

# UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, NIGERIA



## OPENING REMARKS DELIVERED BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR RAHAMON A. BELLO, *FAEng* ON THE OCCASION OF THE FORMAL INAUGURATION OF THE LAGOS STATE DEVELOPMENT FUND PROFESSORIAL CHAIR IN TAX AND FISCAL MATTERS ON THURSDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2015

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, FNIM**,  
The Bursar, **Dr. Lateef Odekunle**,  
The University Librarian, **Dr. (Mrs.) Olukemi A. Fadehan**,  
The Provost, College of Medicine, **Professor Folasade T. Ogunsola**,  
The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Professor Eddy Omolehinwa  
Other members of the Board  
All Deans and Directors, here present  
All Heads of Departments, here present  
Members of the University Community  
Members of the Press  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Council, Management, Senate, Staff and Students of the University of Lagos, **The University of First Choice and The Nation's Pride**, I wholeheartedly welcome you to the Formal Inauguration of the Board of Trustees of the Lagos State Development Fund Professorial Chair in Tax and Fiscal Matters.

This is indeed an auspicious occasion which has been made possible by the determination of Lagos State Government to promote a very highly desired interface between the government and our University. The endowment of a Professorial Chair in Tax and Fiscal Matters, is bound to add necessary value to the operation of the state Government which derives most of its resources from taxation, while the University will have the opportunity of researching further into this area and adding value to its host state.

It is worthy of note that the endowment of the Professorial Chair being inaugurated today, arose from a proposal submitted to the immediate past Governor of Lagos State, His Excellency Governor Babatunde Raji Fashola, *SAN*, by the Head of

Department, Commercial & Industrial Law, Professor J.E.O. Abugu, under the former Dean of Law, Professor I.O. Smith, SAN, sometime in December 2013, soliciting for the endowment of a Professorial Chair in Taxation and Fiscal Policy. I am happy to report that after series of interactions between the University and the Lagos State Government, this initiative eventually yielded the desired fruits, hence the formal inauguration today of the Lagos State Research Development Fund Professorial Chair in Tax and Fiscal Matters.

I will like to express my sincere appreciation to the Lagos State Government, for partnering with the University of Lagos in enhancing the frontiers of academic knowledge in our noble institution through the endowment of the Professorial Chair.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am also enthralled by the membership of the Board of Trustees. These are men and women of honour and integrity who I believe will execute and administer the obligations contained in the Trust Deed.

It is my pleasure to present to you the Board of Trustees of the Lagos State Research Development Fund Professorial Chair in Tax and Fiscal Matters with the following composition:

- Chairman and Vice-Chancellor's nominee- Professor Eddy Omolehinwa, a renowned Professor of Accounting and Former Dean, Faculty of Business Administration, University of Lagos. He has been specially selected to provide necessary guide into the operations of the Board. He is today, one of the topmost experts in Tax matters in Nigeria.

Other members are:

- **Members representing the interest of the University**

1. Dr. (Mrs) Taiwo Folasade Ipaye – Registrar
2. Dr. Lateef Alani Odekunle – Bursar
3. Professor Akin Ibidapo-Obe – Dean, Faculty of Law
4. Professor Joseph E.O. Abugu – Head of Department, Commercial & Industrial Law
5. Mrs. Ibiroke Abosede Salaam – Director, Office of Advancement

- **Members representing the interest of Lagos State Government**

1. Mrs Funlola Adesola Odunlami – Solicitor General and Permanent

Secretary, Ministry of Justice

2. Mrs Omauton Yetunde Jegede - Director/Executive Secretary Lagos State Scholarship Board
3. Mrs. Adefolahan Olufemi Amore – Director, Agency for Mass Education
4. Mr. Sutton Semesa Bamidele - Director , Higher Education Services, Office of the Special Adviser on Education.

Once again, we thank the Lagos State Government for supporting this laudable initiative, even as we look forward to a long-lasting mutually beneficial relationship between the University and the Lagos State Government, under the able leadership of His Excellency, Mr. Akinwunmi Ambode, the Executive Governor of Lagos State, who is an alumnus of this great University.

May I also seize this opportunity to call on other public spirited Nigerians to emulate the Lagos State Government by supporting the Endowment drive of the University.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, we enjoin you to take a decision today to partner with us so that the University of Lagos can achieve its ultimate goal of being the best University in Africa and one of the leading Universities in the world.

Finally, I want to assure this gathering that as soon as the Board is inaugurated today, they would begin the process of finding a suitable person of proven academic excellence to occupy the Chair.

I thank you all for your attention.

God bless you all, God bless the University of Lagos, God bless the Lagos State Government, and God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

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