

UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, NIGERIA



**REMARKS OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR,
PROFESSOR RAHAMON A. BELLO, *FAENG*
AT THE SPECIAL SESSION, FACULTY OF LAW
BOARD IN HONOUR OF A FORMER DEAN OF THE
FACULTY, LATE PROFESSOR MICHAEL IYIOLA
JEGEDE, *SAN ON*, JULY 9, 2015 IN THE LAW
ANNEX, FACULTY OF LAW, UNILAG, AKOKA.**

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 Akin Ibidapo-Obe,**

Other members of staff and students of the Faculty of Law,

Mrs. Oluremi Jegede

Other members of the Family and friends of Late Professor Michael Iyiola Jegede, *SAN*

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Gentlemen of the Press,

I welcome you all to this Special Session of the Faculty of Law Board. This event, which is a gathering of family, friends, colleagues, and former students of Professor Michael Iyiola Jegede, *SAN*, is to commemorate the life and contributions of this great legal luminary to the teaching and practice of Law in Nigeria.

Permit me to start this address by commending and congratulating the staff and students of the Faculty of Law led by Professor Akin Ibidapo-Obe for organizing this Special Session. Today's event provides an opportunity for the Faculty, which has benefitted immensely from the intellectual wealth of Professor Jegede, to honour his memory, and show his family and friends that they are not alone in their time of grief over this irredeemable loss of a titan.

Professor Jegede was, in every sense of the word, a titan in his time. He began an illustrious academic career as an Assistant Lecturer in the Faculty of Law at the University of Lagos, in September 1964 and was elevated to Lecturer Grade II in 1965, Senior Lecturer in 1971, Associate Professor in 1974 and Professor of Law and Dean in 1976.

Professor Jegede served as Dean for a total of seven years at various times. This was unique in the sense that no one had occupied the position of Dean for such a long period. He was Acting Dean after Professor T.O. Elias for two years (1972-1974), Acting Dean (October 1975-May 1976) after

Professor A.B. Kasumu was appointed Attorney General of Lagos State, and as substantive Dean from 1976 to 1980.

As Dean, he instituted the departmentalization of the Faculty, the first law faculty to adopt this arrangement. He expanded the staff profile of the faculty. He also started the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) during his tenure as Dean and became its first de facto Director-General from 1975 -1978 when the late Justice Dr. Akinola Aguda took over.

At various times he was a member of the University's Governing Council: first by election, representing the University Congregation; and as a representative of the Senate.

In 1981, Professor Jegede was invited to start the Faculty of Law at the University of Ibadan as the first Visiting Professor and Head of Department of Law, a position he held till December 1983.

He set up his private practice – M.I Jegede & Company in 1981. As a foremost legal practitioner, he handled many notable cases at the highest levels

of the judicial system and was elevated to the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria in 2006.

Professor Jegede's love for academics was also evident by the fact that he had a treasure trove of publications. His three major books have become indispensable textbooks in all Law faculties across the world, namely-

1. Principles of Equity in Nigerian Law
2. The Law of Trusts
3. Bankruptcy and Administration of Estates

He also published numerous articles in leading local and international journals. His love for intellectualism was further demonstrated when he established a successful publishing firm M.I.J Publishers in 1984 and published books by such notable authors as Dr. Taslim Elias, Justice Kayode Eso, Dr. Akinola Aguda, and Professor Jadesola Akande.

Despite his overwhelming achievements, Professor Jegede was a kind and gentle soul, a detribalized Nigerian about whom one of his mentees - Hon.

Justice Innocent Umezulike, now Chief Judge of Enugu wrote:

“He was a University teacher par excellence. He taught Equity and Trusts with uncommon and ingenious clarity. He was a role model in academic leadership and great motivator of young lecturers and subordinates. He led by the power of example rather than example of power”

A great and pioneering intellectual of this University has passed on. Indeed a towering academic icon has left his giant footprints in the sands of time.

May his soul rest in peace.

**Professor Rahamon A. Bello, FAEng
Vice-Chancellor, University of Lagos**