High School, Festac (2005 – date) and Board of Directors of Open Society Initiative for West Africa (2010 - date).

The astute researcher was part of the Lagos State Tribunal of Inquiry into Civil Disturbances in Lagos State from 2000 to 2003; National Selection Panel for International Fellowships, a Ford Foundation programme from 2002 to 2005; Operations Advisory Committee of Bloom Cancer Care/Support Centre from 2003 to 2012; National Advisory Committee on APRM-

NEPAD from 2004 to 2007; Lagos State Advisory Committee on Prerogative of Mercy from 2005 to 2011; Board of National Agency for the Control of AIDS from 2007 to 2011; Governing Council of Office of the Public Defender, Lagos State from 2007 to 2011; Board of Women, Law and Development Centre from 2010 to 2011; Osun State Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Board of African Canadian Association, K-W Region, Kitchener, Ontario, from 2011 - 2012.

To support the teaching of *Gender and the Law and Jurisprudence* under the legal education curriculum in Nigeria, Professor Atsenuwa authored the pioneering text: *Feminist Jurisprudence: An Introductory Text*. The writer per excellence has to her credit over thirty six (36) publications including books and monographs; chapters in books; articles in journals in addition to numerous technical papers and unpublished research reports.

It is my honour to invite Professor Ayodele Victoria Atsenuwa to deliver her inaugural lecture. I wish you all happy listening.

Professor Rahamon A. Bello, FAEng
Vice-Chancellor, University of Lagos
Wednesday, July 23, 2014