

UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS



**SPEECH
BY THE
VICE-CHANCELLOR,
PROFESSOR RAHAMON A. BELLO, *FAEng.*
AT THE 1ST ANNUAL MEMORIAL LECTURE IN HONOUR
LATE 10TH VICE-CHANCELLOR,
PROFESSOR ADETOKUNBO BABATUNDE SOFOLUWE, *FAS*
HELD ON MAY 15, 2013 AT 9:00 A.M. AT THE AFE BABALOLA
AUDITORIUM, MAIN CAMPUS, AKOKA**

The Chairman of today's Lecture, Archbishop of the Province of Lagos and Bishop of the Diocese of Lagos Mainland, Anglican Communion, His Grace, the ***Most Reverend*** (Professor) ***Adebayo D. Akinde,***

Today's Guest Speaker, Distinguished Professor/Former Vice Chancellor of University of Lagos and Pioneer Vice-Chancellor of the recently established Federal University, Ndufu Alike Ikwo in Ebonyi State, ***Professor Oyewusi Ibidapo-Obe, FAS, FAEng, OFR,***

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

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

Registrar, ***Oluwarotimi O.A. Shodimu, Esq,***

Bursar, ***Mr. Lateef .A. Odekunle, FCA***

Librarian, ***Dr (Mrs.) Olukemi Fadehan,***

Provost, College of Medicine, ***Professor Folashade Ogunsola,***

Deans of Faculties,

Members of Senate,

Staff and Students,

Gentlemen of the Press,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

INTRODUCTION

I welcome you all to the 1st Annual Memorial Lecture organized by the Lagos State Branch of the UNILAG Alumni Association, in honour of the indefatigable and amiable 10th Vice-Chancellor of our University, Professor Adetokunbo Babatunde Sofoluwe, FCOAN, FNCS, FAS, who was called to glory on Friday, May 11, 2012.

THE IDES OF MAY

The early morning of Saturday, May 12, 2013 when the news of the demise of our dear friend, colleague and indeed, brother, Adetokunbo started trickling in, it was at first received with disbelief and shock. Tears rolled uncontrollably. The then Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council of our University, Deacon Gamaliel O. Onosode as well as other members of Council were taken aback when the sad news was broken to them. The Chairman in his outburst said: "I thought somebody like Professor Adetokunbo Sofoluwe would be a delight to organize my burial as I had repeatedly informed him I was at departure lounge and only waiting for my flight to be called."

The University Community within a twinkle of an eye had become a Mecca of sort for sympathizers who besieged our Vice-Chancellor's Lounge on condolence visits to commiserate with the University Management and the widow of the deceased, Dr (Mrs) Funmilayo Sofoluwe. Among the early callers were the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Raji Babatunde Fashola (SAN) and his wife, Dame Abimbola Emmanuela Fashola, Ogun State Governor, Senator Ibikunle Amosun and his wife; immediate past Governor of Ogun State, Otunba Gbenga Daniel, representatives of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities led by immediate past Chairman, Professor Isaq Oloyede, representatives of the Federal Government led by the Federal Minister of Education, Professor Ruqqayyat Ahmed Rufa'i, representatives of traditional rulers, captains of industries, among several others who passed one or two compliments on Professor Sofoluwe in their condolence messages.

Permit me, at this juncture, to express profound and heartfelt appreciation, on behalf of the University Management, to the staff, students and members of the

University Community; various persons; officers; public-office holders; members of the diplomatic corps; groups; associations; religious bodies; institutions; media and indeed, the general public for their outpouring of support during that period. We are indeed and shall always be very grateful to you all.

THE MAN ADETOKUNBO BABATUNDE SOFOLUWE

The events of the last one year have truly brought to life the person of Professor Adetokunbo Babatunde Sofoluwe. He was not only a Professor of Computer Science, he was an epitome and paragon of humility. He had touched many lives and impacted differently on different people. Amazingly, Professor A. B. Sofoluwe as the Vice-Chancellor of this prestigious University was fond of walking about carrying files, moving unperturbed among students and staff. He was indeed very unassuming to say the least.

He was loving and generous as well. Those who knew him closely would readily admit that he was generous to a fault. He lived a simple life and believed in sharing. He enjoyed being surrounded by people, especially the young ones. He was imbued with a good sense of humour, and hardly could anyone stay with him without being elated.

Professor Sofoluwe was a seasoned and astute administrator. His contributions to the upliftment of the University of Lagos cannot be easily forgotten. His vision to see the University among the first hundred universities in the world was the driving force behind his passionate, selfless and meritorious service to our University. All that occupied his mind before his death was how well to celebrate the jubilee anniversary of his beloved University.

CONCLUSION

There will be nothing done to immortalize the name of Professor A. B. Sofoluwe that will be too much. Hence, the institution of the Annual Memorial Lecture by the Lagos State Branch of the UNILAG Alumni Association is a very welcome development and we appreciate the leadership of the Association for this. As Professor Sofoluwe passed through UNILAG, lived and died UNILAG.

As we celebrate our late former Vice-Chancellor, we are proud to say that his illuminating foray serves as benchmark for any administration that desires to deliver value on a consistently high level. The legacy he left behind is the compass that is guiding the administration of University of Lagos to the greater height envisaged by him while on earth. We have continued to march on the path of taking our University to a comfortable position in the league of top-class universities in the world in line with his vision and dream.

A more appropriate individual could not have been selected to deliver today's Lecture, as Distinguished-Professor Ibidapo-Obe worked closely with the late Professor Sofoluwe for many years. It was under his administration as the 8th Vice-Chancellor of UNILAG that the late Professor Sofoluwe served first as the Director of Academic Planning and later, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Management Services).

It is on this note that I urge you all to sit back and enjoy the Lecture in honour of Late Professor Adetokunbo Babatunde Sofoluwe, erudite scholar, great Mathematician and Computer Scientist, seasoned administrator and renowned professional. Adieu, continue to rest in the bosom of the Lord.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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

Wednesday, May 15, 2013