



**WELCOME REMARKS OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR,
PROFESSOR RAHAMON A. BELLO *FAEng*
AT THE SPECIAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH LECTURE FOR YOUTH
BY US AMBASSADOR WALTER CARRINGTON HELD
ON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2013
IN THE UNIVERSITY MAIN AUDITORIUM, AKOKA**

The Guest Lecturer, Ambassador (Dr) Walter C. Carrington,

Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

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

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

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

The Bursar, **Mr. L. A. Odekunle**

The Acting Librarian, **Dr. Okanlawon Adediji**

Deans and Directors here present,

Heads of Departments and Units

Our Dear Students,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Gentlemen of the Press,

It is a singular honour and great pleasure for me to welcome you to the most preferred University, **the University of First Choice and the Nation's Pride**, for this Special Black History Month Lecture to be delivered by the former United States Ambassador to Nigeria, Dr. Walter C. Carrington, a distinguished diplomat with deep ties with Nigeria.

The University of Lagos is glad to host this special lecture for Youth because it affords us all the opportunity to tap into the wealth of experience of this very renowned former ambassador, particularly as Americans all over the world celebrate the Black History

Month: a month dedicated to highlight the cultural heritage and contributions of African-Americans to America in particular and the world, in general.

The topic of this lecture "*Youth Empowerment*" is not only timely but relevant as Nigeria continues its trudge in democratic governance. It is obvious that every one of us has a role to play in ensuring the success of this country. It is however crucial for individuals, particularly the youths, to be fully empowered to be able to take up their roles as the development engines of the nation. This Lecture therefore provides the right platform for the discussion and evaluation of youth empowerment as a gateway to intergenerational equity, civic engagement , freedom, liberty and democratic principles for nation building and integration.

I am convinced that Dr. Walter C. Carrington has the required expertise and knowledge to deliver a thought-provoking and action-inspiring Lecture. Do sit back and enjoy the Lecture.

Before I end this remarks, I must not forget to recognize the presence of Dr (Mrs.) Walter Carrington, the wife of Ambassador Carrington, who is one of us. Dr (Mrs.) Carrington is a Nigerian by birth but an American by marriage. She stood by her husband during the political turbulent of June 12, 1992 in Nigeria. You are welcome to the number one University in Nigeria and number 16 in Africa as at today.

Once again, I welcome you to University of Lagos, the most preferred University and the Center of Excellence. I thank you all for your attention.

Professor Rahamon A. Bello FAEng
Vice-Chancellor,
University of Lagos, Nigeria.
Thursday, February 14, 2013