

**WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE GROUNDBREAKING
CEREMONY OF THE
SIR KESINGTON ADEBUTU RESEARCH CENTRE
AT THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS
ON TUESDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER, 2021.
BY PROF DAVID ADEWALE OKE**

Protocols:

The Donor, Sir Kesington Adebukunola Adebutu, OON, CON, KJW,
the Odole Oodua of Yorubaland, ably represented by Dr. Abiola
Olorode (his daughter) *(Mrs Adeyemi Olorode)*

The Pro Chancellor, Prince (Dr.) Olanrewaju Adeyemi Tejuoso

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Oluwatoyin Ogundipe, FAS,

Chairman, Court of Governors, CMUL, Dr. Aderemi Desalu, mni

All the Deputy Vice Chancellors here present,

All Principal Officers of the University and the College

All Deans present

My Lords Spiritual & Temporal,

Gentlemen of the Press,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

x Provost Okunribido

x Olorogun Sonny Kuku OFR

x Hon Dime Salako

I am extremely delighted to welcome you all to this epoch-making event of today. It is a very important event for us in the College because it marks the beginning of a new era as we traverse through a journey which started from the modest meeting held with some friends of the College and the Alumni by a former Provost, Professor Folasade Ogunsola at the Southern Sun Hotel in Ikoyi where concerns were raised about funds drive for the College, but was consummated by my predecessor in office, Professor Afolabi Lesi who approved the constitution of the MEDILAG Alumni High Table Fund Raising Dinner chaired by Professor Oladapo Ashiru, OFR. The maiden edition of the dinner was held on Saturday, 1st February, 2019 at Lagos Oriental Hotel along Lekki, Lagos where Sir Kesington Adebukunola Adebutu, CON honoured us with his presence together with his amiable wife and was recognised for his humanitarian and philanthropic support to medical education at the well-attended event with great glamour and grandeur.

As usual, Sir Adebutu donated the highest amount of money that night, but it was impressed on him that the College needed a Research Centre which will enhance the society by advancing knowledge through the development of scientific theories, concepts and ideas.

We are glad today that as an Institution we are enjoying again the largesse from the kindness of Odole Oodua of Yorubaland whose large-heartedness is unequalled as far as I am concerned. The feats performed by Sir Adebutu in the field of philanthropy is second to none. I cannot be wrong to say that this is a man who is an epitome of hard work and diligence. One who can lay down all he has for the benefit of his people,

a man with a heart that can absorb millions of people, a man who always reaches out to the masses.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I made a small peep into the life of Sir Adebutu and his business empire and I saw nothing but diligence, kindness and love for humanity. I learnt that Baba said that he is not tired even at a grand age of 86 years. He is still moving around the country commissioning one project or the other and launching one initiative or the other. The College of Medicine of the University of Lagos is incidentally the newest beneficiary of the donation of the ultramodern Sir Kensington Adebutu Research Centre (KARC) whose ground breaking ceremony is being held now.

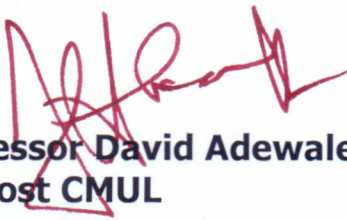
Like a superman Baba Ijebu was recently installed as the new Odole Oodua of Yorubaland by the Ooni of Ife, His Imperial Majesty, Oba Enitan Adeyeye Ogunwusi (Ojaja III).

The Odole Oodua said to be the highest and most prestigious chieftaincy title in Yorubaland, was pioneered by Oranmiyan as a prince in Ile-Ife before he eventually became a King during his lifetime. Aside Oranmiyan, only two eminent personalities had previously held the venerated title – The late sage and former Premier of Western Region, Chief Obafemi Awolowo and the late legal luminary, Chief G. O. K. Ajayi. By this title, Sir Adebutu has become a foremost Yoruba leader.

Ladies and gentlemen, Sir Kensington Adebukunola Adebutu (Baba Ijebu) is 86 years younger. He deserves all our accolades. 86 years of impact, kindness, philanthropy, blessings, achievements, honor, nation building, and statesmanship.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I welcome you to this citadel of learning whose vision is to be a Centre of global distinction in Medical Training, Research, Clinical Services as well as in character and Service to Humanity as you join me in wishing Sir Kesington Adebukunola Adebutu, OON, CON, KJW, Chairman, Premier Lotto Limited, Founder, Kesington Adebukunola Adebutu Foundation, a gallant trail blazer and a business colossus a happy birthday.

Thank you.



Professor David Adewale Oke
Provost CMUL