The former Executive Secretary of the National University Commission (NUC), Professor Peter Okebukola has frowned at the way professorial appointments are being awarded in Nigerian Universities. He decried the alleged appointment to professorial positions of some university teachers by management of universities without observance of due academic rigours and other pre-requisites necessary before such appointment is made and stated that the country is full of roadside professors.

Okebukola who was the Guest Lecturer at the 2014 Foundation Day Lecture of Osun State University, Osogbo, in his lecture titled: “When Will the Glory Days of Nigerian Universities Be Here”, explained that award of professorial appointment in the country is fraudulent.

The quintessential university administrator insisted that the education system in the country can only be better if the manipulation in the professorial appointment is eliminated. His words “some people just call themselves professors without any rigours in the appointment process. Those that were appointed as a professor without the necessary rigours are roadside professors. There are many of them calling themselves professors but they have not passed through the normal rigours of scholarship. So they are roadside professors”.

Okebukola said that the situation is disturbing to the extent that the Executive Secretary of National University Commission even came out with an announcement that those who have not passed through the necessary rigours of becoming professors must stop parading themselves as professors because it amounts to fraudulent practice.

According to him, “NUC is addressing the problem of the roadside professors and if they desist from introducing themselves as professors, they would be arrested and charged for forgery. Definitely, there must be sanction, he said”.

The former Pro-Chancellor of UNIOSUN noted that there is inefficiency in the post graduate schools as a result of which Nigerians are going abroad for their post graduate studies.

He also said that Nigerian Universities are not following the spirit of the post Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) test. Prof Okebukola said the universities are expected to only make the students write essay on a field related to the course they want to study in the university and not written multiple-choice examination.
He added that the university should desist from subjecting the students to any form of examination after the UTME as such would go against the law. “The Universities can only make the students write essay and use the avenue to see and interact with their prospective students but the universities have deviated and turned the post UTME test to another examination after the students had written the UTME and that is against the law”

Okebukola who was among the founding fathers of Osun State University was proud to say that UNIOSUN was established to be a world class university and that the institution is still on the right track.

OKESINA SPELLS OUT BENEFITS OF JATROPHA OIL

The Vice-Chancellor of the Osun State University, (UNIOSUN), Osogbo, Prof. Adekunle Okesina, has spelt out the benefits of Jatropha oil, saying it is healthy for human and safe for the environment.

Prof. Okesina made this known last Wednesday (September 24, 2014), at the 4th International Conference on Jatropha Plant themed Emerging Trends and Issues on Jatropha – A Green Gold Plant.

Prof. A.B. Okesina, who was the Guest Lecturer at the Conference, said, “There are clear advantages to using plant oil instead of traditional biomass for cooking. These include the health benefits from reduced smoke inhalation, and environmental benefits from avoiding the loss of forest cover and lower harmful GHG emissions, particularly carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxide.”

He also asserted that technology has made Jatropha soap making into a viable small-scale rural enterprise appropriate to many rural areas of developing countries, adding that Jatropha soap is valued as a medicinal soap for treating skin ailments. Prof. Okesina also stated that making Jatropha soap can be highly profitable, but has limited commercial potential, as the quality is poor in comparison to imported soaps.

Speaking at the conference organised by the University of Ilorin Jatropha Development and Maintenance Committee in collaboration with the Society for the Conservation of Phytofuel and Sciences, Prof. Okesina submitted that Jatropha seed cake makes an excellent organic fertilizer with high nitrogen content similar to, or better than, chicken manure, noting that it also contains a lot of macronutrient. “I hereby provoke stakeholders such as youth and women researchers, especially those in the manufacturing and processing (agro-allied) industries, to covet a green finger in action. It is obvious that Jatropha is unequivocally a green gold plant that should not be under-exploited”, Prof. Okesina said.

In his opening address, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. AbdulGaniyu Ambali, said that in the age of information and data sharing, universities must venture out to seek and rub minds with kindred spirits in order to add value to their activities. He commended the organisers of the conference for choosing a theme that focused on emerging issues. Prof. Ambali, in the address entitled “Solid Products” and delivered on his behalf by the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ilorin, Prof. Yekini Abayomi, expressed the hope that the conference would explore new benefits of the
plant as well as laid a solid foundation for the conversion of theoretical insights into solid products that the society would benefit from. “The University looks forward to receiving proposals on how the products of Jatropha such as seeds, de-shelled seeds, oil, leaves, liquid, seed hulls and trunk can result in the production of insecticides, medicine against constipation, oil production, soap production, cosmetics, organic fertilizer, disinfectant, tea against malaria, among other products”, the Vice-Chancellor emphasized.

The President and Chairman of the Conservation of Phytofuel and Sciences/Plantation Development and Maintenance Committee at the 4th international conference on Jatropha, Prof. M. A. Belewu, in his welcome address, thanked the Minister of Agriculture, Prof. Akinwumi Adesina, for gracing the conference. He stated that the Minister’s presence “clearly shows the commitment of the Federal Government towards ensuring a safe and sound environment as well as improving the standard of living of the populace. The Minister of Agriculture was represented by Engr. Akeju Olagbaju, a Director in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

NUC COMMENDS TWO DECADES OF QUALITY CONTROL IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

The Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission (NUC), Professor Julius A. Okojie, OON, has said that quality control in Tertiary Institutions had received much prominence in the last twenty years, especially through the trio of the NUC, the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) and the National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE) through internal and external mechanisms of quality assurance. Professor Okojie who was represent by a Visiting Professor and Chairman, Standing Committee on Private Universities (SCOPU), Professor Akaneren Essien, said this while delivering a lead paper at the National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, with the theme: “Service Delivery and Quality Control for Industrial Relations, Labour Productivity and National Productivity in the Education Sector: The Role of Regulatory Bodies.” He noted that the theme was thoughtfully selected in recognition of the understanding of the extent to which poor industrial relations and low productivity could jeopardise national development.

The Executive Secretary said that regulatory agencies in Nigeria were established by law to monitor and ensure effective implementation of Government Developmental Policies by various designated Government organisations. He added that some of them were charged with the responsibility of ensuring orderly development of tertiary institutions in Nigeria, stressing that NUC, among other roles, ensured good service delivery and control for industrial harmony in the Nigerian University System (NUS). Professor Okojie told the participants that that NUC’s mandate was to ensure that the orderly development of a well-coordinated and productive system that would guarantee quality and relevant education for national development and global competitiveness. He disclosed that a number of variables had been employed in determining quality assurance of academic programmes which included the accreditation of academic programmes or institutions, Monitoring, Assessment and Evaluation of existing staff strength, students and facilities, capacity building for teaching and non-teaching staff members, exchange programme for teaching personnel, prescription of benchmarks and periodic review and production of instruments on minimum academic standards as well as external moderation system. The NUC Scribe, while explaining the role of the regulatory agencies in ensuring harmonious industrial relations in the tertiary education system, said that industrial relations was one of the most delicate and complex challenges of modern industrial society, adding that industrial progress was impossible without harmonious relationships and the cooperation of labour. He said that it also involved
interactions between employers, employees and the Government, and the institutions and associations through which such interactions were mediated.

Professor Okojie explained that the university community was made up of teaching and nonteaching staff, represented by their respective unions, adding that there were four unions in the system at present - the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), the National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT), the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) and the Non-Academic Staff of Universities (NASU). He noted that these unions were supposed to be working harmoniously with university management in repositioning the system to attain the objectives for which the institutions were established.

The Executive Secretary noted that the incessant industrial crises in the universities had on several occasions, compelled the Federal Government to empanel a team to negotiate on its behalf with the university-based unions in order to restore lasting peace in the system. In the process, he said, the NUC, as the regulatory agency, had been playing a pivotal role in ensuring hitch-free collective bargaining between the Federal Government and the university based unions. Professor Okojie said that the Commission had also been actively involved in the implementation and monitoring of all the agreements reached between the Government and the University Unions, adding that most of the time, the NUC bargained issues presented by the unions which, he said, often centred mainly on Conditions of Service (Salaries and Earned Allowances). He added that Funding, University Autonomy and Academic Freedom, among others, were believed to be helpful in addressing the rot in the system and repositioning the universities for relevance in the national development.

The National Universities Commission (NUC)’s Deputy Executive Secretary, Research and Special Projects and President, African Quality Assurance Network (AFRIQAN), Professor Chiedu Mafiana, has called for more investments in Africa’s Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) as a way of guaranteeing stronger academic institutions that would contribute to the development of the continent’s intellectual resources.

The Deputy Executive Secretary made the call at the 6th International Conference on Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Africa (ICQAHEA) with the theme Post-2015: Emerging Developments in Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Africa, which took place in Bujumbura, Burundi, from 15 – 19 September, 2014. He stated that sound and strategic investments in higher education in Africa would engender rapid development for the continent.

PROF. MAFIANA CALLS FOR MORE INVESTMENTS IN AFRICA’S HEIS

Education Institutions (HEIs) as a way of guaranteeing stronger academic institutions that would contribute to the development of the continent’s intellectual resources.

While recounting some of the activities of AFRIQAN in the previous year, the President noted that the Network had organised professional capacity development through staff exchange programmes, where staff from emerging national regulatory bodies were supported to spend time at established quality assurance agencies. He added that AFRIQAN had organised workshops for members to network and share ideas.

The President advised on the need for better cooperation between member states to dissolve linguistic barrier that existed in the continent. He also called for increased financial commitment of member
institutions and individuals to boost the financial strength of AFRIQAN to adequately and effectively take care of its mandate and projects.

Earlier, while declaring the Conference open, the Honourable Minister of Education and Scientific Research, Burundi, Hon. Joseph Butore, who was represented by the Director-General in the Ministry, Professor Anastasie Gasogo, expressed delight at the choice of Burundi for the 6th IC-QAHEA at a time when his country was putting measures in place to refocus its quality imperatives.

The Honourable Minister expressed the confidence that the objectives of the Conference would assist institutions in Africa, particularly, to deepen their understanding of quality assurance and acquisition of skills towards the improvement of quality. Burundi, according to the Minister, had established a National Commission for Higher Education to preserve standards and improve quality. He expressed optimism that Burundi would benefit from the Conference and advised stakeholders to ensure that recommendations from the Conference were followed up for adequate implementation.

In his opening remarks, the Ambassador of the European Union to Burundi, His Excellency, Patrick Spirlet, stated that policy improvements in higher education were gaining grounds all over the world as improved quality of education had put nations on a better pedestal. He stressed the fact that higher education was developing in greater dimensions with high level of cooperation amongst nations. Enumerating some challenges of higher education, he advised that quality assurance should be in harmony with other initiatives for the overall benefit of the higher education sub-sector.

In a keynote address, the former President, Commonwealth of Learning and former Assistant Director-General of the UNESCO, Sir John Daniel, who was represented by a former Executive Secretary of the NUC, Professor Peter Okebukola, informed participants of the recent challenges of higher education and the landscape of the sub-sector, which, he noted, was changing all over the world. He observed that youth unemployment was on the rise, globally, adding that some youths in Africa were idle, even as employers in the continent complained of graduates who lacked the appropriate skills. He recommended the diversification of providers and provisions of higher education in Africa.

The highpoints of the Conference were the presentation of the 5th GUNI World Report on Higher Education by Professor Peter Okebukola and the presentation of the GUNi-Africa and the AfriQAN award to Professor Goolam Mohammedbhai, Professor Juma Shabani and Professor Peter Okebukola for their tireless work on quality assurance in higher education in Africa. The Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) and the European Union (EU) also received awards for their support for quality assurance in higher education in Africa.

The objectives of the 2014 Conference were to review national and continental developments in quality assurance in higher education in Africa up to 2014; document best practices in higher education quality assurance from other regions of the world and draw lessons for the African context for the promotion of quality culture; forecast post-2015 developments in quality assurance in higher education in Africa from initiatives by bodies at the continental (e.g. African Union); and global (e.g. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) levels; and deepen understanding of the concept and implementation paradigm of the African Higher Education and Research Space (AHERS) and the African Union Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework.

Other objectives were to foster the acquisition of skills in (a) the implementation of the revised Arusha Convention; (b) measurement and modelling of quality in higher education; (c) quality assurance of open and distance learning delivery systems; (d) strengthen-ing effective implementation of LMD reforms; (e) quality assurance of emerging non-traditional higher education delivery systems; (f) setting up and running effective quality assurance units at the institutional level; and (g) Tuning and Credit Transfer; identify challenges to quality in higher education in Africa and propose
At the end of the Conference, participants noted that public demand for higher education was increasing and that globalisation was bringing its impact to bear on quality assurance, thus increasing the concern for quality in the continent and justifying the need for a Pan African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework. They expressed appreciation to the African Union Commission for initiating and commissioning the study on the Pan African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework. Participants also noted that the Framework was necessary for quality attainment, maintenance and improvement in the continent.

The participants recommended that the modalities and machinery for the establishment of the Pan African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework be put in place without delay for the post 2015 quality improvement on the continent and that political cooperation be enhanced to facilitate the implementation of the Framework. They also recommended that stakeholders should embark on advocacy drive to ensure the successful implementation of the Framework as well as the strengthening of AfriQAN and the Association of African Universities to facilitate its implementation. They resolved that gender and quality in Higher Education be included in the Framework.

The NUC delegation to the Conference was led by the Chairman, Quality Assurance Committee of the NUC Board, Professor Anthony Elueze. Other members of the delegation were Professor Simeon Achinewhu; Professor Danjuma Gwany; Professor Kabir Bala; Professor Chris Nwamuoo; Director, Open and Distance Education, Dr. Suleiman Ramon-Yusuf; Director, Quality Assurance, Dr. Noel Saliiu and Miss Olayemi Dada.

The Conference endorsed that Nigeria should host the 7th International Conference on Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Africa which would take place in Abuja, in 2015.

**NINE NEW PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES COMING - PROF. OKOJIE AT PRESS LUNCHEON**

The National Universities Commission has concluded all arrangements to recommend to the Federal Executive Council (FEC), the names of nine new Private Universities for approval and licensing by the Federal Government. The Executive Secretary of the Commission, Professor Julius A. Okojie, OON, disclosed this while addressing the Education Correspondents Association of Nigeria (ECAN) at the Monthly Press Luncheon, held on Tuesday 23, September, 2014, at the Rockview Hotel, Abuja, adding that the Standing Committee on Private Universities (SCOPU) had concluded all due diligence on the proposed universities.

Professor Okojie stated that the luncheon was aimed at interacting with the Press on the Progress being made in the NUS had grown in spite of the obvious challenges of the proliferation of illegal universities, impersonation. The Executive Secretary, who spoke on many topical issues that bordered mainly on the vision and mission as well as the regulatory activities of the NUC, said that the establishment of new universities would further expand the system, thereby creating more access for the teeming candidates who aspired to enroll for university education. He noted that university education had continued to be the most preferred choice by the teeming higher education by some fake professors, abuse of academic titles, among other elements of indiscipline in the system. He said that with the level of participation of private universities the future was bright for quality and stable education system in the country.

The NUC Scribe reminded the press that the Commission could only succeed in its endeavours with its collaboration, urging practitioners to do thorough investigation of issues before publishing same in line with the ethics of journalism. He enjoined them to be partners in progress by helping the Commission identify illegal “Degree Mills”,
affirming that, with the increasing demand for access, there was the need to consistently inform the general public of the activities of illegal universities that were defrauding unsuspecting candidates. The Executive Secretary asserted that the pride and future of education in Nigeria rested mainly with the private sector as, according to him, the sectors had the organisational discipline required to achieve this feat. He explained that the Commission had recently developed Post-graduate Benchmark Minimum Academic Standards (PG-BMAS) which was being used for the accreditation of PG programmes.

Responding to questions raised by press men, Professor Okojie dis-closed that the 2014 comprehensive accreditation exercise would commence in November this year and that the exercise would cover

**NUC SET TO ACCREDIT PG PROGRAMMES**

The National Universities Commission (NUC) on Monday, 22 September, 2014 held a coordination meeting for the accreditation of Postgraduate Programmes in Administration Discipline taught in Nigerian Universities at the NUC auditorium, Abuja.

Declaring the event open, the Executive Secretary, NUC, Professor Julius A. Okojie, OON, recalled that in June, 2012, the Commission formally distributed the Benchmark Minimum Academic Standard (BMAS) for Postgraduate Programme for Nigerian Universities to implement. He noted that the BMAS had, since then, become the minimum requirements or the quality assurance parameters for the operation of Post graduate education in Nigeria, adding that the NUC developed the BMAS in keeping with its statutory mandate of the orderly development of university education in Nigeria. Professor Okojie said that the NUC started the process of the document in 2004, in con junction with relevant stakeholders and that in 2006 the MBA programme was accredited, adding that the development of other post-graduate BMAS documents was subsequently embarked upon. He disclosed that the first postgraduate degree in Nigeria was awarded in 1952 by the University College, Ibadan (UCI), stressing that since then, monumental growth had been recorded in terms of number of universities and postgraduate student output.

The Executive Secretary explained that the postgraduate BMAS guided the total academic requirement for a student and the teaching of courses in the Nigerian University System (NUS), noting that the document had been in use for two years and stress that it was now time to subject the quality of the programmes to Peer Assessment. He disclosed that the meeting was designed to take panel members through the newly developed Post-graduate Evaluation Form (PEF) and Accreditation Panel Report Form (APRF)

In a welcome, address, the Director, Quality Assurance, Dr. Neol Saliu, said that the event was an initial step towards the accreditation of PG programmes, apart from the MBA which, he said, was purely professional. He noted that, having been charged with the responsibility of ensuring the orderly development of universities in Nigeria.

The Deputy Executive Secretary, Professor Chiedu Mafiana and the Director, Quality Assurance, Dr. Neol Saliu took the panel members through the post-graduate accreditation process.

**NEWS FROM OTHER UNIVERSITIES**

UNILAG HONOURS PROFESSOR OLAYIDE ABASS WITH FESTSCHRIFT

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lagos, Professor Rahamon A. Bello hosted the public presentation of a festschrift in honour of renowned Professor of Computer Science, Prof. Olayide Abass FNCS, FCPN, FAS, OON on September 30, 2014 at the Afe Babalola Lecture Theater, University of Lagos
The book titled **OLAYIDE ABASS: ON THE DYNAMICS OF AN EVOLVING KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY** is the 4th in the series of Festschrift(s) in honour of prominent and eminent retired UNILAG researchers and administrators who have made significant contributions to the University, in particular and society at large.

The University of Lagos Festschrift Group presented a Festschrift in November, 2002 to mark the 70th birthday of cerebral Late Professor Emeritus Ifedayo O. Oladapo, NNOM. This was followed with the publication of **“OGUNYE: Giant Strides in Engineering Education Research and Innovation”** (University of Lagos Press 2012) – a Festschrift in honour of Professor Ayodele Francis Ogunye in 2012. In July 2013, Distinguished Professor Vincent O.S. Olunloyo NNOM was also honoured with a Festschrift.

A call has gone to Nigerians to employ the rich African tradition of indigenous philanthropy to drive development agenda in various communities.

The call came from the wife of Ekiti State Governor, Erelu Bisi Fayemi at the opening of Centre Studies, which she donated to Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife, Osun State, she also donated 600 volumes of books from her personal library to the centre, stated her commitment to the promotion and development of issues related to womenfolk.

She said: “My deep commitment to ensuring local ownership of development agenda is what led me to team up with two other African women to co-found the African Women’s Development Fund 14 years ago in Ghana and which has so far supported over 1,500 women organisations in at least 42 African countries with husband and Ekiti State Governor, Dr. Kayode Fayemi, appreciated the commitment of the university management in partnering alumni of the institution to enhance the institution’s development.

The Vice Chancellor of the university, Professor Bamitale Omole, noted the support the university receives from Mrs. Fayemi, stressing that the centre would raise the state in gender and social policy studies. Prof. Omole observed that the centre would help in practicalising various conventions signed at international level on gender-related matters.

The newly constituted Governing Council of the University Ibadan is resolutely determined to move forward the oldest and foremost institution in Nigeria. This was disclosed by the new Pro Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Gen. Adeyinka Adebayo (rtd) during the inaugural meeting of the Council today in the Council Chamber of the institution. The new Chairman told members to bear in mind the sanctity of the Council’s central role which is to transform the University to a world-class institution. He noted the outstanding achievements of the immediate past Governing
Council under the leadership of Chief Wole Olanipekun, SAN. According to him, “Council performed excellently during his tenure having put in place a policy framework for the University Administration to function effectively and operate in a conducive environment.” Gen. Adebayo charged staff and students to see the University as their collective heritage which must be sustained. His words: “We must re-orient the mindset of students, staff (Academic and non-teaching) manpower and Council that we all own this University on behalf of the entire people of Nigeria and destroying it would amount to destroying our own thing, and to build it up, would enhance our stature and bequeath a worthy legacy to a future generation.”

Welcoming the new members of Council, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Isaac Adewole said the University management would work closely with the new Council, stressing that a robust relationship would enable the University to move forward. The VC later took members on a general tour of places of interest on campus which included the International Conference Centre, UI Water Factory, Fire Station and Ajibode Extension, especially Wole Olanipekun Law Lecture Theatre. Other places visited were some ongoing projects which included the Fish Farm, channelization of Oba Stream and the vertical extension of the medical Library of the College of Medicine. At the College of Medicine, Gen. Adebayo drew the attention of staff to the inadequate funding of Universities and charged them to rededicate themselves. “A lot of money is being spent on all Universities unlike when your University is the only one. I appeal to you to continue to do your best for this University. UI is a pride to all of us”, he said.

Accompanying the Chairman on the visits were Amb. Lawrence Ekpebu (External Member) Senator Doguwa El-Jubril (External Member) Barr. Samuel Nwatu (External Member) Dr. Uche Mba (External Member) and Dr. Nathaniel Merenu (External Member). Others were Prof. Arinola O. Sanya, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Prof. Idowu Olayinka Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Bayo Okunade (Internal Member), Prof. Bankole Oke (Internal Member), Prof. Ezekiel Ayoola (Internal Member) Prof. Oluwole Abatan (Internal Member) and Mr. Olujimi Olukoya, Registrar and Secretary to Council. Also on the visits were Mr. Olaniyi Aponmade, Bursar, Dr. Benedict Oladele, University Librarian, Prof. Olusegun Akinyinka, Provost, College of Medicine, Mr. Olatunji Oladejo, Director of Public Communication and Mr. Ibukun Akinbola, acting Deputy Registrar (Council).

The Islamic Welfare Foundation (IWF), in collaboration with the Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) and the University of Ilorin, has announced the 2014 Conference on Islam in Nigeria (COIN). The conference comes up between November 23 and November 26, 2014 at the University of Ilorin.

According to a statement signed by the former Dean of Law, University of Ilorin, who is also the National Secretary of IWF, Prof. Abdulwahab Egbeowole, the theme of the 2014 conference is: “Islam and the Nigerian State- A Centenary of Building Theocracy and Secularism”.


UNILORIN HOSTS CONFERENCE ON ISLAM IN NIGERIA
President Goodluck Jonathan has conferred the award of National Honours on the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. AbdulGaniyu Ambali, and his immediate predecessor, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, alongside 303 other distinguished Nigerians and friends of Nigeria. While Prof. Ambali was honoured with the Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON) award, Prof. Oloyede received the award of the Officer of the Federal Republic (OFR) in the 2013/2014 edition of the National Honours Award.

The two consummate academics and astute administrators formally received the awards from the President on Monday, September 29, 2014 at the International Conference Centre, Abuja. A breakdown of the award list shows that of the 305 awardees, 24 persons would be honoured with CFR, 59, CON; 51, OFR; 61, OON; 53, MFR, 55, MON, while one person each will get FRM I and FRM II. The conferment of the national honours award on Prof. Ambali and Prof. Oloyede is another recognition of the great contributions that the two have made to the nation's educational development. It is on record that the University of Ilorin has run a very stable academic calendar such that the institution has not witnessed any workers' strike or students' unrest since more than a decade ago.

When he was at the helm of affairs between 2007 and 2012, Prof. Oloyede brought a number of revolutionary changes to bear on the management of the University, great legacies that were sustained and even improved upon by his successor, Prof. Ambali. On several occasions, President Jonathan, some of his ministers and even federal lawmakers have had cause to pour encomiums on the administrative wizardry of the University's successive Vice-Chancellors. During the 29th Convocation ceremonies of the University last October, President Jonathan, commended the University's "stable and uninterrupted academic calendar for several years now", and remarked that "this positive step, which has been the hallmark of this institution, has brought notable achievements to the University in all spheres of its endeavour."

A private university in Ilorin, the Kwara capital, Al-Hikmah, on Saturday graduated 658 students, with 16 of them bagging First Class degrees. Speaking at the fourth convocation ceremony of the university, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sulyman AbdulKareem, said 175 other students graduated in the Second Class Upper Division while 287 had Lower Division.

AbdulKareem admonished the graduating students to allow the teachings of God reflect in their character, thoughts and way of life. “At all times, you need to be just, upright and consistent in your action and behaviour toward the realisation of a virile and humane society for all,” he said.

The vice chancellor also called on government to take positive steps toward checking incessant strikes in tertiary institutions. “The state of education in the country also calls for urgent attention. The Federal Government should declare a state of emergency at all levels of the education sector in the country,” he said. Also speaking at the occasion, the university’s Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, Alhaji Ibrahim Coomassie, lauded the pace at which the institution was developing.

He commended the university’s management for providing sound and qualitative university education. The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the
occasion also featured award of honorary degrees to Mallam Yusuf Ali (SAN) and the Speaker of Oyo State House of Assembly, Monsurat Sunmonu. (NAN)

PROF. KAYODE ALAO’S WIFE IS NOW AN IYALODE

The wife of a university Don has been installed the Iyalode of Owu Kuta, in Ayedire local government area of Osun State. She is Mrs Alao Tolulola Oyebola Linda. Mrs Alao was installed the Iyalode of Owu Kuta by His Royal Highness Olowu of Kuta Oba Hammed Adekunle Oyelude (Tewogbosun III) over the weekend.

Chief (Mrs) Alao is the wife of Prof Kayode Ayodeji Alao, a Visiting Professor of Guidance and Counselling at College of Education, Ipetu-Ijesa Campus.

The installation ceremony which was witnessed by dignitaries from all works of life and from far and near had in attendance the Vice Chancellor of Osun State University, Prof A.B. Okesina, Prof Siyan Oyeweso, Prof Koya Ogen, Mr Abokede Oladeji and Mr Temitope Owolabi.

We, at Uniosun News and Notes (UNN), rejoice with the family of Prof Kayode Alao and wish the new Iyalode of Owu Kuta Chief (Mrs) Tolulola Alao long productive and peaceful reign as Iyalode, in good health. We say Congratulations, "Oye a mori o”

CV RAMAN INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP FOR AFRICAN RESEARCHERS

The Department of Science & Technology and Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, is implementing CV Raman International fellowship for African researchers to promote scientific cooperation with Africa. The fellowship provides opportunities for African researchers to conduct research/training for 1 to 6 months duration at Universities and Research Institutions. The ministry is now making the announcement of 5th Call of CV Raman Fellowship Programme. Last date for receiving the applications is September 30, 2014.

Fields of Research/Training
All fields of natural and engineering sciences, including mathematics and statistics are included under this programme. Humanities and behavioral sciences are not covered under this programme

Applications may be submitted using any one of the following modes –
• Online application through www.indoafrica-cvrf.in
• By emailing scan copy of duly filled-in application form and supporting documents to scholars@ficci.com
• By submitting duly filled-in application forms along with supporting documents to Mr. Nirankar Saxena, Sr. Director, S&T/Innovation, FICCI, New Delhi, India.

Types of Fellowship Offered
(a) Doctoral / Post Doctoral Fellowship: Duration 6 months
(b) Visiting Fellowship: Duration 3 months
(c) Senior Fellowship: Duration 1 month

Eligibility Criteria
(a) Applicant should be a citizen/permanent resident of an eligible African country having diplomatic relations with India.
(b) Applicant should be actively engaged in research at any recognized university or research institution in any one of the African countries.
(c) Minimum Academic Qualifications

**Doctoral / Post Doctoral Fellowship:**
Completed/Pursuing PhD in any recognized university or research institution in Africa

**Visiting Fellowship:**
Ph.D / M.Tech/M.Sc or or 4 to 6 years of research/ teaching experience.

**Senior Fellowship:**
Senior Experts / Scientists / Professors

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Fortunate is the person who has developed the self-control to steer a straight course towards his objective in life, without being swayed from his purpose by either commendation or condemnation. ~ Napoleon Hill

When you get in a tight place and everything goes against you, till it seems as though you could not hold on a minute longer, never give up then, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn. ~ Harriet Beecher Stowe

If you're not willing to accept your own discipline, you're not going to accomplish two percent of what you could--and you're going to miss out on 98% of the good things you could have. - Tom Hopkins

It is human nature to get depressed by setbacks, but it is a superhuman task to rise above your circumstances and rewrite your destiny. The one that stands erect and unfazed, in the face of adversity, ultimately leaves the footprints to success.~ Author Unknown