

Royal Congratulations to a Man of Honour

**I His Royal Majesty Oba
Akinola Oyetade Akinrera,
Latiri 1. Olubosin of Ifetedo**

heartily rejoice with my Baba Oba, Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN as he receives the Synochure international magazine Role model of the year award. My dear Baba Oba, you are an outstanding Role model and community leader to our terming youths that look up to you. Your contributions to the development of Ifetedo can never be erased in the sand of time. You have contributed immensely to the development of your people and it is time for us to celebrate you. We pray Almighty God continue to prosper you and grant you more wonderful years in good health and sound mind.



Congratulations



Signed
HRM OBA AKINOLA OYETADE AKINRERA
Latiri 1, Olubosin Of Ifetedo.

Hearty Congratulations



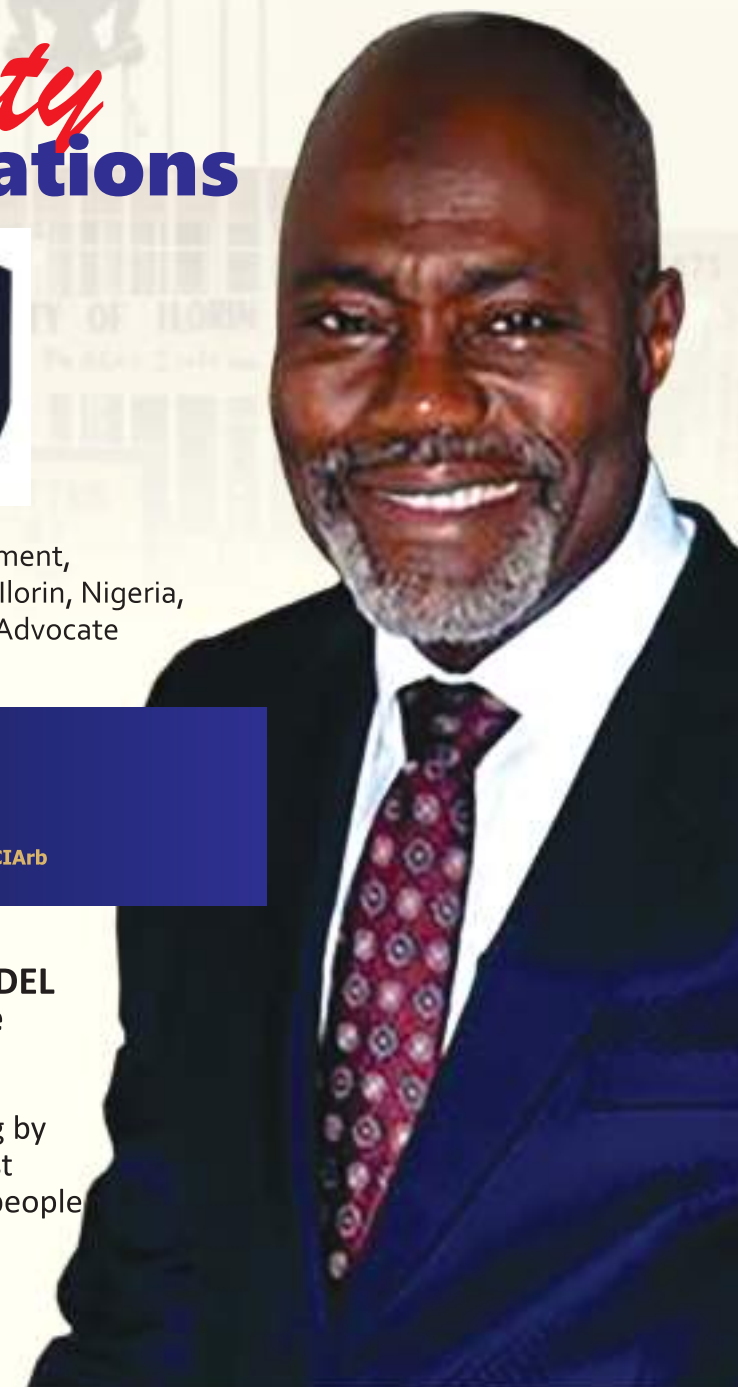
On behalf of Council, Senate, Management,
Staff and Students of the University of Ilorin, Nigeria,
I heartily congratulate our dear Senior Advocate

**Mallam Yusuf
Olaolu Ali** SAN, FCIArb

on your selection as **ROLE MODEL
OF THE YEAR** by the **Synochure
International Magazine**

This is a well-deserved award, going by
your antecedents as a Philanthropist
and humanitarian advocate of the people

We are proud to be associated
with you.



Congratulations!

Prof. Sulyman Age Abdulkareem
Vice-Chancellor

Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN: EPITOME OF INTEGRITY

Writing the story of Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN, Principal Partner, Ghalib Chambers naturally presents some difficulties like the six blind men trying to describe an elephant. Each blind man was asked to determine what an elephant looked like by feeling different parts of the giant animal. The blind man who feels a leg says the elephant is like a pillar; the one who feels the tail says the elephant is like a rope; the one who feels the trunk says the elephant is like a tree branch; the one who feels the ear says the elephant is like a hand fan; the one who feels the belly says the elephant is like a wall and the one who feels the tusk says the elephant is like a solid pipe.

The king said to them "All of you are right, the reason every one of you is telling it differently is because each one of you touched the different parts of the elephant. Actually, the elephant has all the features you mentioned."

No doubt, Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN has grown to be an elephant. Which aspect of his life can we write about that will fully project him, is it in the legal profession? Islamic activities? Mentorship? Community activities? Philanthropy? His respect for traditional Institutions? General goodness to people? His life as a responsible and responsive family man and father?. There are many sides of this enigma to pen. From every indication, Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN has been blessed by Almighty Allah to fulfil his mission in life, leaving it better than he met it. His greatest weapon is his reputation as a man of integrity and competence whose success is hinged on probity and honesty of purpose.

A detribalised Nigerian, people like him come once in a long while and they naturally stand out. They have the intellect, vision, drive and energy to get things done properly and on time.

The birth of this special publication on Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN was not an instant coffee. It was a long and painstaking exercise that saw us traversing the length and breadth of Nigeria within the limited time we had. We could not have done this without the support of Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN who is ever ready to support at the shortest notice most time at his inconvenience without shutting us out.

Rather, he always receives us with smile and words of encouragement. Also, Barrister (Mrs.) Taiwo Akintunde, Barrister Lanre Sulaiman, Barrister Austin Akindele and Mr. Abubakar Durosinolohun a.k.a Baba played a prominent role in the success of the publication.

For us at Synochure International Magazine, we join other people across the globe to celebrate the cerebral legal luminary.



'Lanre Olusunmade
Synochure international



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ENT

In this edition, our Role Model, Mallam Yusuf Ali took us down the memory lane, revealed the iron rods and raft that built him into a strong tower and he shed light on many thorny paths he walked to reach the citadel as he talked to our publisher, Lanre Olusunmade. Excerpts below:

We are here on a special interview with you on a special publication that we have dedicated to you as our Role Model of the year. Sir, I will start my question by asking, Ghalib is an Arabic name which means Victory. Why did you name your legal firm Ghalib?

Hmmm! May Allah rest the soul of my late wife. When the idea of setting up an office came up in 1994, I got home and we started discussing and said, "Look, can we start looking at names that we would name the office? The name was an idea of my late wife. Ghalib – victory in everything you do in life. Professionally, we always pray for victory, even socially, we pray for victory and even economically, we pray for victory, and in religious matters, we pray for victory.

So, the name was suggested by your late wife?

Yes!

May almighty Allah bless her soul Amin!

You were once to be appointed the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of the Federation but you turned it down

The offer came twice but I turned it down

Tell us what really transpired ... why you never accepted the offer?

Well, I think I know myself more than any other person and I know that I do not possess the talent or the ability of being a politician and since I don't have that kind of gift for a political appointment, it's better that I just keep-off; I should not be a part of anything I cannot make any difference. You'll hardly make

any difference in Nigerian politics especially when you are a subordinate. A minister is a subordinate to somebody. Making a difference is not easy when you have a principal.

Don't you think you can make an impact ... perhaps, change the narrative by occupying that position?

Well, it won't bring the kind of change you really desire. Democracy is about numbers; the minority will have their say and the majority will have their way. I have my own ideas of what Nigeria should look like but by being a Minister, you can't do much – no matter your views and visions because you are responsible to a principal who has his own vision and mission of what the country and what he wants as the President. So, being answerable to the president and his vision is a great barrier to effecting your desired change. Your plans and visions must align with that of the president in order to gain ground and from my study of the office since independence, rarely few people have been able to make impact there. Unfortunately, the office has been losing a shine progressively. I mean you can't compare the likes of Teslim Elias of blessed memory to some other people who have occupied the office. You are better off not going to a place that will mess you up. Whatever little integrity you have will vanish before your tenure finishes and besides, Nigeria is a country where even when you feel stronger about a matter, people will not allow you to

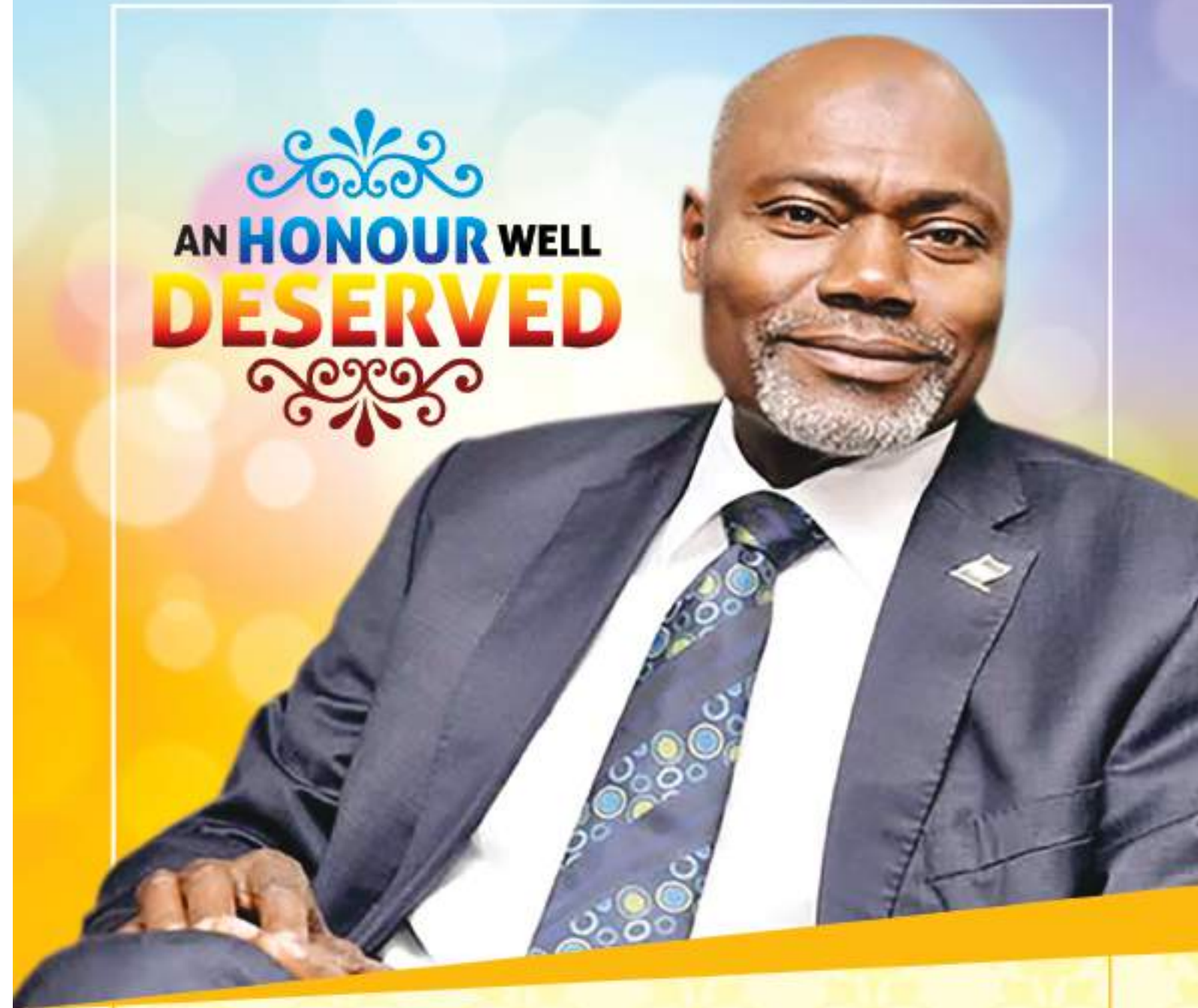
just resign and go away in peace. So, the best option is, if you cannot carry out the assignment your own way, don't venture into it because the people from your village, your mother's side, your father's family, your grandparents' lineage will start mounting pressure on you that you are wasting their slot, quote and unquote. My sense of being an Attorney General is an office that should be absolutely professional, that people should not be appointed based on politics or where they come from but from legal considerations and qualifications.

If I wanted to accept the position of Attorney General, I would insist that you cannot nominate me from any State. I want to be the Attorney General of the Federation, not a nominee from a certain state in the country who has to lobby senators from his place, lobby his state governor, and if issues that affect those places come up in his office after appointment, he will not be able to deal with them fairly. The bottom line is that somebody who should be Attorney General in a country like Nigeria should be somebody who should be begged to take up the position, not somebody who is begging for it. That's the only way we can get out of the problems.

As a lawyer, in what ways will you say the position of Attorney General of the Federation has been to some extent, bastardized in recent times? It has always been a controversy of the separation of the office between the office of the Attorney General which is the number one officer of the land and Minister of Justice.

I have never subscribed to that. I know in our country you are just going to start promoting and provoking more fights in the cabinet

**AN HONOUR WELL
DESERVED**



Our dear **Mallam Yusuf Ali SAN**, as you receive the synochure international magazine Role model of the year award. We are indeed honoured to join millions of your well wishers and family across the length and breadth of our dear nation in congratulating you on this well deserved honour. This indeed marks yet another Mile stone in the annals of your enviable achievements.

CONGRATULATIONS



Signed By:

**Prince & Otunba.
TUNDE PONLE.**

Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN

A Brilliant Man with a Giant Vision

In the history and propagation of Islam, three people were integral part of faith – Khadija Rosulullahi, the wife of Prophet Muhammed (SAW) who is the first woman to accept Islam, Abu Bakr, a merchant and friend of Prophet Muhammed. He was the first man to accept Islam and the last but not the least is Sayyidina Alli, the first boy or youngster to accept Islam.

This young chap, Sayyidina Alli (RTA) was said to be a brave warrior who fought in many Jihad battles and emerged victorious – though not without wound and bruises. This young lad was also recorded to be a son-in-law of this revered prophet as he was married to the beautiful daughter of Prophet, Fatimah, and they were both blessed with a set of twins – Hassan and Hussein. Alli was also the last Khalifa, who pushed Islam deeper than any other person in history.

Mallam Yusuf Ali can be likened to Sayyidina Alli, a strong man of faith. His undaunted faith in Allah is like a string that keeps his heart glued to his body and his belief in Prophet Muhammed and tenets of Islam are the strong pillars that shape his life and disposition.

Mallam Yusuf Ali is a man with many features – a brilliant lawyer, an Arabic scholar, a philanthropist, an aristocrat, a professional to the core, a family man, a visionary and a Moslem. As a man of principle, he might appear too tough for certain loafers but only an animal on a suicide mission will challenge a lion to a duel. The king of the jungle will never tuck his tail in-between his laps and turn his back to run away from any beast. Something in his DNA, since he was a cub has been telling him – *“You are the lion ... you are the jungle king ... you should roar, not bark like a dog ... you should hunt for prey ...”* Lions do not feed on dead animals; they kill and eat fresh animals.

Mallam Yusuf Ali's rise to the top is not a roller coaster, prices were paid to win the coveted prize. He endured pain to gain prominence. There were several nights of sleepless nights in cold weather without blankets to shield his body from the sharp needles of storm. He had low moments, high moments, crying period and of course, moments of joy and laughter.



my NYSC to serve at the old Kwara State. We were just about 15 lawyers in my set, and all of us were posted to the Ministry of Justice.

In those days, lawyers were not posted to private chambers. From the Ministry of Justice, we were reposted to various sections and strata. I was posted to the Judiciary where I was attached to the Late Honourable Justice Iduba Obayan who was at that time number 3 or 4 in the Hierarchy of High Court of Justice in the State. It was while I was there, that I made up my mind to either stay in Ilorin or go back to Ibadan and practise. I knew I won't be so occupied as such. I wanted to have the experience of practice in Northern Nigeria and Kwara being part of the North is an ideal place to start.

I approached Mr. Adegboyega Awomolo, now Asiwaju Adegboyega Awomolo, SAN, if I could be perching and learning in his office. Whenever I closed at the judiciary, I would go to his office in the evening. Along the line, I started resuming in his office because there wasn't much for me to do in the judiciary. I virtually did my NYSC in his office, though not official. After my NYSC, I continued in that office to actualise my own plan of learning Northern practice, and the rest is history. I was with him for 11 years before I started Ghalib Chambers on the 1st of June 1994 in a rented 3-bedroom apartment at Taiwo Junction until I became a Senior Advocate of Nigeria in 1997 when we acquired a piece of land for this office in 1998/99.

This building (*referring to the structure where the interview was conducted*) is a twin. The other portion is about 12 years old. We moved in 2001 September or so,

as God enabled us.

Now, let me take you back a bit; after your secondary school; where did you work briefly?

I was a clerical officer in the old Oyo State Ministry of Finance. I was posted to Igbo Ora as a Clerical Tax Officer, Igbo Ora near Eruwa.

After primary school one would have expected you to expressly proceed to secondary school but you did not.

Well, that's the disadvantage of living with an old person. When we were in primary school, we were not aware that entrance examination has to be taken to proceed to upper basic school. I was living with an old woman who knew next to nothing about educational system, except that my uncle (my father's cousin) was the headmaster of a modern school nearby. I didn't write any entrance exam into the school, they just took me in in 1969. At that time, modern school guaranteed entry into Grade 2 Teacher Training Colleges. It afforded one to become a Grade 2 teacher which was one of the best professions at the time.

Being a teacher was a great achievement and I was actually ready to go all the way for it. As a matter of fact, I gained admission to Wesley Teacher Training College, Ibadan in 1971 but I was rejected because of my small stature. That refusal was the reason I had to work.

When you eventually made up your mind to study Law; what was the reaction of your father that wanted you to study Agric?

I'm fortunate with the kind of parents I had. My father, may God

rest his soul, died in 2017 at about age 90. My dad would support whatever good decisions you make. He wanted me to read Agric because he was a technician at the Institute of Agric Research and Training, Ibadan. He had witnessed several fresh graduates of Agric employed after him who later became his boss. He was nursing the ambition that his son would read Agric and become other people's fathers' Oga (boss). When I could not read Agric, I eventually settled for Law. My father was glad and I'm sure he never regretted allowing me to become what God created me to be.

You were a powerful debater in secondary school; was that one of the reasons or motivation for choosing Law?

I think so; I have been debating for my school since Modern 2 and taking part in quiz competition. Modern School in those days was extra 3 to primary years. In secondary school, I was in the same class with people who had just left primary school, who were just 11 or 12 years old when I was already 18 years. Here is my point; I was already matured by the time I entered the university – and that gave me an advantage because in modern school I was a Prefect who would not allow students to speak Yoruba but English Language. That also polished my communication skill. Violators were fined half a penny. Our spoken English is more eloquent than that of our classmates in secondary school. I could read newspapers very well and to the glory of God, we won most of the quizzes and debates we did. I was participating in debates until I got to class 5 when I stopped to fully focus on the preparation for my WAEC final exams.

of the federal government because you are going to discover you know the kind of silence that goes on between senior ministers and junior ministers in the government quarters. We are going to create the same problems. The problem is not about the office being fused into one, it is about the occupants. Teslim Elias was the Attorney General of this Federation and the Minister of Justice of this country. So, it's about the character, the nuances, the value system of whoever occupies the position – not only Attorney General – but any office, even the President. It's the value of the person who is there. These two things happen to an office when an individual gets there; if he's a man of high standards, he will bring it to his own standard but if he's a man of low standard, he will bring the office down to meet his own standard. I think there has been too much politics in offices than it should be, and I think being the Attorney General of the Federation is far more important than the Minister of Justice. It appears there is a confusion about the office now. I don't agree that the office has been bastardized, it's just that we are talking about standards and quality of service.

In your own view, what do you think is the way out?

As I mentioned earlier, the office of the Attorney- General in a third world country like Nigeria should not be given to somebody who is looking for it, it should be given to somebody who could be appealed to; that's number one. Number two; that office is not a place where people go to make name, it should be an office where people who already have good names should be. It is an office to



be reserved for somebody who has something to defend in terms of integrity, in terms of good names and goodly heritage, in terms of achievements and professionalism to occupy. It's not an office where people should now go and start looking for achievements and accolades. Do you get my points? The position should be reserved for people who are virtually ready-made professionally. People who can look at the President in the face and tell him this is the position of our constitution, you cannot do

this. It must be somebody who holds a lot of respect from other ministers because that is the only office that our constitution prescribes professional qualification, no other minister is said to be this or that. It is only the Attorney General who must be a lawyer, who must not just be a lawyer but must have a lot of experiences – post his call to the bar. The constitution also prescribes the number of years that the Attorney General must have spent in practice.

Even though, it's a primus enterprise, first among its equals. It is really the only office you are appointed by way of your professional calling, where the qualification is already stated in the constitution. From councillorship to becoming the president or minister in this country, all you need to show is the evidence of attendance of a secondary school – and that does not mean you must pass, it only says evidence of attendance. It doesn't mean you must have six or five credits, and it goes on to say that equivalent of it is that if you have attended primary school and you have some experience, it could be rated as an equivalent of school certificate. So, any other person can be in any other ministry and be the president or the vice president once you have the evidence of attendance of a secondary school but you cannot be Minister of Justice and Attorney General. It requires more for that office than the certificates; it should be for people who have achieved professionally, who is not looking for any new thing to conquer professionally. It is not the kind of office where you now go to make a name. It is not for the people to say, "Oh, he's a lawyer ... we didn't even know because he has been doing some other things." It's an office that must be given to somebody who is very seasoned in most areas of law, and very importantly litigation. I think those are the issues.

For the sake of the project; let's know more about you, who is Mallam Yusuf Ali, your name, where you were born and your professional history?

Thank you. I was born in the early 50s. I started school in 1960. I did my primary school the same time



with Arabic school. I lived the early part of my life until I was about 15 or 16 with my paternal grandmother at Ifetedo, Osun State. I attended Ansar-ul-Deen Primary School and Local Authority Modern School in Ifetedo. I left in 1971, moved to Ibadan to join my parents. I worked briefly, then entered secondary school in 1973. At that time, I was more than 18 years old. I went to Ibadan Boys' High School and finished in 1977. I worked briefly before I gained admission into The Polytechnic, Ibadan to read Mass Communications. I spent just a few weeks there before gaining admission into the University of Ife to read History (Education), which I did not apply for. We were the first set of students in Nigeria to take JAMB in 1978. I took the offer, spent one year at the university reading History (Education) but my ambition was to read Law. By the way, let it be known that in 1977, I was given admission at the University of Ibadan to study Agric,

which was my father's greatest desire for me. I also got admission to the University of Ife to read Law during the time of consensus examination because at that time, each university conducted its own exams. I couldn't go to UI because WAEC withheld my Chemistry result, even though I did well in my consensus exam. I remember UI was willing to admit me with ordinary P7 in Chemistry because of my performance in the consensus exam. University of Ife on the other hand gave me admission letter a week after matriculation. With boldness garnered from being a very matured student, I went to the Registrar, asked if it was possible to defer my admission till the following year, but they said it was impossible as the matriculation had already been done and no new students can be admitted after matriculation day. I pleaded further but it was already too late, it was not the usual practice and besides, a new exam

module has just been introduced by JAMB.

I settled for History at Ife with the determination to change to Law. I thank God, I did very well in my First Semester exam. I think I got A in all my papers and the people in the Faculty of Law said, "Oh, we will gladly take this fellow if he performs this well in the second semester. He will join us via direct entry."

At the end of it all and to the glory of God, I did very well. Law was willing to take me but Education History wouldn't release me for the fear of losing their best student to another faculty. I remember that the Late Thomas Fajana was the Dean of Education in Ife in 1979 and the man said he won't release anybody for another faculty, that they cannot be releasing their best students to go somewhere else.

In the interim, Late Professor Sanni of Chemical Engineering Department who was an old student of Ibadan Boys' High School and my father's friend advised me to take a new admission form if I could not change from History (Education) to study Law. He said I would only lose a year but I will satisfy my conscience. I took another JAMB form as counselled with the determination to secure Law admission and start from 100 Level. I gained admission to study Law in 1979 and God who was at work at the time is still at work to date and till forever.

One day, I was in the mosque praying after scoring over 300 in JAMB, awaiting Law admission letter into 100L, and I prayed thus, "Oh Allah, if you allow this change of

I think I got A in all my papers and the people in the Faculty of Law said, "Oh, we will gladly take this fellow if he performs this well in the second semester. He will join us via direct entry."

course to come through, I will be better dedicated to your course than before. I will be more involved in religious activities than just going to Mosque to pray." Although I have been observing complete Salat as a young person since 1972 but that very day in 1979, I struck a deal with Allah. The university system in those days was run in such a way that new students would resume ahead of returning students, complete their registration and do matriculation, but in 1979, old students came back before the new students because JAMB was being perfected.

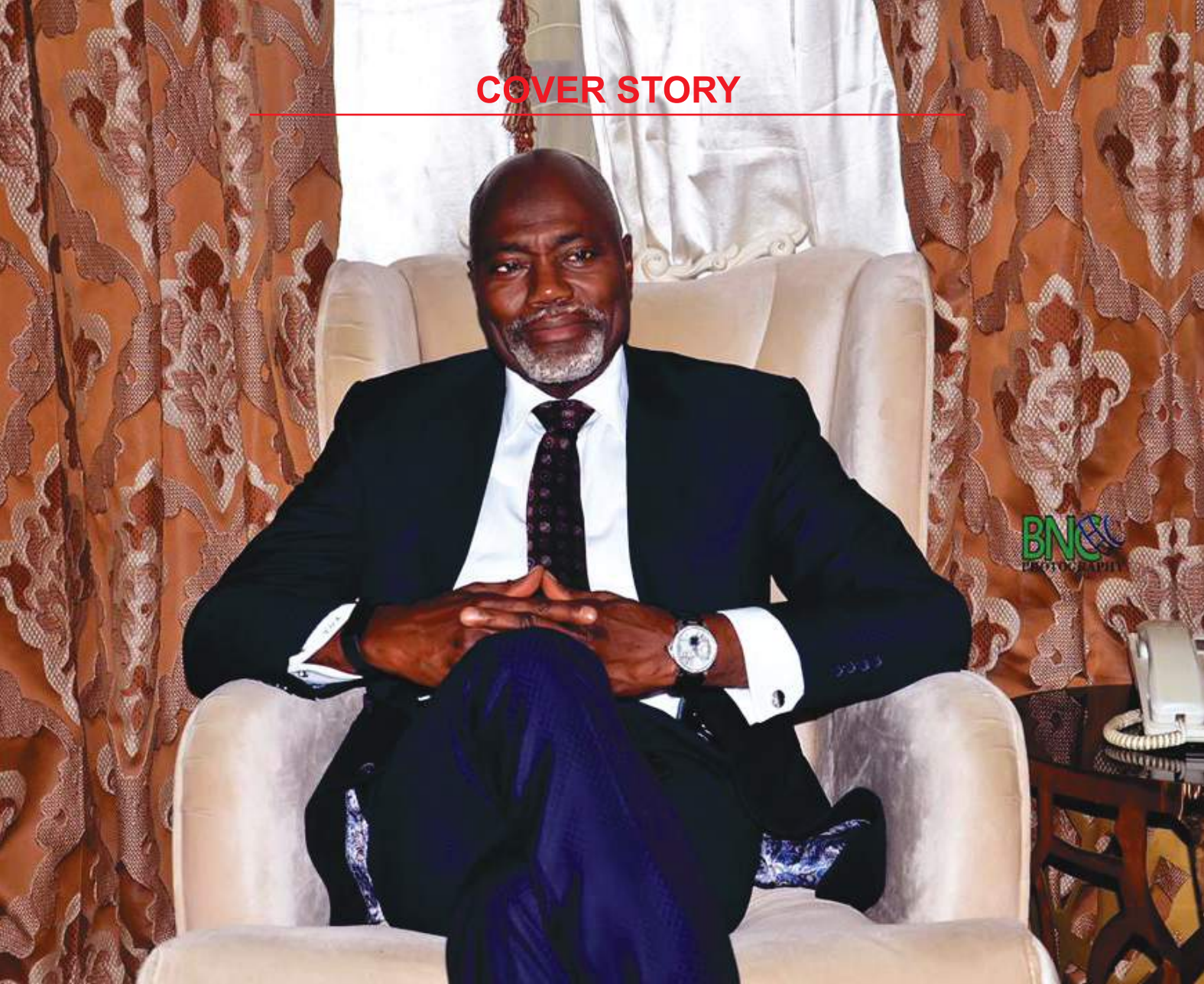
I resumed in school and returned to History, at least, to while away time while expecting new intakes to join for the commencement of 100 Level – but on a Friday like that, I went to the mosque Juma'ah service, somebody called me and said, "Ali ... Ali, there is a change of course list posted on the faculty notice board."

I asked, "What about it?" He said, "You are the number one on the list. You have been allowed

to change from History to Law." I said, "That's not possible because the Dean said he won't allow anybody to change." I got to the notice board. Lo and behold!, my name was number one from History Education to Law. I was allowed to change without using the JAMB result to enter for Law. I crossed over, direct, to Law 200 Level. What I lost initially, God restored supernaturally – and due to my performance in the 100L, I became the University Scholar and Federal Government Fellowship Award Winner, with a conditional rule that states, "You must not fail, or score

below a minimum standard or change course except the faculty you are moving from expressly agree that you can use the scholarship with the fellowship,' or else, you will lose it. So, the people in education said, "Shebi, you are going to Law Department; if you are that brilliant, go and take your fellowship there, we won't allow you to use our Fellowship Award elsewhere." That was how they denied me the opportunity to transfer the fellowship from Education to Law but *Alhamdulillah*, my first year in Law 200 Level, I won the Fellowship again – and all through my years in the university, I was a University Scholar and Fellowship Award Winner and the worth was a lot, about 650 naira ... enough money to buy a Tokunbo car in those days.

I didn't lose anything after the crossing over, I graduated with Second Class Upper in 1982. I went to the Law School in Lagos and also graduated with a Second Class Upper. I was called to Bar in July 1983, and from there went for



Group of Schools. It was confirmed that Hajia had passed on, and I arranged for her to be buried in our house which was under construction at the time. I described the exact spot where her tomb would be to them and there she was interned. Her death, and that of the school mates were the reasons why the two dates are indelible; one in Ife as a student and as a family man.

May almighty Allah bless her soul. Amin!

Sorry sir, 'E ku a temo'ra' {Take heart}, Alhamdulillah. We thank God that the children came out alive.

We thank Allah for her soul and the lives of the kids. But why have you not remarried after her death?

Don't go there please. It's a topic I don't like to discuss.

Is it a personal decision?

It's Allah's decision. You can't do anything except what Allah wills. After your NYSC in Ilorin, most people would have expected you to practise in more developed cities like Lagos or Ibadan. Why did you stay back in Ilorin?

That's the act of God. I have two other lawyer friends, Honourable Adebayo Shittu, former Communications Minister, he's my friend though my senior at the bar, and there was another friend, we

lost him in February or March, AbdulSalam Tunde Abbas, the former Chairman of Ejigbo Local Government in Osun State who was also my senior.

The three of us wanted to set up a partnership; Honourable Shittu had acquired an office at a complex opposite BCOS (Broadcasting Corporation of Oyo State) in Ibadan – and we had even made a partnership agreement and I was ready to go back to Ibadan for the commencement of the partnership but Awomolo just called me one day and asked, "Won't you like to stay around and practise in Ilorin here?" I was also thinking through same path but I didn't know how to go about it and Ibadan stuff was



Another profession you had passion for was Mass Communications/Journalism which you later practised as an undergraduate and you rose to become an editor of a newspaper

...
(Cut in) I was the editor of *Touch Newspaper* at the university.

But why did you leave Poly Ibadan then ... is it because you were determined to study Law?

No... no, not that. Everyone knows the distance between having HND and Degree. I don't want to run into that gap, and since I had the opportunity to go for the best, why should I settle for less. It was

everybody's dream in those days to go to University of Ife. It will be unwise for me to reject that offer.

The first day you stepped your feet in Ife; what was the impression like?

Well, the first time I stepped into Ife campus was in 1977 when I went to see the registrar. I took my exams there. When I gained admission wasn't my first time.

What was your impression the first day you stepped into the campus?

Ife has a very captivating environment. It is alluring, inviting, friendly and it matches with nature. In those days, there were no *bukaterias*, only the cafeteria system and not many Nigerians know that it was General Buhari that cancelled

the cafeteria system in 1984 when he was the military Head of State and the reason he stated was that the students were agitating for food and that was how we lost the cafeteria system in our schools.

Let's have your experiences at the University of Ife when the school was great Ife, not OAU.

Ife in those days was the hotbed of the very best you get as an undergraduate. The academic competition was very stiff and speaking about Law, we had the set of best lecturers you can ever imagine as tutors – from our Dean to graduate assistants. We had array of seasoned professors, doctors and learned lecturers. Students

were well behaved and people knew their rights. We had enlightened studentship and cultured union. During our elections, tribunals would be set-up to address issues raised by dissatisfied candidates, and correct anomalies. Petitions were handled and scrutinised by Law students who were engaged as lawyers – and the process was always interesting. Student life, for me, was awesome. I was able to keep the promise I made to God after crossing over from Education to Law Faculty, I became a very serious moslem student activist.

Did you ever involve yourself in student activism?

No! I was a moslem student; my activism was within the MSS. In fact, I was the one that pioneered the setting-up of MSS at Ibadan Boys' High School but I wasn't serious with Islamic affairs as I did during my university days. I was deeply involved to the point of becoming the Chairman of Jihad Week and later the President of MSS in Ife, Zonal PRO, national PRO, Zonal Vice President and later the Vice President for the whole of Southern Nigeria. It was quite a journey of promise and fulfilment – a strong compliant to the pledge I made to Allah, and that was the turning point for my life.

Can you recall an experience you had as a student of Ife that you can't forget in a hurry ... that remains indelible in your heart?

It was the death of four students in 1982 ... the death of Adebimpe and three others. It cannot be erased from my memory because I had become the President of MSS at the time and I was very popular and proactive among the students. Due to my popularity, students

were mounting pressure on me to become an executive member of the Students' Union Government. The President and Secretary of the Student Union consulted me for support on pressing issues. A day before the demonstration that led to the unfortunate death of these students, I saw Fatima Adebimpe, a Moslem sister. She was very close to me. I also told my fellow MSS sisters and brothers not to demonstrate the next day because the police would not know how to handle the students – and like I had a premonition of what was going to happen. I pleaded with them not to join the solidarity march but to remain safe on campus, do our own solidarity there before we all dispersed to our hostels.

I didn't know Fatima and her friends, one of them is now an associate professor were part of the protest. Nobody could ascertain the number of people that died but it was an indelible memory because people kept calling on me as the president to confirm the whereabouts and status of Fatima but I was just telling them to calm down that everything would be fine. I assured the people that Fatimo would be found hale and hearty. The next day after the demonstration, I went to the teaching hospital and visited the morgue. Lo and behold, I saw her dead body.

Fatima had gone; she was wearing a trouser and a white top. I remember that image clearly. The next problem was how to break the sad news to our members. We returned to the campus, everyone was waiting for me, quite a number of them were waiting around the student Union Building, more than 100 people and I said, "Please, let's

go back to the Secretariat of the MSS. So, I went to Fajuyi Hall where the Secretariat was, and luckily it was almost time for lunch, I said to them, "Fatimo has some minor injuries but she'll be okay." I encouraged all of them to go for lunch at the cafeteria because I was sure the news would eventually be broken to them but I did not want them to receive the news on an empty stomach, or we would have more casualties. All of us ate our lunch; we were talking and I was smiling to cover the anguish in my heart and so on and so forth. At 4pm, we all gathered at the Congress where the Student Union leaders would be able to address the students and give them situation reports – and right there, they broke the news to the people, mentioned the names of the four students who died in the mishap and Fatima Adebimpe's name was also mentioned. I will never forget that incident. Another sad event that broke my heart was the death of my wife. We lost her in a ghastly motor accident.

Was it in Ilorin here?

Yes. It was on a Sunday; I was traveling to Abuja for the NBA national conference in 2004. It was in August and I remember she was sleeping when I was leaving because she was fasting – and as her usual practice, she always slept after Salat in the morning. I was to drive myself but I needed to bid her farewell, so, I woke her up and she saw me into my car. In her presence, I entered the car and drove off – but around 2:30 or 3pm, my friend, Oloyede, the present Registrar of JAMB called my GSM line when I was close to Gwagwalada on the way to Abuja on Lokoja Road saying, "Arakunrin,

where are you?"

I answered, "I told you I was travelling to Abuja for NBA meeting."

"Okay! Who is with you?" He asked further.

I said: "my driver" and he said, "Please, give the phone to the driver." I wondered what was happening but I handed the phone over to my driver who became more confused after hearing the message. I felt uneasy and lost – demanded to know what the problem was. Meanwhile, I'd totally forgotten a friend was traveling with me.

My wife, Kenny was taking our daughter who was attending a private secondary school, doing extra mural class in preparation for her final examinations to Offa in her Benz car. Her twin sister's son, Abdullahi who had just gained admission to Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, visited us and he joined her on the trip to Offa, and my niece, Shakira was also in the car. My wife and daughter sat in front whilst Abdullahi and Shakira sat on the back seat.

Oloyede broke the news that, "Hajia had an accident!"

I asked him what the situation was and he responded she was undergoing treatment at the hospital. I stood on my faith in Allah as a Moslem and demanded to know what happened exactly. I ordered my driver, Koboko, to turn back, that we are heading home, "Alhaja is dead!" We entered a petrol station, he made a U-turn as I questioned his ability to drive fast or hand the wheel over to me. I kept trying to reach Professor Oloyede as we were heading back home but he wasn't picking his phone. I called another friend, Aliu Badmus, who is the owner of Iqra



...during my university days. I was deeply involved to the point of becoming the Chairman of Jihad Week and later the President of MSS in Ife, Zonal PRO, national PRO, Zonal Vice President and later the Vice President for the whole of Southern Nigeria.

now. Boys want to make money by killing girls, using body parts to make money. It wasn't like this when we were growing up; hard work was celebrated but not anymore. Honesty was celebrated but not anymore. Decency was celebrated but not anymore. I learnt what is trending now is that girls are sleeping with dogs for money ... that's bestiality under the law. It's a criminal offence. Bestiality is what people are now celebrating in the society. Those are the things scattering our value system.

Value degradation cuts across all professions in the society; we all worship at the altar of materialism. In the profession, younger people coming up are not thinking of hard work as a means of achieving their set goals; they are looking at "oga" riding a Rolls Royce, and wondering why they can't have their own now. They forget that 'ogas' paid their dues. I started riding a car with a Passat that I bought for 1,500 naira. It was a second-hand car. The first coloured television we had as a couple was bought in instalments. I am not ashamed to say it because I got married two months after NYSC. If my wife was alive, she would have been 65 this year. I got married on a salary of 300 naira a month and the first fridge we used was a gift my father-in-law gave to my wife in 1982 when she graduated from University of Ife. When we wanted to buy a freezer in those days, it was 1,050 naira. I paid the money more than eight times. I am not ashamed to say it because I didn't come from a wealthy family. My father was a poor civil servant and my mother was a trader, now she's about 90. The message is, if Allah could do it

Changing Nigeria to a good and enviable country is a task for all of us. Some of us can stand and criticize the people in the government because I have not compromised in any way – even at the NBA level, people collect money to vote for people.

for me, he could do it for any other person. So, people should not despise a little beginning and we should not be too much in a hurry. The first house I bought, I took a bank loan to secure it and I spent two-three years to renovate it.

But some of these young people had argued that despite the fact that you are earning 300 naira at that time, the economic value was strong.

Who is receiving 300 naira these days? Let's stop making excuses; what 300 naira would buy in those days is what its equivalent will buy today. Even if these people who are professionals at making excuses are to be paid N3 million per day, they won't still do anything meaningful with their resources. Stop wasting time by talking to those people who are saying that money has lost value. In those days, young lawyers charged 100 naira to bail somebody. Young lawyers now charge thousands of naira to bail

people now. Those who could buy brand new cars from their earnings are the same set of people that can buy brand new cars from their earnings now. There is no magic about it, when people say this thing, I just laugh. 300 naira was also peanuts in those days but we survived because we lived within our means. Which lawyer would charge one million naira in those days? Are you getting my point? To write letters in those days, we took between 100 and 150 naira. I am very sure that any lawyer will not take that ridiculous amount now.

But despite this gloomy picture, what is the way out?

It's not gloomy. I think it's for us to just go back to the beginning by putting our values right. If we are able to stop public immoralities, stop looters of public funds and fight bribery and corruption, we will be better. Corruption has become our norm. If a petrol attendant is appointed a commissioner today, he will control a fleet of cars in the next six months. How come? How can that happen in a decent society and they will not cry out? Churches and mosques are aiding corruption in some ways because they don't question the source of monies brought to the church and mosques by the people. We need to ask where and how the money donated at social functions is got. People often ask me about the problem of Nigeria and I often reply that we Nigerians are the problem of Nigeria. The problem of Nigeria is you and I. If we want to have a decent society, we will have it by our joint decisions and convictions. Elections are around the corner; people will be expecting the contestants to give them money

already on track. He urged further and I began to see reasons why staying is better than leaving. I made up my mind to stay, I told the other guys about my intention to stay in Ilorin. They moved on without me and when I told my father about my plan to stay in Ilorin, he was very happy about it – and all I can say is that Allah orchestrated everything and it happened according to His plan.

You became a Senior Advocate in 1997, how has it really impacted on your professional career?

It's tremendous when you operate from the zenith; it is different from operating from below. The highest rank you can ever attain in law is Senior Advocate of Nigeria. It has broadened my outlook, broadened my professional influence and broadened so many things about me. It has been a blessing, a professional blessing, a spiritual blessing, it has been a blessing all through. Alhamdulillah! I know on a personal level that it is a call to better services, harder assignments and that's the way it has been with me.

In the course of your professional calling, you have won some landmark cases. How do you feel when you won those cases?

Any case we win, I feel good because I put my best into it and if God rewards my best with victory, I will be happy. Of course, I have always been very happy when we win.

Which one of your cases has been the most challenging?

All the cases I handled are so challenging; I don't take any matter lightly. All cases that come to me I take them as if it's the only thing that is left; there is no case that is

not challenging, it depends on what you want to do with it.

Now, let's go back to when you started your practice; what were the initial challenges you faced, and why did you not want to partner with Mr. Awomolo?

I think everything hangs on destiny. Partnering with Awomolo was the initial plan but it didn't work out as planned. Let's leave it that way. I had to leave but we parted on the best brotherly and friendly basis, there was no quarrel at all, not even a disagreement and we are still very close as brothers till date. The initial challenge I will never be ashamed to say is that the first two years rent of 24,000 naira I paid was borrowed. I wasn't prepared to leave; it just happened and I had no savings and no plan but God has been very kind and faithful to me.

Looking back now, how fulfilled are you to have taken that decision?

Like I told you, all I want to do is just for me to keep on thanking God every second of my life that he directed my steps aright, not only in that decision but in every other decision I'd taken.

Sir, if one has reflected on your journey through life, one area that most people thought you would have gone into which you never moved into is partisan politics. Why don't you go into partisan politics?

I think I have answered that before. I told you I don't have talent for it. I can't say something and act contrary. I call a spade by its name, that's number 1. Number 2, I can't bribe people to serve them. How will I sit down here, do my work, make some little money and use it to bribe the voters I plan to serve. I can't do that; if I say I want to serve, I really want to serve. I can't bribe people because I want to serve them and I can't be lying to them.

What are your guiding principles in life?

Faith in Allah; absolute faith in Allah. I am an unrepentant optimist, full of integrity, honesty and some degrees of high morals. Nobody is perfect; we all have our feelings but anything hangs on morals. I avoid cheating and practise good neighbourliness and brotherliness. I believe the society will be better if



we all play our little roles there. I try to assist people as much as I can in any way possible, be it materially, morally or socially. A man who is fulfilled and has everything – food and clothes – will not be happy seeing his neighbours hungry or naked.

Why Mallam before Yusuf Ali, SAN, despite the title?

Because Mallam is not an intricate title; it means learned. So, if people say you are learned, what are you looking for again?

But I learnt you have been offered chieftaincy titles; why did you decline?

That's not my own way. I like to remain who I am. That is one of the reasons I don't want to take any ministerial position because it has a way of changing who you are. I want to remain who I am, a private person who is also approachable.

Philanthropy is one aspect of your life. As a matter of fact, you set up a foundation for that. What was the motivation behind that?

Well, I think it's Allah. I always tell people that if God does not give you a giving spirit; no matter what you have, you won't give out a dime. I want to thank my parents, my late wife and my children for supporting me. If I had 20,000 naira and I wanted to give out, my parents would not say no, my late wife would not say no and my children will not say no. They encouraged me to give and assist other people. If the people close to you do not want you to give, it will have negative effects on

you. God has been very kind to me by giving me a generous heart and the people who keyed into the vision. Philanthropy is good but immediate family support is very important.

How would you describe your personality?

I am a humble servant of Allah who tries at all times to meet the expectations of Allah, the creator in all circumstances – professional, spiritual, social, private and public.

I rejected a brief more than 10 years ago that was worth N250 million for one appearance. I said no, and told the client, "As a matter of honesty, I have never had 250 million naira at a go in any matter but I cannot do this one just because money is involved. I want to be able to handle cases and go home with my free conscience."

The highest of all the favours of God is to receive His kindness – and that is all I pray to have.

Aside your faith, what is the most important thing to you?

Family and friends are the only things I cannot sacrifice for anything. After my faith, family and friends are very important.

Back to your profession; you've delivered over 200 papers; which one is your most favourite?

All of them! I do a lot of intellectual

thinking and works and I put so much effort into collating the information and don't forget, each one addresses different needs, topics and different urgencies depending on the audience. It is very important to understand the audience too well before getting information and putting the findings together. I want you to know that all the papers I presented are intellectual properties ... and very important to me.

What life lesson do you hold on to?

Do unto others what you want them to do unto you. Things you know you don't want people to do to you, don't do to them. If you don't like me to cheat you, don't cheat me or anybody. Treat other people the way you want me to be treated; do not lie to others or be dishonest to them. Be truthful, factual, reliable and responsible.

Looking back to when you started, which aspect of your life would you say you could have changed?

I was too rascally as a youngster. I don't have anything to hide about it. I say it anywhere; I was a bit stubborn. That was the aspect of my life I would love to correct if I could turn back the hands of time. My stubbornness was as a result of the environment I grew up in, an environment where you need to prove your boyhood by your prowess but luckily the society has changed for better now.

How were you able to sustain your clients over the years?

I deal with people equally without compromising my integrity. Anybody who hires us knows that his matter cannot be handled with kid gloves, we don't compromise or deal negatively against you, no matter what is involved and people know that we are committed. Once we accept a matter, we will pursue it to its logical conclusion and we try to give quality service and importantly, we counsel you based on our own understanding and our professional position. If a matter is not worthy to be pursued, we will tell you but if it is worthy to be pursued, we put in our best – and if it's a case of 50-50, we will also advise you. There have been instances when some clients were advised not to pursue certain matters and they pursued the cases and lost. Cases from high court to Supreme Court, and importantly, we don't just take cases because money is involved. We look at the ethical rules around it. If it fails the ethical rules of the profession, we will not take it and if it fails my own moral standard as a person, I won't take it. Everything is not about money. I rejected a brief more than 10 years ago that was worth N250 million for one appearance. I said no, and told the client, "As a matter of honesty, I have never had 250 million naira at a go in any matter but I cannot do this one just because money is involved. I want to be able to handle cases and go home with my free conscience. I want to go home after winning a case and sleep well."

When are you planning to retire?

Well, insha Allah, may God spare our lives. In this business, we hardly retire. There is no point retiring but I'm praying that if Allah stretches my

life till 75, I'll scale down tremendously.

Do you have a succession plan? I understand one of your children also studied law.

My succession plan is not about family; it's about building a model where generations to come will meet the office in existence, not necessarily because your children are there. Incidentally, I have this discussion with somebody in my house. I said, "I am not building this firm as a family enterprise." It's an enterprise for everybody and I know that very soon, we will have a number of partners who can fly the flag higher. I am not an inward driven person. I believe there are big firms, built all over the world, that are still existing after hundreds of years – and that's my own view of what the Law Firm should be and by the grace of God, that's what I'm working towards.

Amen! For the sake of this project, which centres on the younger ones, what will you say is responsible for the low mind-set of the Nigerian youth?

The breakdown of value system and family system, our values have gone to the dust. We celebrate material acquisition at the expense of morality, at the expense of what is good and decent. When somebody flaunts money, nobody asks about the source of the money. But as a rich man, the person has become a hero. That's not right, the society will not make progress and you will see the level of ritual killing going on





COVER STORY

before they can vote. If you have sold your franchise, how can you complain that somebody is not doing something good when he gets into the office? Changing Nigeria to a good and enviable country is a task for all of us. Some of us can stand and criticize the people in the government because I have not compromised in any way – even at the NBA level, people collect money to vote for people. So, what are we talking about; if at a professional level, the ill act is perpetrated, then who is righteous enough to criticise the larger society when the micro citizens they represent is also corrupt?

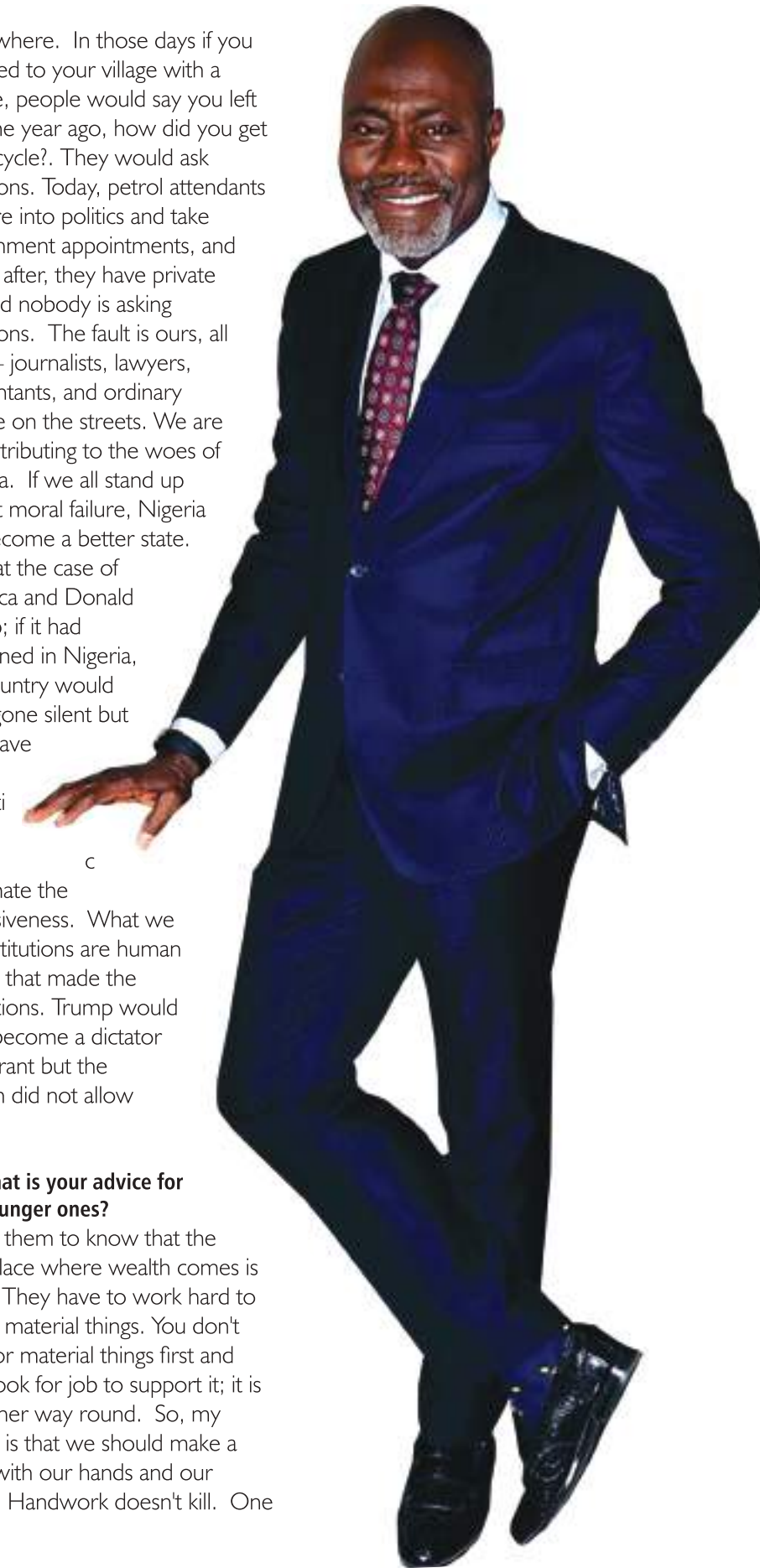
People don't like hard talk but we have to say it if we want the society to be upright. We must be upright. All it takes for a street to be clean is for every occupant to sweep the frontage of his own house. You sweep your own and I sweep my own but it won't work if Kenny sweeps his own frontage, and you clean yours but I refuse to sweep mine, dumping a pile of rubbish in front of my house ... the mess from my own end will mess up the entire street and it will look untidy. They may be saying the frontage of your house is clean, Kenny's own is clean but my own has just become a nuisance. We don't need the knowledge of rocket science to be decent. Some of the banditry going back and forth are reactions to some of the madness going on in our society; get rich quick syndrome.

In the good old days, children must not be seen with items their parents did not buy for them but these days, how many parents speak against their children using expensive gadgets like iPhone X or ask questions to straighten things? There's moral decadence

everywhere. In those days if you travelled to your village with a bicycle, people would say you left just one year ago, how did you get the bicycle?. They would ask questions. Today, petrol attendants venture into politics and take government appointments, and a year after, they have private jets and nobody is asking questions. The fault is ours, all of us – journalists, lawyers, accountants, and ordinary people on the streets. We are all contributing to the woes of Nigeria. If we all stand up against moral failure, Nigeria will become a better state. Look at the case of America and Donald Trump; if it had happened in Nigeria, the country would have gone silent but they have strong institutions that checkmate the excessiveness. What we call institutions are human beings that made the institutions. Trump would have become a dictator and tyrant but the system did not allow him.

Sir, what is your advice for the younger ones?

I want them to know that the only place where wealth comes is work. They have to work hard to obtain material things. You don't look for material things first and then look for job to support it; it is the other way round. So, my advice is that we should make a living with our hands and our heads. Handwork doesn't kill. One



thing I have discovered on a spiritual claim is, if you work hard, God will bless it but if you cut corners, God will not help you to sustain it. *Ile ta fi to mo, iri loma n wo, eyan o de le taja epe ko gb'owo erin.* (Anything you build by cutting corners will not last).

If you smile into the mirror, it smiles back at you, and if you frown into the mirror, it frowns back at you. *That's life!* The younger people in our country should know that running away is not the solution. Our forebears were forced into slavery, now we are walking into slavery by ourselves just because there is light there. When our own best brains are running away, who will make sure that things are working in this country? I had the opportunity to go to Canada in 1988. I said no, what am I going to do in another man's country? I will be a third class citizen. They may give you the papers but you are not part of them. You can never be. Allah has a purpose for putting you here, and not there. We should build this nation by not doing illegal things. People want to use electricity without paying bills; how's that possible? In the places where they are all running to, you pay with your sweat to sustain electricity in your house. Here, people don't want to, there must be subsidy, subsidy where people are stealing the money. This may be unpopular but that's the truth. Petrol subsidy does not pay the poor, it enriches the affluent. Petrol subsidy is assisting those who are affluent to sustain their lavish lifestyle. Some people have more than three cars, and are not paying premium on those cars. If people are paying premium, we will be thrifty in the way we ride cars in Nigeria. When you subsidize service not production, you will run into trouble like we are running into. Subsidize Agric, let's farm, food will be cheap. You are not subsidising transportation by not paying economic rate on fuel and doing so is subsidising a few people. Unfortunately, our labour unions are not honest with the people. They just state their popular views and people are still suffering.

On a final note, what do you want to be remembered for?

I want to be remembered as humble servant of Allah who came to this world, served Allah and humanity to the best of his ability.

How do you unwind? I know you are a very busy person.

Well, this interview is unwinding for me. If you are not here, I will be doing some reading or listening to some other things but my most important sport is gym. I am a gym freak. I have what I can call a standard modern gym in my house.

People hardly believe you are close to 70

I am but I don't do anything in excess in my life. I try to be a moderate person in anything I do, even in terms of work and that is why in my about 40 years' career, I'm not sure I've taken file home up to 10 times. I spend an average of 14 hours in the office. Once I leave the office, law stays here and by 10 p.m, I should be in bed. I come to work every day except I'm not in town, even in Abuja where we have office, the ethics is the same. I go to office every day except on Salah days. In those days when I was much younger, I used to work on some Salah days. I would come in the evening but now that I am getting older, we host guests in our house and it's not right for me to leave the guests at home and I go to work. That's not ideal. The only way I unwind is by talking to people, people come here and we have a gist, just as we are doing now.



BNO
PHOTOGRAPHY

When we lost our dear mother, the manner he took up the roles of both parents effectively was highly commendable

Eagles are not comparable with parrots – they are born to soar, higher in the sky, and whilst parrots are satisfied with the cage and crackers, eagles do not feast on junks and remnants – they hunt for fresh meals. **Nimah Ali, the first child and daughter of Mallam Yusuf Ali is an eagle among her mates. She set out on the journey to greatness early enough to make a considerable mark in life and this astute Chartered Accountant, Investment Banker and Business Tycoon is hitting targets that naysayers dread.**

On her father, Nimah said: “Growing up with Mallam Yusuf Ali,

Ms. Nimah Ali

SAN was very memorable. I had the best of time with him despite his tight schedule. He was always creating time for us. I remember when he took me and my immediate younger sister to the salon to make hair and waited till the hairdresser finished. He provided for our needs, and when we lost our dear mother, the manner he took up the roles of both parents effectively was highly commendable.”
“He is a disciplinarian, a man of many parts, selfless and accommodating irrespective of class or tribe. He treats everyone equally. He is an outstanding family man that dedicates his life to the will of



Almighty Allah, and listens to his children and everybody.”
“He is also a good lawyer, a philanthropist who makes no noise about his humanitarian services. It is incredible to believe that he came from a humble background to become who he is today.” In conclusion, she congratulated her dad and asked Allah to grant him sound health and long life.

Mallam gave us the best with his limited income.

Mrs. Barakah Ali-Nagode

the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, UK.

Speaking to our correspondents about her beloved dad, she said: “My growing up days were memorable. My dad was so involved and interested in our lives to the extent of taking me and my sister to the salon and staying till the hairdressers finished making our hair. He is always there for us – especially after we lost our mother, we started a culture of eating together in a big tray and that was quite an experience.”
“My dad is not only a stricter for rules; he wants you to say the truth at all times. We dare not lie, or

the consequence be might too severe to bear. He was disciplined and strict. His major counsel to us as kids was, 'If you can't afford something, don't have it.' He gave us the best with his limited income.”

“He was always in support of any decision we make as long as it was not illegal or immoral – and I can say it anywhere that my dad is a fantastic advocate, hardworking and forthright. He is a philanthropist that history will remember. He funded the Trauma and Dialysis Centres among other laudable projects.” She said.



A lion's cub will never bleat like a goat; it will always roar because of its nature. So also, Mrs. Barakah Ali-Nagode, the second daughter of Mallam Yusuf Ali is a barrister, a giant killer like her dad. She studied Law at University of Ilorin and obtained her LLM at the University College, London. She is a member, Chartered Institute of Arbitration, UK and has Certificate of Proficiency in ADR Processes from

The Phenomenal Amazon

Alhaja Kehinde Ali (1957–2004)

In the Islamic world, Prophet Mohammed (SAW) was the prominent figure that every thread and stitches that weave together the fabric of Islam holds together. His life was also woven around five prominent women; Aminat – his mother, Halima of Sha'ad – his nurse, Khadijat Rosulu – his first wife, Ai'sha – his priced wife and Fatimoh – his daughter.

Ask Moslems about these wonderful women and their roles in the life of their prophet, then you can fully understand the enormity of the contributions and benefits of Alhaja Kehinde Ali, the wife of Mallam Yusuf Ali, SAN, in that dynasty that produced Nimah, Barakah, Sururah and Yusuf Jnr. Being a wife is not as complete as being a mother, friend, lover, career and supporter. The combination of all these qualities are what made Omokehinde tick and those combinations are rare in a single person – but like a mother Eagle, a not so common feature on our sky space, Kehinde perched as a pillar in the homestead of Ali, a dynasty that will last because of this great woman's effort.

There is another woman of great value that lived many years before Prophet Muhammed (SAW) was born, Mary'am Ibn Imran, the mother of Prophet Issa (Jesus Christ). This woman was given a premium in the Quran to the extent that a Chapter was dedicated to her – the only woman to be so honoured as such in Islamic world. The Surat-ul in her name is not all – what caught attention was the fact that certain Islamic scholars and researchers opined that on the day before the final judgement, there will be a wedding ceremony and the Prophet of Islam will be solemnized to this woman. That's not the point. The point I am trying to raise is this; Should there be marriages in heaven and we are given free will to make a choice ... it is glaring from all indications that Mallam Yusuf Ali, SAN will still prefer to take Hajia Kehinde Ali as his lovely and eternally wedded wife – and stay with her forever in Al-janat Firdaus.

The Rare Gem

Beautiful Hajia Kehinde was born on 30th day of August 1957

in Ibadan into the family of Alhaji & Alhaja Salahudeen Akinleye Akintoye of Oke Atipe in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. She had her nursing training at the School of Nursing, UCH where she worked briefly before gaining admission into the University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University) for BSc in Nursing in 1976. She graduated in 1983 for her NYSC in Kwara State where she later served at the School of Nursing as a tutor, before establishing a pharmaceutical store, and later general merchandise – retailing and wholesales in Ilorin. Hajia Kehinde Ali got married to her heartthrob, Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN on 28th of October 1984 and the marriage was blessed with four beautiful kids.

The Genesis of a Blossomed Marriage

Kehinde and Ali were students of the University of Ife and active members of the Muslim Students Society of Nigeria. Ali, being the coordinator and Amir was quite popular among the students and so familiar with the Moslem ladies. The chemistry between the love birds jelled faster because during holidays, Ali, as a good leader, made it a point of duty to conduct visitation to members' houses – although, nothing spectacular, just brother and sister relationship, until Ali was in his final year in 1982 and like a child's play, he proposed to Kehinde in plain but funny way, no rings, no kneeling down or fanfare, in Yoruba language. “Sister Kenny, will you consider marrying me?” Kenny looked at one small Alfa in probably a three-quarter trouser and over-worn shirt, (but saw a Prince in the shining armour) – and all the while she x-rayed her hubby, the Mallam was bewildered, wondering why he had to end a good friendship and respected association in such a manner.

Number One; Ali once encouraged Kenny to marry a brother who had earlier showed interest, and was relying on him to

mediate – she refused the first suitor.

That day, Kenny said “Yes ... I live with you till I breathe my last.” She later confessed to Ali, “When you were asking me to marry Brother XYZ, I thought, ‘Is this guy out of his mind?’ You have known all my family. God saved you for asking me.”

In 1982, formal introduction was done. Kenny's father consented, the entire family agreed – and the rest was history. In October 1984, the Nikkah was performed before the cloud of witnesses and they lived happily ever after.

The Modern Wife of Old Tradition

Kenny was an exceptional human being – a wife and mother, a friend and confidant. To her husband; she was an answer to prayer, a companion that attracts like a magnet. To her mother-in-law; Kenny was a prized daughter and gist partner. When Hajia Kehinde died, her mother-in-law fainted and Mama's regular visit to Ilorin stopped.

To Ali's siblings; Hajia Kehinde was a mother and sister. Ali's younger brother that lived with them for about 10 years confessed, “For 10 years that I lived with you guys, there was no single day I had anything ill to complain about this woman.” To friends and neighbours; Hajia was an angel in human body. Her kitchen was a public domain. Her food basket was for every hand to scoop as much as possible. Her love for giving and aiding the ailing and needy is unparalleled.

She was a gentle dove that lived with an impatient Man like Yusuf, and she was the sheep that tamed the impatience out of him. She was a role-model to newly wedded wives and inspiration to old wives.

Hajia was Mallam Yusuf Ali's banker and financial advisor. She was the motivating oil in Mallam's success engine and the pillar that spurred him to keep going. So appreciative and considerate, she was the catalyst that made Ali's love for mankind to keep blossoming and jelling. In fact, most of the things Olaolu does today were the wife's dream.

Mallam's Attestation:

“I bought a car for her at a time and she suggested, ‘Why don't you give this car to Barrister, one of your associates (I won't mention the person's name) – and I did.

There was also a time I wanted to buy a CRV costing 1 million naira (a lot of money at the time) for her. She thanked me for the good gesture and told me, “Why do you want to give me a car when you have just started a housing project? Divert the money into the project.” (The place where this interview was conducted).

“She was very accommodating and tolerant; there is quite a number of people who are not related to us by blood that became our children, sisters, brothers or friends.

I have a distant niece, now retired, but working as an engineer in a federal government parastatal then. One day, my wife asked me for money but I told her, “I don't have,” – and when the lady, very close to my wife came complaining of

being very broke, my wife said to her, “Why don't you talk to your brother? He told me there was no money this morning but with your own complaint, he might do something.” I eventually assisted the lady who later told me. Another woman wouldn't have mentioned that.”

The Major Experience

When Mallam Yusuf Ali applied to be SAN in 1997, Hajia Kehinde was the prayer warrior. If she was asked to fast for 2 or 3 days for the children, she would fast three days for each child and do another three days for her husband.

“The day they were having the Privileges Committee meeting for the appointment of Senior Advocates, she stayed indoor for two days to pray and fast, and when the appointment was made, my phone (no GSM at the time) was faulty. She received the news from one of our elders in the privileges committee who called the house number, and she sent our niece living with us to me. I could not drive that day – in order to avoid accident for being over-excited.” Mallam Yusuf Ali said.

Hajia Kehinde's Influence on the Kids

The major thing Hajia taught the kids was love for Allah and observing the fundamentals of Islam – so, she would ensure that they performed their salat as at when due – especially when their dad was away on official duties.

She also imputed into them high moral qualities such as commendable godliness, honesty, high morality, truthfulness, selflessness, being accommodating and generosity.

Kenny's Likes

Honesty is her best policy. She also likes empathy and openness.

Her Dislikes

Lies, bitterness and anything evil.

Mallam's Final Words on His Heartthrob

“If I didn't marry such a woman, I don't really know what would have happened to me. Would I have come this far in this profession or be so generous if she kept refusing me? She gave me rest of mind, opportunities to spread my wings and fly – even soar by burying her career for my own light to shine brighter. She complemented me whilst other women compete with their husbands.

She showed me other people's areas of needs – pushed me to assist in any form I could; ranging from buying foodstuffs for people, buying WAEC/JAMB forms, paying school fees, keeping our house safe and clean, being with the kids and visiting them often – and so much more without nagging.

I miss her companionship ... she understood me like I knew the palm of my hand – because she was exceedingly patient with me, and I thank Almighty Allah for giving me with such a woman. I will forever cherish her for being a friend, confidant, wife and mother.”

Celebrating THE BEST FATHER IN THE WORLD!



Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN

It is not a coincidence that
Almighty Allah made you our father.

You are indeed a man of destiny, an enigma and a caring father who have never, for a day, disappointed us or let us feel the demise of our mother. You played the role of a father and mother effectively during our trying time and today, we do not only cherish the moment but we will forever be grateful to you for being a vital instrument that the Allah used in making us what we are today.

Despite your humble beginning, you have not only made a name but a good name that rub off us.

You have built something from nothing and it is here for everybody to see.

Congratulations Dad.

Allah's Rahman on you always ... More wins



ALI IS A MAN OF THE PEOPLE, A REPUTABLE LAWYER, ALWAYS WILLING AND READY TO HELP

The Royal Majesty,
Oba Jimoh Olanipekun Oyetunji
The Ataoja of Oshogbo, Oroki.



It is not a mistake that the Lion was made the king of the jungle ... the fact is that it will neither bow nor tuck tail and run from any other beast.
It isn't a mistake that peacock is respected among birds ... its robe of honour comes from the Almighty God.
Who will dare a king – even if he is a child? Whosoever does will have his head lifted off his shoulder.

Here we give obeisance and prostrate in honour of The Royal Majesty, Oba Jimoh Olanipekun Oyetunji, the Ataoja of Oshogbo, Oroki. Oba Olanipekun is the paramount ruler of Osogbo; the Chairman of the Council of Obas and Chiefs in Oshogbo Division and Custodian of the great Osun River, making him the first son of the goddess of beauty and fertility. While speaking with Kabiyesi, we discovered that great men are not born great, they grow great to achieve greatness. In Oba's words when he said about Mallam Yusuf Ali; "I met Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, the second year I got on the throne, when I had crisis and I needed a notable international and intelligent lawyer that could handle my matter. His name was one of many suggested but I was more convinced with him. We connected and he proved

himself a good Moslem and great advocate. Since then, I have not had any cause to regret our togetherness. Ali is a man of the people, a reputable lawyer, always willing and ready to help those who could not meet the financial needs in judicial matter. His intelligence, potentials, endowment and professional achievements set him apart as a man to reckon with. "Mallam Ali is not partial, if Nigeria has somebody like him as president, most of the problems we are facing in the country will be solved. He is not tribalistic. Though a Moslem, yet accept people of other faiths – he does not discriminate on the basis of gender, tribe, religion, class or standard. If you go to him crying, you will smile before you leave his chamber; he's generous to a fault. I know quite a number of people he has helped including my own child that is a law student in some ways that

pleased me. He is a shining light and a good example to many successful people in this nation.

I can mention a lawyer under him who is now a SAN, Barrister KK Eleja, and there is someone in the team he used for me that is now a Judge in the ministry of Justice, Osun State, Justice Oke – and is a proof that anybody that passes through Mallam Yusuf Ali, SAN will be great just as he is."

On a final note, Kabiyesi implored the youths to emulate Mallam for his honesty, simplicity, humility, generosity, love for God and mankind, which he said are the platforms upon which God rains blessings upon man, and admonished Mallam Yusuf Ali to keep doing good for as long as he has the power to do it and also prayed that God should prolong his life to reap the fruit of his labour.



There are some feminine miracles who are purely men in women's bodies. They run where some men crawl and rub shoulders with men of timber and caliber. Dr. Sururah Yusuf Ali is a wonderful lady, a UK trained Medical Doctor.

She spoke to our reporters about her relationship with Mallam Yusuf Ali, thus; "I had a good childhood growing-up as Mallam's daughter.

I am a bit obsessed with my Dad

Dr. Sururah Yusuf Ali

My brother and I were especially spoiled me with love, care and gifts. Whenever he travelled, he used to buy a lot of things for us on his way home, and whenever I travelled with him, he always stopped to buy me pizza and ice cream on our way home. I am a bit obsessed with my Dad. I will forever appreciate him and I am grateful to Almighty Allah for putting me in his family.
"I admire the manner he switched when we lost our mom. He stepped up immediately to meet up with all our expectations. He taught us that there is no shortcut to success than hard work, hard work and more hard work."

Sururah also hinted on father-daughter intimacy as Mallam Yusuf Ali's daughter, "He tolerated me and my brother more than he did our older siblings. When I was in the university, he called every day to motivate me that I can do it. There is no time I would call him that he won't pick my call. We keep an open house policy and it exists till now."

"Mallam is very hardworking ... totally sold out to his profession. He is an outstanding professional, respected everywhere he goes." She added.

Mallam is a champion of freedom

Dr. Yusuf Olanrewaju Ali, PhD

The Yoruba people of Western Nigeria believe that the first son is his dad's younger brother – and more often than not, first sons are majorly referred to as Dawodu, which means Delight or Arole, which is interpreted as Ambassador. Yusuf Ali Jnr is the Dawodu of Mallam Yusuf Ali, an ambassador plenipotentiary, expected to bear rule, as a man, and decides on any matter in the absence of his dad. He has worked as the embedded Power Sector Advisor in the office of the Vice President, and he is currently the Commissioner for Planning, Research and Strategy, NERC. He completed his PhD in Energy

Policy from the University of Cambridge.
Speaking about his dad, he said, "Mallam Yusuf Ali is a committed father with a very high standard for moral. He is a disciplinarian to the core, tough and strict – but he is a champion of freedom; always encouraging us to make our decisions. I just finished JSS 2 when my mom died and since then, Mallam never missed our visiting days despite his busy schedule. He is very serious and ethical."

"He is a devout Muslim with high integrity. He is caring, friendly and understanding. He believes the will



of God is supreme. I am very grateful to Almighty Allah to have benefited from his name and character. I have been a beneficiary of his goodness to people. Despite his high status as a lawyer, he listens to our pieces of advice and applies them – and that makes me respect him more." Dr. Yusuf Ali Jnr. believes that his dad is a good role-model, a philanthropist and an Islamic Crusader.



**TRIBUTE OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, ALHAJI (DR.) IBRAHIM
SULU-GAMBARI, CFR., EMIR OF ILORIN AND CHAIRMAN,
KWARA STATE COUNCIL OF CHIEFS IN HONOUR OF MALLAM
YUSUF OLAOLU ALI, SAN**

I have known Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN for more than Four (4) decades as a student, an active executive member and later became one of the Patrons of Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria (MSSN).

As a Junior Counsel in the Chambers of Adegboyega Awomolo, SAN., his performance was outstanding, brilliant and very impressive. He has appeared in many courts in Nigeria including Ibadan and Lagos Divisions of the Court of Appeal when I was the Presiding Justice. He was awarded the prestigious title of the "Senior Advocate of Nigeria" on a meritorious ground.

The Nigerian Weekly Law Report is replete of his recognizable contributions.

Apart from the fact that we shared the same legal profession, I bear testimony to the fact that he has impeccable character, very humble and forthright.

- 2 -

I also testify to the fact that he has contributed immensely to the development of legal practice in Nigeria and and he is a philanthropist who has assisted many people in various life endeavours.

His award as the **ROLE MODEL OF THE YEAR** by Synochure International Magazine is richly deserved.

**H.R.H. ALHAJI (DR.) IBRAHIM SULU-GAMBARI, CFR
EMIR OF ILORIN & CHAIRMAN, KWARA STATE**



Yusuf was rascally as a kid but very brilliant

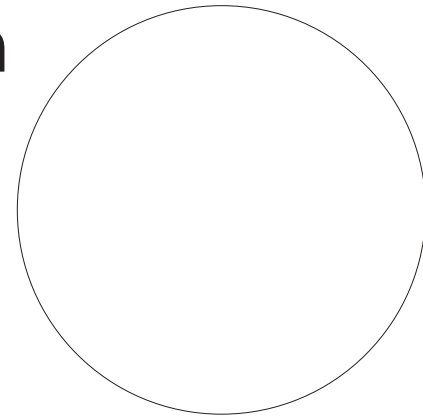
Pa Ibrahim Oladele Olafisayo

Among musical instruments, trumpet has a different feature. It is loud, clear and rhythmical. Alhaji Ibrahim Oladele Olafisayo is a different breed of mankind, a disciplinarian who has shaped many lives and destinies as a teacher.

Speaking to our correspondent on Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali and his relationship with him, Alhaji Ibrahim hinted, "Yusuf Olaolu Ali happens to be my kinsman, his father was an elder brother of mine. He was the first grandson of the family. In his early years, he hawked 'eko' (caked pap) and was somehow stubborn, but with my own teaching style, no

pupil, including Olaolu could prove stubborn. His break time was always with me and my meal, we shared. Yusuf, though rascally as a kid but very brilliant, very vocal, resolute, focused and committed to whatever goal he was pursuing. "As a professional, Yusuf is well versed in Constitutional and Sharia laws, and he's fully committed to Ifetedo financially and kindly. Whenever I need him, he assists financially and otherwise – and if he doles out a million, he will not wait for you to say thanks."

Pa Ibrahim spoke on Mallam Yusuf's surprised support on the day he was turbaned as a Moslem Community



chieftain, among several honourable treatments as he prayed that Allah will keep him healthy and strong. "What he did in Ifetedo on that day will live with me till I take my last breath. When the Missioner decided to raise some huge amounts before I would be turbaned, Yusuf Ali, who had organised his mates and colleagues I tutored raised over 250,000 naira to save the day – and that act made me shed tears for joy."

I gave him the name Mallam everybody calls him today

Asiwaju Adegboyega Awomolo, SAN

Member of the Nigerian Bar Association.

What is the view of this experienced lawyer on Mallam Yusuf Ali? He answered, "Fortune smiled on both of us in Ilorin. I came to Kwara State as a youth corper and started my practice in Ilorin in 1985. Malam also joined me as a corper through his friend, Mr. Wale Afolabi, an ex-Speaker of Osun State House of Assembly. I knew from our small discussion that Mallam was well prepared for the job and he would be an asset. So, I gave him a chance. His first assignment was to take a judgement at Ogbomosho court for a woman selling food at the motor park before the council asked her to

quit. Yusuf went, and lost the case - the woman cried openly and blamed Yusuf for losing – but that singular act baptised Yusuf with fire – and he never looked back.

"Over the years, we bonded like brothers. I gave him the name Mallam everybody calls him today because of a small beard he kept, like Ilorin Islamic teachers – and the name stuck to him. We related well despite our different religious backgrounds.

Yusuf Ali was a very good example of leadership in the office. He became my managing partner in 1992 when I went to serve as Commissioner in Osun State and he did very well." He added.



A mentor par excellence, Asiwaju Adegboyega Solomon Awomolo is like an elephant. He can root out blockage and pulled strings anywhere. He has affluent and positive influence as an icon of legal practice in Nigeria. He is a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, a life bencher in the legal profession, a Fellow and Member of the Council of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies. He is also a Member of the Body of Senior Advocate of Nigeria and a



Yusuf Ali is a great blessing from God to humanity

HRM Oba Akinola Oyetade
Akinrera, Latiri 1,
Olubosin of Ifetedo Kingdom

When the king goes on a journey, the Palace Guard, or even the Town's Generalissimo might be boasting of being in charge of the bastion – but whenever the trumpet sounds that the king is close to the border, every boaster will tuck his tongue in his mouth and the pompous noble will hold his fort; men, women, children, free and slaves will prostrate before the monarch.

Here comes His Royal Majesty Oba Akinola Oyetade Akinrera Latiri I, Olubosin of Ifetedo Kingdom. He is a trained and practising lawyer before destiny called him to mount the throne of his ancestors as the Paramount Ruler of Ife South Local Government Area.

Alayeluwa Oba Akinrera, Latiri I first served and trained as a teacher, enlisted at the super-honorary police which is known as Spy Police in Lagos State Command and was attached to the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Corporation where he served till 1992 before he was employed by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation's security department. Kabiyesi holds the University of Lagos LLB and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 2005. Kabiyesi spoke to our correspondent on the person of one of his subjects, Mallam Yusuf Ali and how he met him? "Since I was crowned Olubosin of Ifetedo in 2018, I have been calling him Oloye Yusuf Olaolu Ali, Baba Oba of Ifetedo Kingdom. He is the king's (my) father. I am his Royal father by providence but I was born in his hand, I grew up to know him as a very good elder brother and disciplined and selfless leader, and a father to many. I have known him all my life."

Alayeluwa also described the person of Mallam Yusuf Ali and his contributions to the development of Ifetedo, and the palace, "Baba Oba is an enigma, a legal giant, a general in every

aspect of life. He is brilliant, highly disciplined, committed to whatever he does, a silent achiever and a respecter of traditional institutions. When I became the Otun, he prophesied that, "Akin yio j'Oba, Akin yio je Olubosin l'ojo kan." (Akin will become a king, Akin will be crowned Olubosin someday).

Oloye Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN is a philanthropist to the core; I can't tell the number of indigent students he has trained and got employment or set-up businesses for. He attracted 'Opolo Osun,' ICT Hub to Ifetedo and a lot of indigenes and non-indigenes were trained. He made Ifetedo general hospital habitable. He has even approached me to give him land to build a residence for the hospital workers. When I wanted to ascend the throne, he volunteered and served on the coronation planning committee – and honestly, his name would never have appeared on the list if I was to choose the committee members considering his status and busyness. He was the coordinator, he spent his money and time to make the ceremony memorable. In a nutshell, Yusuf Ali is a great blessing from God to humanity." In conclusion, Kabiyesi spoke about Baba Oba's intention to partner with him in providing a befitting palace, and prayed that the Lord will uphold Mallam Yusuf Ali, grant him long life and good health – as he also admonished today's youths to emulate him.

Ali is a good Moslem who doesn't use religion as a weapon

Prince Ayantunde & Chief (Mrs). Tomori Ponle

A novice can damn a king and a fool may play down a noble – but any idiot who looks down on Prince Ayantunde or Mrs. Tomori Ponle will have himself or herself to blame at the end. The couple are like a tiger that no dog must defy. The duo are whales that no tilapia must disrespect in the ocean of life. This wonderful couple is an inspiration to every aspiring and struggling couple – to learn the magic and wonders that keep marriage working in old age.

Prince Ayantunde is a professional engineer, an industrialist and hospitality guru. He is a shining star illuminating Ada Town in Boripe Local Government Area of Osun State whilst Chief Mrs Grace Titi Tomori Ponle is a renowned teacher, politician and former Deputy Governor of the State of Osun under the leadership of Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola. She is an indigene of Osogbo.

In this chat with our reporter, the couple talked about their relationship with Mallam Yusuf Ali and other traits that attach them to him.

Prince: I have known Mallam Yusuf Ali for ages; he spent over 15 years as an apprentice to my cousin, Chief Awomolo, who had spoken well about Mallam Ali's honesty, hard-work and intolerance for stealing. I had no option than to answer the call to be in the council of Osun State University when his name was mentioned as Chairman.

Chief Mrs.: Quite funny how we met. Mallam Yusuf Ali, was the Attorney representing a man that stole the mandate of my Principal, Ogbeni Aregbesola and I, but he is an exemplary legal luminary, not only brilliant but highly intelligent. He's highly detribalized and full of integrity and that informed my principal to make him the Chairman of Osun State University Council.

What makes Mallam Yusuf unique before this influential couple?

Chief Mrs.: Mallam Ali convinced all of us beyond all reasonable doubts that he is

transparent, efficient, capable and unique to the extent that I pray and wish that the NUC or the government of Nigeria will do a case study on Ali, study his attributes to discover the magic wand that makes Osun State University tick. Despite series of challenges, Ali remains unbreakable.

Prince: I have known Ali at a close-range for seven years. He is fantastic, respectful, intelligent, transparent, generous, helpful and challenging. He built a hostel for the university and I donated my big property in the village. He has, once or twice bailed the university out of trouble. I maintain a very good relationship with him and the respect he accords me impresses me so much that I dare not offend this man.

Indelible memory:
Prince: The matured manner with which he handled NASU and saved the day from crisis on one convocation day, when the Teaching Hospital was to be commissioned by Dr. Mrs. Folorunsho Alakija made me respect him more.

Chief Mrs.: We have heard of and read about chancellors that had challenges with universities for embezzlement or misappropriation of university properties but Ali is different – he was not involved in any contract manipulation. He is clean!

Conclusion:

Prince: Ali is a good Moslem who doesn't use religion as a weapon – this may not be known until you are close to him.

Chief Mrs.: I'm a Christian but I admire Ali's attributes as a good Muslim who reached the pinnacle of his career through diligence and integrity – and I counsel anybody reading this to imbibe those traits.



The wolf may look like a dog but it is definitely not a dog ... it is much more. The wolf is wild, fierce and ferocious. Kayode Alabi, the Deputy Governor of Kwara State is not just a politician but a professional in politics. He is a miracle like coconut milk. He cannot be pushed aside in policy making and public management. His political sense and diplomatic acumen got him the post of

Mallam was the First Donor to the Kwara State Government During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Kayode Alabi, The Deputy Governor of Kwara State

Deputy Governor and his managerial skills and coordination capacity keep Kwara State in peace.

Kayode Alabi spoke on Mallam Yusuf Ali, SAN, "My first contact with him was at Wole Olanipekun & Co. Chamber. He was then a young and learning Barrister. He is a man that set goals for his life very early, and with vigour and enduring determination, pursued them until he became a great achiever." Mr. Kayode Alabi hinted on Mallam Yusuf Ali's contribution to national development among other impressive acts, "Mallam was the first donor to the Kwara State Government for the prevention and

management of Covid-19 victims in the State in the year 2020. He has also contributed in numerous ways to the development of Kwara State – financially, legally, religiously and through a series of well-thought and result-oriented lecture engagements to different faith-based and social organizations."

"Any aspiring youngster should emulate Mallam's integrity, humility, enduring courtesy and a high sense of philanthropy, plus features like easy accessibility, and warm reception to all and sundry, both the nobles and the commoners that differentiate him from other professionals," he added.



I have never seen a man as selfless as Mallam Yusuf Ali, SAN

Alhaji (Chief) (Dr) AbdulRaheem Amoo Oladimeji, OFR, FNAEAP, Asiwaju of Igbomina land and Baba Oba of Offa.

towering above competitors to carve a niche for himself in the business world.

The Founder of Al Hikmah University, Alhaji AbdulRaheem Oladimeji rose to the top through hard work, dedication and perseverance. He was a government contractor (1967-1971) in the areas of supplies and transportation – and later veered into merchandizing, manufacturing and construction.

What can he say about Mallam Yusuf Ali, Alhaji AbdulRaheem Oladimeji said, "Our path crossed when we were trying to set-up Al Hikma University in Ilorin – and we needed a legal adviser

that would not be too costly. Initially, I was sceptical about the choice of Mallam Yusuf Ali SAN, I thought we could not afford his service but to my greatest surprise, he told me that since the school is to glorify the name of Almighty Allah and help humanity, he would render the service free of charge."

"Mallam Yusuf Ali, SAN, is a selfless human being that supports any good cause and condemns any bad cause. When we started making money and wanted to be paying him, he rejected it and rather, he was assisting indigent students in the university. I have never seen a man as selfless as Mallam Yusuf Ali SAN." He added.



The river can be as silent and harmless as a stream – but do not be fooled, it can sweep away a whole city, and do not assume that a noiseless, crawling snake cannot sting. R. A. Lawal-Rabana may look calm but he is definitely not a fool to be trampled upon. He is a graduate of University of Nigeria, Nsukka, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria with about 40 years’ experience.

While speaking on his relationship

Mallam Yusuf Ali is very religious, generous, friendly and enjoys team work.

R. A. Lawal–Rabana, SAN

with Mallam Yusuf Ali, how they met and relate till date ... he said, “We met at the Nigerian Law School in Victoria Island, Lagos, and after my NYSC in Kano, I came back to Kwara State, met Yusuf Ali working in Ilorin, and from that moment we have related and bonded well. From the onset, he had a vision to excel in the profession, to become a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, and he is so passionate and focused. He never deviated into politics or other ventures – even in the NBA, he has vied for no office – and that has enabled him to create a formidable legal practice.”

“Mallam Yusuf Ali is very religious,

generous, friendly and enjoys team work. I recollect that whenever we travel to Lagos together, on our way back, Mallam would insist that we stop and eat at a particular amala joint in Oyo town, not minding our status as lawyers. It was so funny to the extent that we argued on the kind of meat we wanted. He lives a very simple life – even when he became a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, he never raised his shoulder. He felt he was still part of us and it was a privilege for him to be SAN before us.” He also maintained that Mallam Yusuf Ali is a trailblazer, strong and committed to the legal profession.

Mallam Ali is very kind, humane and very generous

Titus Olasupo Ashaolu, SAN

The man, Titus Olasupo Ashaolu, SAN is like water. He is useful for drinking, cooking, bathing and other valuable use. His type is so scarce due to importance and quality. He is a blessing to every venture and association he belongs. Titus is a graduate of the prestigious University of Lagos and Principal Partner of Olasupo Ashaolu & Co., a law firm, and was Attorney General of Kwara State during the time of Governor Lawal from 1999 – 2003. Currently,

he is a member of the Judicial Service Commission, Kwara State.

During a session with our correspondent, Titus Olasupo Ashaolu was asked to say something about Mallam Yusuf Ali and he opened up. “I qualified as a lawyer in 1982, he did in 1983. We met here in Kwara State and since then we have been moving together. Mallam Ali is very kind, humane and very generous. He’s a Muslim, I’m a Christian but he respects me. He has a winsome way of associating with people of all classes.”

“He was a Senior Advocate before



me and to facilitate mine, he was involving me in some cases of note apart from our different cases. He is not a stingy person. If you achieve anything laudable, he will throw a party to celebrate the accomplishment. Despite being a brilliant lawyer and a SAN, he is so humble. He will chat, joke and interact with you freely, and not for once has he claimed to be something.” He added.

Mallam Yusuf Ali is a very honest person – hardworking, consistent, ambitious and selfless

Asiwaju Tunde Badmus

A stranger can march around the town like a soldier on war mission but the true son of the soil will always tread softly. It is not a surprise to see Asiwaju Tunde Badmus handling the affairs of life with ease; it is because a true and thorough man will not be part of chaos and disruption.

How did Asiwaju meet Mallam Yusuf Ali? He replied, “I met him through providence around 1992 or thereabout, when he and three other friends of his came to seek my intervention as Asiwaju Muslumi of Yorubaland on the need for the then Governor of Osun State, Late



Isiaka Adeleke to practise pristine Islam, and it happened. “Mallam is a very honest person – hardworking, consistent, ambitious, but selfless. He handled a case that spanned eight years for Alhaja without charging a kobo and when the present Ataoja of Osogbo was installed, the way Mallam Yusuf Ali intervened and changed the situation was marvelous and surprising. He accosted me and said, ‘Egbon, I am not happy with you, you saw my brother (referring to Ataoja) and did not support him. Anyway, I have

assured Kabiyesi that everything has been settled, that you are now on the same page with him.’ Mallam Yusuf Ali defended Ataoja from the lower courts to the Supreme Court and he won.” Asiwaju Tunde Badmus said. He believed that Mallam has laid enviable milestones in the course of his sojourn in the legal practice and humanitarian services.



It is an outright unacceptable proposal to suggest a lion to be a storekeeper for every game tigers kill and deciding when and how they feast. The bill will not fly in the Supreme Jungle Assembly. Chief Wole Olanipekun, SAN cannot be bent to accept or obey foolish ideals in the court of law. He is wise, intelligent and well read. He has attractive petals and thorny stalks to wade-off enemies and criminals. He is a

Ali is not just a brilliant, hardworking, industrious lawyer but also a man of impeccable character

Chief Wole Olanipekun, SAN

seasoned lawyer and a Senior Advocate of Nigeria – meaning an authority in courtroom.

Who connected him to Mallam Yusuf and what can he say about him? He replied, “I met Mallam Yusuf Ali when he came to Ilorin for his NYSC, and settled in Ilorin just as I did after my NYSC. From inception, I noticed that Ali is not just a brilliant, hardworking, industrious young lawyer but also a man of impeccable character. He has a good pedigree and godly heritage. He doesn’t envy anybody; he wants good for everybody.”

“Ali is constant, dependable and

focused – he is a lawyer 100%, no diversion, no looking back like Lot’s wife. Even with the silk, he is still working like a new entrant. Ali is a friend and not a fiend, a brother, a soulmate you can confide in and trust with the secrets of your life. He is not a pretender or diabolical.” “Another aspect of Yusuf Ali is his generosity. There are few lawyers in Nigeria that are generous. A lot of lawyers in Nigeria don’t believe you should give back to the society. Ali’s generosity speaks volume in his homestead, Ifetedo and his presence is glaring for all to see.”

Mallam Yusuf Ali has no two sides in terms of characters and words

Alhaji A. B. Mahmoud Founding Partner, Dikko & Mahmoud

Which other animal is as acrobatic as monkeys – even in the family of apes, it stands out? Alhaji A. B. Mahmoud is a different breed of a professional – enigmatic, focused and practical. He attended Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, called to the bar in 1980 and started his legal career as a Counsel at the Ministry of Justice, Kano State and rose to become the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Kano State.

Alhaji Mahmoud spoke to our correspondent on his meeting and relationship with Mallam Yusuf Ali, “I have known Malam Yusuf since we started practice as lawyers at the

Ministry of Justice in Kano. We met in courts and various functions like conferences, seminars and workshops of the bar association and we easily became very good friends. Meeting Malam Yusuf was as spectacular as the relationship we built over the years. He is an amiable person; very fair minded and easy going.” “Malam Yusuf Ali is very honest and God-fearing. He treats everybody with dignity and honour. He is a complete gentleman, and you can be comfortable with him – what you see is what you get. He has no two sides in terms of characters and words. Once he gives you his words, he stands by it. He is nice, amiable, warm and friendly ... and as a



professional, he is disciplined and hardworking. His skilfulness is anchored to his integrity – and that endears him to his colleagues and other people.”

The indelible impression Mallam Yusuf etched in Alhaji Mahmoud's mind: “I will never forget when Mallam entrusted me with his daughter, almost asking me to mentor her. Anyone who will take his grown up daughter and entrust her with you goes to show the level of trust and confidence he has in you.”



Joseph Bodunrin Daudu, a legal practitioner, called to the bar in 1980, became a Senior Advocate of Nigeria in 1995. He has served as President of Nigerian Bar Association and Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee. He is an honest man – tested and trusted in all ramifications – and like a gorilla in the company of apes, he stands out, big, strong and reliable.

Mallam Yusuf Ali is a God-fearing man; extremely brilliant ... a bit impatient with dubious people

Speaking to our reporter on his meeting and relationship with Mallam Yusuf Ali, Chief Daudu said: “I met Malam Yusuf Ali in 1985. We used to work together in Ilorin and Kaduna – and as young lawyers, after each session at the Court of Appeal in Kaduna we would drive to my place, and to Iya Taju's Amala Joint to eat. Our children went to the same school, Adesoye College, Offa. Malam Yusuf Ali is a God-fearing man; extremely brilliant, hardworking, conscientious and a bit impatient with dubious people. Above all, his approach to life has been tampered by his fear for

Chief Bodunrin Daudu, SAN

God. He prioritises God before he acts or reacts – and that is what endears me to him all these years. Professionally, posterity will be grateful to him for the quality of the cases he has argued; highly contested and highly cerebral – from the high court to the court of appeal and the Supreme Court. He is a distinguished lawyer, different from many professionals due to his forthrightness, honesty, hard work and fear of God.” He concluded by praying that God will grant Mallam and a bulk of them the grace to complete what they started.



No sane person will compare a dog with a tiger. The dog may charge stronger and bark louder but if it dares the tiger, it will be baptised with its own blood. Professor Ishaq Oloyede is a man among many boys and a captain among many academic players, and a tiger in the jungle of Nigerian education sector, and one of the very few people that could win the coveted prize of integrity in Nigeria.

Mallam Yusuf Ali is a God-conscious person

Alhaji Ishaq Oloyede
Registrar, Joint Admission and Matriculation Board

How and when did the titans meet? Professor Oloyede replied, “We grew up together. I have known him for over 50 years of my 67 years in life. I only know we met at the Muslim Students Society of Nigeria (MSSN). Mallam is a very straight forward person; very intelligent and strategic. He is a God-conscious person; very conscious of his responsibility to God. He is sociable by my own definition of being sociable and self-respecting, contrary to popular opinion that he is assertive. He is fully dedicated to his profession; from coordinating the chamber of Chief Adegboyega Awomolo, SAN, to establishing his own.” What unforgettable moment has this

academician shared with his bosom friend, a legal luminary? “Many ... we lived together under the same roof for 10 years with our families without any rift, and we packed out of the building the same day. We see ourselves as family, our children relate as brothers and sisters.” “Mallam is not just a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, he is also one of the leading stars of the bar. From the little I have heard from people, even from the bench, they all respect him for not only being brilliant but for being forthright. He is frank to a fault. He would always tell you what he believes, no matter whose ox is gored.” He said of Mallam's unique traits.

We are brothers from different mothers

Alhaji Aliyu Badmus

Do not compare a lizard with a crocodile. They might both be reptiles. One is an aquatic creature while the other is created for the land but the croc is a carnivore that eats flesh while lizard is an insectivore – and that explains the reason for their size and power. Just like a mighty croc in the ocean, Alhaji Aliyu Badmus, a graduate of Great Ife is a professional of repute.

In his take on Mallam Yusuf Ali, he revealed, “We were both members of MSSN at Ife with no deep relationship but as fate would have it I became the Chairman of Jihad week committee in 1979 and he was the Chairman of Maulud Nabbiy Committee and had to work together and since then we have been like brothers from different mothers. Mallam is a fantastic friend, well-endowed with positivity and talents for finding solutions to problems and he was

also gifted academically. He's a very kind-hearted philanthropist; he spends generously for the welfare of others and whatever he touches will blossom. Whatever project he handles will consume his energy, intellect, time and goodwill – and being a SAN is a proof of his dexterity in law.” “He connects and makes friends easily with people all of classes and status. He should be called 'Afenifere' (someone who wants good for all). He wants everybody to succeed like him. He's passionate about his work – he works every day including weekends and public holidays from 7am to 9pm.” He added as he encouraged the youths to emulate his spirit of dedication and seriousness to work.

Malam Yusuf Ali, SAN, is a man with abundant integrity

Professor Wahab Egbewole, SAN



A tiny seed of chilli pepper is still a master to a bulging eye. Though very small, it is not something even a lion with a bold heart can put in his eyes without dancing reggae and begging for survival. So also, Professor Wahab Egbewole is a legal colossus, a Professor of Law and Vice Chancellor, University of Ilorin, very brilliant and intelligent lawyer since 1985.

In this piece, Professor Egbewole opened up on what the youths

can emulate from Malam Yusuf Ali, "Malam Yusuf Ali has demonstrated his firm belief in people and gives his shoulder for many to lean on.

The problem we are having in Nigeria now is "integrity, "but it is one of the traits Mallam Yusuf Ali has in abundance, and a character that youths of nowadays should emulate. He always ensures that everything he does will not tarnish his image and relationship with his Maker.

Mallam Yusuf is a very strong anti-

corruption crusader. He is hardworking and always advocating for better life and society. I want the youths to pick from Mallam Yusuf anti-corruption ideals, innovated disposition, integrity and big heart for giving, knowing that everything we have is to lift up our country and the people around us."

Yusuf Ali is a good friend to cherish and an enemy to fear

-Prince Lateef Fagbemi, SAN



Prince Lateef Fagbemi, a lawyer and a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, is a man of dignity and power. His name is heavier than the bride price a king might request from a knight seeking his princess' hands in marriage.

Speaking on his relationship with Mallam Yusuf Ali and what the relationship has birthed, the learned fellow, Prince Fagbemi revealed, "We have known each other for more than 30 years. Our relationship grew through exchange of pleasantries and ideas. We discuss cases and give useful advice to each other. I don't visit Ilorin without visiting his

chambers."

"Yusuf Ali has a good name and reputation; he is a man of integrity, honour and wisdom. He is very bold and courageous; he says things as they are without mincing his words or be concerned about whose ox is gored. He is neither a name dropper nor an ego massager. He is a good friend to cherish and an enemy to fear. So, it is better to have him on your side than to have him on the other side." He added.

Prince Fagbemi who revealed that Yusuf Ali's honesty and dedication are the elements that sustained their

relationship also spoke on the qualities that differentiate Mallam from other professionals, "He is a very selfless man; he would call whenever anybody he knows is celebrating, plan what to give to support the person. He is also a philanthropist; he has done a lot of charitable deeds for individuals, institutions and his homestead. His footprint is clearly inscribed on the sand of time and his name etched in letters of gold."

Mallam Yusuf Ali is too down-to-earth for his big status

Dr. (Mrs) Fola Modupe Olowoleni



Dr. (Mrs) F. M. Olowoleni is like a mother hen with large wings to shield her chicks. Her beautiful smiles are a reflection of her kind heartedness and generosity. Fola is a native of Okun, Kabba in Kogi State, Nigeria, and currently the Registrar of University of Ilorin.

Speaking about her relationship with Mallam Yusuf Ali, she said, "I

met Mallam Yusuf Ali a long time ago through his bosom friend, Dr. Ishaq Olanrewaju Oloyede who was my boss at the time. Mallam Yusuf Ali is too down-to-earth for his big status; he is such a national big figure. When you meet and relate with him, he relates back to you, laugh with you like his mate. He's so humble, no air around him, no feeling of self-importance – like our big men in Nigeria today, walking all around pompously. Yusuf Ali is like a next door neighbour you can approach in serious moments."

Dr. Olowoleni also spoke about a

unique experience she has had with Mallam Yusuf Ali, among the unique traits that differentiate him from other professionals. "After I moved to administration from planning, I needed some computers for the academic unit for exams, records, students' data and more. I approached him and said, 'Mallam, why don't you donate some computers to us in the academic planning unit?' He did without pressure, and recently, he gave me good ideas on how to transit to the next phase of my life. He is a philanthropist to the core and friendly person."



Gone are the days when an elephant and her calves cannot tusk at the same time but things have changed, elephant and her calves can tusk simultaneously. Adeniyi Micheal Akintola, from childhood is an academic genius with a degree in Law and second degree in Political Science. He is a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, a legal luminary whose light cannot

Mallam Yusuf Ali is my benefactor and mentor

RT Hon. Chief Adeniyi Akintola, SAN

be hidden by detractors.

Speaking about meeting Mallam Yusuf Ali, and the relationship, "I first met 'Egbon,' during a case involving Bacita Sugar Company in Ilorin. He was also in court and as a senior, his case was treated before ours. I was taken aback by his brilliance. I became his boy – watching how he does things. He is highly religious."

"Knowing Mallam Yusuf Ali has been a rewarding experience. He gave me many professional tips – conduct, behaviour and so on. I knew him when he was with Chief Awomolo, and when he set-up his own practice, he used to give me

briefs. He is my benefactor and mentor."

"One day, Mallam visited my 'twin brother,' Lateef Fagbemi, SAN, in his office. I met them eating when I entered. I was so desperate to join when 'Egbon' looked at me and said, "You dare not touch my food or else, I will let you know that your name was written with pencil, and not ink. I will clean it with an eraser." I quickly withdrew my hand; watched as Mallam finished his food, picking his teeth, mocking me. Oga Mallam is an enigma." Adeniyi Akintola said of a funny but unforgettable experience that makes him laugh each time he remembers it.

Olaolu is known worldwide, not only as a lawyer but also as a philanthropist



Prof. Rasheed Aderinoye

A bell is a shaped cone with a swinging ball that rings whenever it is jingled. As small as it might look, it makes the loudest sound that gets everybody's attention. The value of this equipment is so pronounced in schools, worship centres and community halls. Prof. Rasheed Aderinoye is a bell

that gets people's attention wherever he goes. He was born in the same city as Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali.

An erudite scholar, Rasheed Aderinoye, retired as a Professor of Education and served at different government parastatals at the state and national levels. How and when did he meet Malam Yusuf Ali and what has their relationship birthed? He answered, "My case is not a matter of meeting Olaolu Ali, it is a matter of growing in the same environment with him. His grandfather, Oba Adeyeye Ali, was one of the first people to go on pilgrimage to Mecca from our town – and the man's prayer was that

Amuda (Yusuf) will be great in life. Today, Olaolu is known worldwide, not only as a lawyer but also as a philanthropist and human capital developer.

"Olaolu received paltry sum as an intern but paid handsomely in his chamber. He is generous, kind and down-to-earth. His unrelenting efforts in seeing Ifetedo developed cannot be underestimated. His footprints and legacies dot the town and history and posterity will never forget him. There is no way the history of the Faculty of Law of Osun State University in Ifetedo will be narrated without mentioning Yusuf who single-handedly fought, followed-up with action and built a hostel in the name of his late wife for the students." He added.

Doing good for people and philanthropy come easily for Mallam

Dr. Ganiu Adeniran



There are many stars but only one moon – and yet, the collective light of the stars cannot be as bright as that of the moon. Dr. Ganiu Adeniran has been shining to the chagrin of his antagonists because God is his source of strength. Born about 65 years ago, Dr. Ganiu Adeniran is a lecturer at University of Ibadan and Consultant, Veterinary Pathology. He took us down the memory lane till this moment on who Mallam Ali

was and is. "The journey started in 1977 at the Tax office where we both worked as clerks after secondary school. We were reconnected closely after many years of separation by Professor Aderinoye. Mallam Yusuf is calm, cool and generous – always willing to help. I remember when my niece went to University of Ilorin, she stayed in his house throughout and enjoyed free food and welfare. Doing good for people, humanitarian services and philanthropy come easily for him." "Mallam understands friendship; honours the invitation to my daughters' weddings. Despite being a SAN, he is simple; no air around

him and that differentiates him from other professionals. He has a disarming personality, takes his religion very serious, and tolerates other people's faith. He abhors corruption and unbridled accumulation of wealth." In conclusion, he admonished the younger ones to learn perseverance from Mallam Ali, "Mallam is not from a rich home but through perseverance, persistence, hard work, honesty, purposefulness and sincerity to God, he is great. He is a selfless mankind; if you know the number of lawyers he has developed in his Chamber and the ones he sponsored through law school."



Mallam is hardworking and ambitious but never in a hurry to get result

Professor Sulaiman Age AbdulKareem

A patient dog, they say, eats the fattest bone. While some people fish for tilapia in the ocean, the smart ones look for whales and sharks – big and rare creatures, larger than what a net can catch. Professor Sulaiman Age AbdulKareem is a diligent, versatile and patient man with tangible results to show for his years of hard work. He read Chemical Engineering at the University of Detroit in Michigan

USA.

Professor Ade AbdulKareem spoke on his relationship and personality of Mallam Yusuf Ali: "I met Mallam Yusuf Ali through one of my friends who read Law at Ife, now a Chief Justice of a Nigerian Western State. Mallam Yusuf stood out among our other friends due to his behaviour and the way he comported himself. He was more matured than the rest of us. When it gets to drinking or girlfriends' matter, he would quickly and gently excuse himself. We enjoyed his company but all those youthful exuberances that we enjoyed, he never participated in it – and we

all respect him, shook hands but you could see that he had a purpose for his life." He said further, "Mallam is hardworking and ambitious but never in a hurry to get result by cutting corners. He may not be much older than most of us but he comported himself elegantly from ouset. He is generous to a fault, he has shown concern to the less-privileged and willingly supported with his own money. I remember a young chap that joined Al-Hikma, I assisted the boy in my own little way but the student later told me that he was referred to Yusuf Ali and he paid his school fees."

Mallam remains a barometer for judging good performance in the legal profession

Ahmed Raji, SAN



Ahmed Adeniyi Raji is a professional with a humble spirit, a gentleman with a lion heart. He is a legal practitioner and a Senior Advocate of Nigeria. He has public service experience before committing himself fully to private practice.

He was asked, 'How and when did you meet Malam Yusuf Ali and what can you say about the man?', without mincing his words, he opened up, "He has been my role-model for more than 30 years. His younger brother is my elder brother's friend and we have been following his footsteps since then, and he never disappointed us." Ahmed Raji

talked about Mallam Ali's indelible impression on him, "When I was INEC's Commissioner in Kano State and the election was between Shekarau of ANPP and PDP candidate, Mallam Yusuf Ali called from Saudi Arabia and said, "Ahmed, don't do anything that will tarnish your image. Ensure you do the right thing by declaring the winner!" I will forever be grateful to him for urging me to do the right thing. "Mallam's contribution to legal profession is numerous. He is an embodiment of knowledge a lot of people learn from. He remains a barometer for judging good performance in the legal

profession. He cares about his juniors and is joyful when they rise in status and number. He also commands respect from judges; when he speaks, they trust him. When he gives an undertaking, he keeps to it. He is a focused lawyer, not the type looking for appointment here and there – and his honesty is one great virtue every aspiring young professional should emulate." He concluded with well wishes.

Mallam is a revelation of a man who has taken an oath with God Almighty and conscience

Like a house on a mountain top, Adeboye Odunayo Clement has a lifestyle that is worth emulating; he is not only charismatic, his character is a reflection of good and godly heritage. He is a professor of Planned Physiology; currently serving as the Vice Chancellor of the Osun State University in Osogbo. He attended University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo university), studied Agriculture in Plant Science and University of Ibadan for his Master's degree in Agronomy Plant Physiology, then Obafemi Awolowo University for his PhD. He became a professor in 2009 and VC Osun State University on January 4, 2022.

Speaking to our correspondent on the

Prof. Adeboye Odunayo

meeting and personality of Mallam Ali, Professor Adebayo Clement said, "I've read about Mallam Yusuf Ali before we met physically in 2016 when he was appointed the pro Chancellor and Chairman of Council of Osun State University. Mallam Yusuf Ali relates well with people; he's easy going, down to earth and so blessed. He demonstrated his professionalism and fairness the day I was interviewed for the post of VC; he asked me the toughest of the questions because he wanted the best for the job."

"Mallam is a major contributor to the development of our society and Uniosun. He donated a 60 bed



space hostel to Uniosun College of Law, Ifetedo campus. Since he was made Chairman of Council and Pro Chancellor, he has never taken a dime as honorarium or sitting allowance or for other assignments in this University – and he gives money for whatever we want to do, and recently, he donated 250,000 naira for a staff's hospital bill. Vivid look at Mallam is a revelation of a man who has taken an oath with God Almighty and conscience to always do what is right." He added.



It is unimaginable and incredible for a mouse to challenge a cat to a brawl. Only an uncultured lawyer, a quack or novice will question the ability of Ismail Abiodun Layonu. He is a man of experience, both in the court of law and boardroom. A graduate of the great University of Ife, a PhD and a Senior Advocate of Nigeria.

Mallam is a straightforward person, very supportive, humble, loyal and generous

Dr. Ismail Abiodun Layonu, SAN

How and when did he meet Mallam Yusuf Ali and what can he say about him? He replied, "I have known Mallam Yusuf Ali from afar when I was in Ife. He was a leader of leaders and boss of bosses. I think in truth and honesty, as a matured student, he has a way of relating with his colleagues and mates. Some of us were privileged to be in school before him. If I recall correctly, I think I left Ife in 1981 with my set and got called to the Bar in 1982, but I think Mallam finished in 1982 and got called in 1983. In all honesty,

he is far ahead than some of us who finished before him because he is our 'egbon.' "I knew him from afar because I wasn't a member of MSSN – but we became closer much later in life. Mallam is a straightforward person, very supportive, humble, loyal and generous. He will never do anything that is against the tenets of Islam. He believes you will only become what God destined you to be." He showered encomia on Mallam Ali for being a good Moslem and a philanthropist.



Enigmatic Rafiu Adisa Ebiti is a well-read Nigerian with deep training in Accounting and Finance. He is a Moslem Professional with the sole intention of putting Nigeria in the very heart of the world. He is a graduate of University of Ife and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria. He has held many management and executive positions including Deputy President 1 of Muslim

Olaolu's attitude towards money and power wows me

Alhaji Rafiu Adisa Ebiti

Ummah of South-West Nigeria, Pro-Chancellor, Summit University Offa and Council Chairman, University of Ansarudeen.

In this interview, Alhaji Rafiu Ebiti spoke on his relationship with Mallam Yusuf Ali, "Olaolu is an uncommon man and a great gift to Islam, down-to-earth, practical, principled, open and he speaks his mind without fear. He is completely trustworthy; altruistic, respectful, very humble, accommodating and totally committed to the course of Islam. He performs all the tenets of Islam – prays, fasts, does Sadaqqa and sponsors people to Hajj and Umrah."

Alhaji Ebiti spoke at length on several

good deeds that Mallam Yusuf Ali has rendered to mankind, "Olaolu's attitude towards money and power wows me. He is neither intoxicated by power nor brags about wealth – he gave without funfair. There was an instance in Saudi Arabia when somebody got stranded, he asked me to plead with the MD of Belview to carry the person. I did, but payment had to be effected. Before, Olaolu returned to Nigeria, the money was paid. I can vouch for him anywhere. His Foundation built a Kidney Dialysis Centre where services were rendered at subsidized rates and he donated a computer laboratory worth over 35 million naira to Summit University."

It is unimaginable how many students Yusuf Ali and his wife were feeding in their house without complaining

Alhaji Akin Olajide

Waheed Akin Olajide is a perfect description of the maxim that, "Dress code is not a true reflection of affluence and personality." He looks simple but he is a man of timber and calibre. A graduate of University of Ife, reputable chartered accountant and entrepreneur. He was also Secretary to the Oyo State Government during the time of Chief Abiola Ajimobi.

Alhaji Akin Olajide was asked on how and when he met Malam Yusuf Ali and what he could say about our role model? He replied, "I met Yusuf Ali when he was a student, before I married his late wife's elder sister. He came with MSS team to the house warming ceremony of my father-in-law and I was impressed that my sister-in-law got a godly friend. It is so painful that his wife died very young. She was a good woman; she would strive to make you comfortable. I don't know who was more philanthropic between Yusuf Ali and his wife. It is

unimaginable how many students Yusuf Ali and his wife were feeding in their house without complaining. I don't know how he copes and I am not surprised that God opened doors of abundance without measure for him – and his wife's death, I think he has done more sadaqqah on behalf of the woman than anybody I know. He gives scholarships to students up to University level among other great deeds."

"It is my prayer that he lives long; as he succeeded his father, he will succeed his mother too. The way he related freely with his dad, you will think they were friends. If you also listen to Ali and his mother exchanging pleasantries, it will be difficult for you to say she is his mother, they are free to each other." He added.



Mallam Yusuf is a complex personality!

Some people are so incredible; they are like a lump of coal that turned to diamond. Their emergence is magical and their exploits are miraculous. **Y. K. O. AbdulKareem is both magical and miraculous and his results are phenomenal. He read Mass Communications, worked in some media houses and later went for his degree in Law at the same university.** In this interview with this media guru turned Lawyer, AbdulKareem, on the person of Mallam Yusuf Ali, he said: "We met at an MSS gathering in 1977 and we have since been very close. He was the Best man on my

Y. K. O. AbdulKareem

wedding day. There is hardly a day we don't talk – sometimes, twice or more. People hardly know that he was not born by my mum because he was very close to her before her death.

Speaking to us on his personality and unforgettable moments with Mallam Ali, YKO said, "Mallam is a complex personality! He is an embodiment of many attributes, characters and skills. He's a man of different parts – brilliant, articulate, influential, charismatic, friendly and generous. He is simply a genius. He's well blessed intellectually. There's hardly anything he touches that he



doesn't make a difference of it – even when he was the MSS Zonal Coordinator for the entire Western Region."

"He hates to see people suffering or cheated, maybe because he rose from nothing, no family tie, no connection – except Allah, hard work and focus. He's a workaholic. When he travels abroad, he goes straight to the office on his return – and he is an ardent reader." He added.



Alhaji Bakare Gbolagade Trimisiyu is a man of virtue and elegance. Just like a stork among birds, he stands out among his peers and caucus. His strength and wisdom are the reasons he keeps flying higher than most of his contemporaries. He attended Petroleum Training Institute in Delta State and Adekunle Ajasin University, Ondo State

Yusuf Ali is a very serious and unassuming person

and worked at NNPC for 35 years.

Speaking on his relationship with and person of Mallam Ali, Tirimisiyu said, "I met Mallam Yusuf Ali, SAN in Ibadan in 1976 after our WASC examination, planning to retake some papers to qualify for higher institution. We formed a reading group and did the examination and passed with flying colours. Yusuf Ali is a very serious person and unassuming. He is a free giver, always showing interest for the well-being of others. He so much cherishes education. I remember when he got his admission into the University of Ife, now Obafemi Awolowo

Alhaji Bakare Trimisiyu

University, I was still working at the Cocoa Research Institute at the time. I used to visit him on campus and each time I visited him, he always advised me to also try and further my education."

He also admonished the youths, "His determination to succeed in whatever he does is one important lesson the younger ones must learn from him. He never gave up on his dreams and aspirations. He is a God-fearing professional, not greedy. He has contributed immensely to the development of education, religion and humanity."



Engr. Lekan Ladejo is like an oak tree that holds its fort as an acorn. Which tree will compete with oak in size and girth? He studied Civil Engineering at the Polytechnic Ibadan and Ladoko Akintola University, Ogbomoso and Environmental Science at Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye. Enigmatic and hardworking Ladejo has worked in many construction companies and

Mallam Yusuf Ali is a wonderful friend

Engineer Alhaji Lekan Ladejo

laudable projects at Costain International and Oyo State Local Government Service Commission. He spoke on his relationship with Mallam Yusuf Ali, "Mallam Yusuf and I were classmates and close buddies at Ibadan Boys' High School. I got to know him very closely the day Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali) won the world boxing heavyweight title, and since then, I visited him almost every weekend and he did same for me. We still discuss at length whether he is in the country or outside the country. His parents and siblings know me so well. Each time we see, we still crack jokes like secondary school students."

"He is a wonderful friend; very helpful – especially when it comes to Islamic matters and anything that will uplift mankind. Helping people has been part and parcel of his life since we were youngsters. His involvement and contribution to the development of humanity facilitated the siting of Osun State University's Law Faculty at Ifetedo and he is always surprising us at Ibadan Boys' High School. Another important thing about Yusuf is that he would not give opportunities due to his friends and families to outsiders – except it requires special qualifications." He said and prayed for his childhood friend.

Anything that has to do with Peace, Mallam Yusuf Ali Will Give It All His Heart

-Prof Noah Yusuf

Tiger's prowess can be underestimated if it is caged in the zoo – where every Tom, Dick and Harry throws stone at the king of the jungle. Who will meet the Tiger in the forest and not say his last prayer? It is easy for 'the nobodies' to assume Professor Noah Yusuf is one of those people – but he is more, made of more and fabricated for more. This is glaring for all to see. His resume will scare the chicken hearted and his influence will confuse doubters. Noah Yusuf is a professor of Sociology and Vice Chancellor of Al-Hikma University, Ilorin.

Prof Noah spoke to our correspondent Soetan Kehinde on

how he met Mallam Yusuf Ali (SAN) and what led to their meeting. In his words, "Malam Yusuf Ali is my role model, mentor and adviser. My first encounter with him was in early 90s from a distance. I was just introduced to Islamic Welfare Foundation in which Malam Yusuf Ali is a prominent member, and whenever I attended IWF programme, usually on invitation of close friend, Professor Lateef Usman. I met Malam in person when I was Director of Centre for Peace and Strategic Studies, University of Ilorin in 2017."

"When the centre needs a vehicle for official activities, Mallam Yusuf Ali's office, within three months



gave me the key to a Siena SUV car and the vehicle is still in use. He also delivered the first Distinguished Personalities' Public lecture of the CPSS."

"Mallam Yusuf Ali is also one of the distinguished BOT members of Al-Hikma University and almost the legal adviser to the university, he had contributed and he is still contributing to the growth and development of this university." He added.



Tortoise will grow up and survive in the desert full of dangerous snakes and scorpions and while snakes and scorpions can only live for a few years, tortoise will live for centuries, surviving many unpleasant weather conditions. Kolawole Kehinde Eleja has grown from strength to strength. He rose from grass to grace despite all odds and when many people are saying impossible, he keeps breaking records. He is a

Mallam Ali is superlative; he is an embodiment of hard-work, a symbol of integrity

Kolawole Kehinde Eleja, SAN

senior advocate of Nigeria and a graduate of Usman Dan Fodio University, Sokoto. He worked at Yusuf Ali & Co. from 1994 to 2011.

He spoke to our correspondents on his relationship with Mallam Ali, SAN, "Meeting Malam Yusuf Ali, SAN, has been the most opportunity I ever used. I came home from NYSC camp for Sallah break, and my uncle, an accountant had some legal issues. Incidentally, my 'Oga,' Mallam Yusuf Ali implored my uncle to get someone who would stand-in for him if he was not available. I came into the picture, and he was impressed with my level of perseverance and commitment. I saw in him an opportunity to learn

and be mentored by older colleague. I saw commitment, seriousness, industry and devotion. I saw somebody who exhibited so much faith in what he was doing. I never regretted working with him since I returned from NYSC camp."

"Mallam Ali is superlative; he is an embodiment of hard work, a symbol of integrity, humble and humane. When I joined him as a young lawyer, he encouraged us to build our libraries. He subscribed to some law reports and paid for it without making deductions from our salaries. He cares for his associates and our family members." He said.



Oluseun Abimbola is a graduate of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife; an authority in the field of Law. Just as lions roam and hunt with other lions, Abimbola and Ali deal in law.

He told our reporter on his first meeting with Mallam Yusuf Ali and how far they have come. "I met Mallam Yusuf Ali SAN sometime in 1994 or 95. He is a specially respected "egbon" to many of us. I was about a year at

Mallam Ali is a professional that everybody loves to work with ... warm, jovial and truly exceptional

Oluseun Abimbola, SAN

the Bar when Chief Olujinmi introduced me to him. Mallam Ali is a professional you will always love to work with; he is warm, jovial and truly exceptional ... with no airs. He allows you to speak freely and frankly – and as a senior, he treats us with respect and inspires many of us."

"While I was Attorney General in Oyo State, he was one of the professionals the Government held in high esteem and confidence whenever we had a sensational case to assign to external counsel, and he was always exceptional. He would never, ever compromise standards, integrity, or

competence, not for any fee."

He added.

Oluseun Abimbola also spoke to us on certain traits that new professionals should learn from Mallam, "Younger lawyers should learn from his simplicity, integrity and diligence. I have appeared with him and against him at the Supreme Court, yet he is the same person whichever side of the case he is. He never presented an adversarial attitude while we were on opposite sides ... he is always professional. I cannot go to Ilorin and not call him up; he is always on the lookout for you."

Mallam Yusuf Ali is a father and brother to his siblings

Mrs. Sherifat Salaudeen



Extremely few are the women who boldly pound their chests where most men cower.

Sherifat Salaudeen is one of those few amazons who has also taken her exploits to an extra mile; she can venture into and single-handedly conquer any field that 20 men cannot together plough within the same stipulated time.

Who is she and what's her relationship with Mallam Yusuf Ali? She answered, "Mallam Yusuf Ali is the first born of my father. He is a very good person – generous and accommodating.

He has been taking the responsibility of a father before our father died. He ensures our welfare – as a father and brother. Sherifat spoke on what it was like growing-up with Mallam Ali and other distinguishing features of her elder brother, "Our growing up was funny; they are three boys, I was the only female. We always eat together in one bowl; my late brother, Baba Ruka used to consume most of the food and Mallam used to snatch the meat, and we would start chasing one another – but of all the moments we shared as a family, I can never

forget the day hoodlums invaded our house and Mallam was at home from the University. As the thugs were breaking bottles, Mallam was using chair to guide us, wading them off until the fighting died down. It was that day I knew that Mallam was brave, strong and could fight."

Sherifat, in conclusion, prayed that Allah will continue to strengthen and lengthen the life of her elder brother.



Professor Yusuf Bamigboye, PhD is like an elephant, he has no reason tussling with other animals but he who tussles with him will have himself to blame. He is a teacher at all levels from primary to tertiary institution and an educational administrator par excellence.

Speaking on the meeting and personality of Mallam Yusuf Ali, Yusuf Bamigboye said, "We all

He sponsored me for Umrah in 2008

Yusuf Bamigboye

met as undergraduate students in different schools under the umbrella of MSSN.

Ali is a Prophet because of his foresightedness. He is humble and accommodating. He is jovial and inspiring, you cannot be with him and be sad. He is a philanthropist; he donates money everywhere. I, Dr Yusuf Bamigboye, have personally brought more than 20 people to him in need of money for their education, some are PhD students, Masters, students at all levels, and he catered for them. Some of the people who know we are friends, always beg me to connect them to him.

Ali's generosity is not from this world. He doles out money regularly on Fridays and Sallah periods. There was even a time one of his staff told me they'd given out more than 3 Million Naira, and Ali will never show it on his face – and if you dare call to thank him for yesterday, he will switch-off the phone on you.

There is a group I know that Ali has sponsored at least 15 of them on holy pilgrimage to perform Hajj. He sponsored me for Umrah in 2008. There's no Ramadan he has spent less than N5 or N6 million."



Mallam is humble, open and transparent

Professor Hameed Olalekan Sanni

from the University of London. How and when did Professor Hameed meet Mallam Yusuf Ali, what can he say about him? He replied, "I have known him before we met each other in person. We were undergraduates and active members of MSSN. We were later connected through my colleague at LASU – and when I came to Fountain University as Vice-Chancellor, the first structure that caught my attention was Yusuf Ali's Luxury Hostel which has 80 bed space for female students."

"About a year or two ago, when we were trying to establish Common Islamic Law programme, he donated a lot of books for the law library and has been offering legal services to the university pro bono for almost two years now and last year, I attended a book launch in Abuja and I was able to hear for the first time, the list of philanthropic works he did across the country."

"Mallam is humble, open and transparent, friendly and lovely, selfless and generous. He also has a very good sense of humour." He added.

Lions do not yell, they roar. Dogs do not bleat, they bark. Every creature performs according to its kind. Professor Hameed Olalekan Sanni is from the family of successful people and it is not a surprise that he is flying higher than his predecessors. He is the Vice Chancellor of Fountain University. He holds a first degree and Masters of the University of Ibadan as a British Commonwealth Scholar, and PhD

Yusuf Ali is a good person and he has good intentions

Alhaji Alhaji Jimoh Omotosho (aka Ayeloja)

Alhaji Jimoh Omotosho is like water that quenches thirst and meal that kills hunger. His importance cannot be played down. He is the CEO of Ayeloja Block Industry Nigeria limited and a building contractor.

Speaking on Mallam Yusuf Ali, Ayeloja said, "I met Mallam Yusuf Ali when he was at Lawyer Awomolo's chamber in 1983 and we have since been in contact. Yusuf Ali is a good person and he has good intentions. Where I am today is with the help of Yusuf Ali and God. He contracted me to renovate the first place he bought

– and he has introduced me to more than 20 people, almost all the lawyers in Kwara State – and apart from giving me contract and introducing me for jobs, his generosity towards me is much. He can say Alhaji Ayeloja, 'Go to this or that mosque and renovate but don't mention my name,' and whenever I am questioned about the benefactor, I will just say, 'It's someone God sent.'

I have done many projects for him at the University of Ilorin in his wife's name, we built at Fountain University, we built a hostel at University of Osun when he was not even a chancellor. I can't



mention all his kindness. During Ramadan, he will give me envelopes to give to the elderly – as many 20 to 40 people.", I was in his place one Sunday, he told me he wanted us to go somewhere together. He gave me an envelope to keep in my pocket – we went to the General Hospital where there were sick people on the bed. Moslems, Christians and others were given money." He said.

Yusuf's personality, career and everything about him are like that of a prophet

Imam (Alhaji) Soliu Aleshinloye Bakare (Karamah Llahu wa jianu) is an Islamic scholar, cleric and Chief Imam of Ifetedo and Chairman, League of Imam and Alfas in Ife South Local Government Area of the State of Osun. He is like a small rudder that controls a mighty ship in the ocean; ever confident and focused.

Imam Rattibi spoke on Malam Yusuf Ali; "I had known Yusuf since birth because his maternal grandfather was my father's elder brother, we are close relatives. His personality, career and everything about

Alhaji Soliu Aleshinloye Bakare

him are like that of a prophet, because when he does anything, he doesn't look back until he completes it. Growing-up, he was a bit rascal but a no nonsense person and very bright.

I have met many good people in Ifetedo but Yusuf Ali is better. He is our legend, doing good to everybody. He made our central mosque an ultra-modern one, he was the one who brought the Osun State University's Law Faculty to Ifetedo, and ensured we have magistrate and high court in

Ifetedo. He wooed government to bring cooperative hospital to our town, built hostel here for students, and houses where Justices and Resident Doctors reside. How many developmental projects can we begin to talk about? Whenever I call Yusuf Ali that someone needs aids, he will tell me to send the person's name and details – and only confirm if I know the person, and he will do something tangible for the person. He pays the salaries of Arabic studies lecturers, takes good care of the students, and whenever I call him for my personal needs, he answers promptly." He added.

Yusuf Olaolu Ali is a special breed.

-Oba Adelodun SAN

Adebayo Oba Adelodun SAN is one of the highly reputable apostle of legal system who did not only excel as a brilliant and erudite lawyer but also an exemplary legal professional. Right from inception, his dream was to be a lawyer and ever since he became one, he has never looked back in the pursuit of justice.

Speaking on his relationship with Mallam Yusuf Ali SAN he said "yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN is a man of many parts. He is a patriotic Nigerian who has contributed immensely towards the

development of the country. Apart from his chosen profession, mallam yusuf olaolu Ali has devoted his time and resources to the development of the human race.

He is never tired of giving, God has blessed him and if someone should tell if God has bless Yusuf Ali I am one of the people that can say so. As he used to say that "if Allah has called him at the beginning when He was creating him, and say Yusuf Ali I want to create you, look at those things and pick what would you like, he wouldn't pick half of what God



Has done for him" in deed God has blessed him and he is giving a lot back to humanity. MALAM Yusuf Ali is somebody that amazes me and makes me feel a lot humble whenever I sit down with him and something happened, the way he usually handled them without getting annoyed or worried is worth emulating

CELEBRATING an exceptional HUMANIST.

On behalf of my self and family
I heartily rejoice with

Mallam Yusuf Ali SAN

as he receives the Synochure
international magazine Role
model of the year award. As I join
millions of your admirers to
celebrate you, I pray Almighty
Allah will grant you more
wonderful years on earth in good
health and sound mind.

Congratu lations!



Signed
Prince Lateef fagbemi.



Mallam Yusuf Ali

Changed My Life.

Osinlu Tope
(Ogbom)



I met Mallam Yusuf Ali SAN about 30 years ago through a friend when he was looking for a driver and on the 15th of November, 1992, I started working with him as his personal driver. Looking back now, I thank Almighty God for using him to change my life in a positive way. I don't see him as a boss but a father who is so passionate about the welfare and development of my family. Mallam is generous to a fault and a stickler of time.

Mallam Yusuf Ali

SEE ME AS HIS
BIOLOGICAL
SON.

Akeem Owonare.



I met mallam yusuf Ali SAN at Kwara Hotel. He was introduced to me by my Boss and that was how I started working with him as Chef of the house. Mallam Yusuf Ali is like a father to me because right from the day i started working as a chef in the house, he took me like his biological son. During my marriage ceremony, he played a prominent role and till date, my wife and children referred to him as grand pa.

Mallam Yusuf is a good 'Egbon' I admire a lot

Mr. Olusina Sofola, SAN

From the lineage of learned fellows, Mr Olusina Sofola SAN is a very simple man who is living the dream of his late father – the model that tailored his life since tender age – establishing the adage that, 'Lion's cub will eventually grow-up, roar and hunt like a lion.'

After graduation from the University of Buckingham, UK and called to the Nigerian Bar in 1988, Mr. Sofola joined his dad's firm, specialising in litigation. He subsequently did his Master's Degree in Corporate Law and became a Senior Advocate of Nigeria in

2009, as a reward for hard work.

Mr. Olusina Sofola, SAN spoke on how and when he met Mallam Yusuf Ali, SAN and what the relationship has reared. "Mallam Ali is a good 'Egbon' I greatly admire for his professionalism and nature. My first one-on-one contact with him was when I newly became a member of the Body of Benchers. We lodged in the same hotel. He picked me up, helped me in settling down at the meeting and in the association. He is kind-hearted and supportive. On my father's eighth day 'fidau' prayer, he, with his class and standard,



showed up in Ikenne without any special invitation. I didn't know how he found out."

"Mallam Yusuf Ali is a dedicated Moslem, loyal friend and a distinguished gentleman. He often sends me prayers on WhatsApp and calls me from time to time. He recently told me of his intention to nominate me as General Secretary for the Body of SAN." Olusola added."



Does the name Olabode Popoola ring a bell? It is only a blind man that considers an elephant a little animal. Labo is an academic of class and repute. He is a Professor of Forest Economics and 3rd substantive Vice-Chancellor of Osun State University, a consultant, widely travelled and active participant in the sustainable development issues globally.

How did Professor Labode Popoola

Mallam Yusuf

is extremely selfless, generous and down-to-earth

Professor Olabode Popoola, PhD

meet Mallam Yusuf Ali and what can he say about their years of togetherness? He replied, "Well, the name Yusuf Ali rings a bell; I have heard his name before I met him. He is a devout Moslem in practice, character, conduct and model. He is somebody you look at from afar and wish to emulate."

"Our first closest encounter was when I was interviewed for the position of Osun State University VC in 2016. As Chairman of the University Council, he used his resources to facilitate the system, attended meetings without taking dime for sitting or lodging, and worked hard to ensure the university runs well." He added.

"Mallam Yusuf is extremely selfless, generous, down-to-earth, courageous, frugal and lover of humanity. He is more of a big brother to me and there is nothing I cannot tell him. There's no way I would have completed my five years tenure in Osun State University because of fighting and corruption if not for the support of someone like him who stood by me as I was petitioned and detained by EFCC – and he tells people till tomorrow that Labo is stubborn but you can never accuse him of corruption." Professor Labo Popoola showered accolades on Mallam Yusuf Ali for his love for the country and Osun State, especially Ifetedo.



CONGRATULATIONS ON THE AWARD OF ROLE MODEL OF THE YEAR

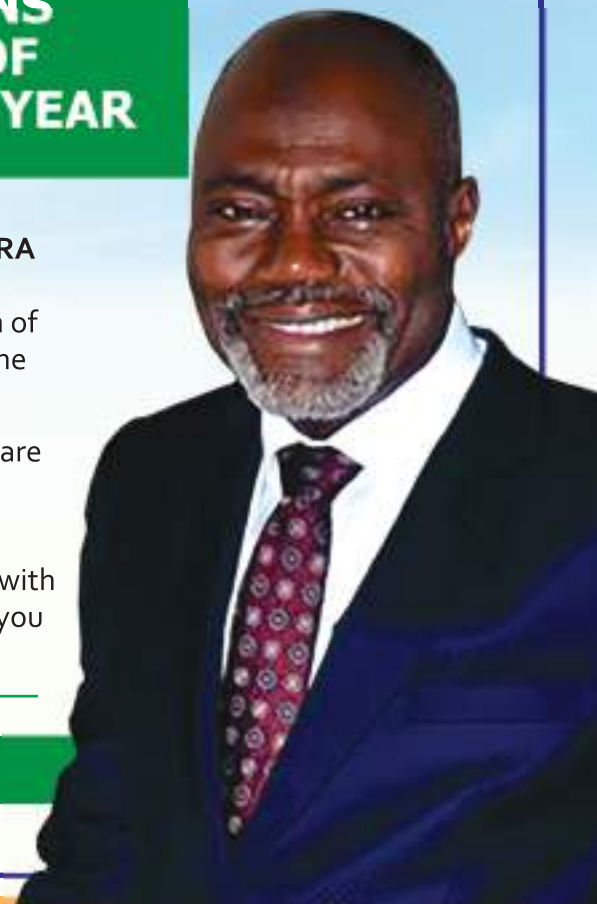
The Governing Council, Management, Staff and Students of **KWARA STATE UNIVERSITY**, the Green University for Community Development and Entrepreneurship heartily felicitates with a man of honour, a distinguished silk, **Mallam Olaolu Ali, SAN** on the award of **ROLE MODEL OF THE YEAR** by Synochure International Magazine. Unarguably, you are worthy of emulation on many fronts and you are a role model for all times.

Cheers to you, a dear friend of our great University who identifies with us and what we stand for as we join well wishers to felicitate with you on this honour.

Signed _____

Professor Muhammed Mustapha Akanbi SAN

Vice Chancellor, Kwara State University



What a great HONOUR!

On behalf of my family, I heartily felicitate with

Mallam Yusuf Ali SAN

as he receives the Synochure international magazine Role model of the year award. This is a honour you truly deserve. We pray Almighty God will grant you more memorable moments in your life.

Congratulations

Signed _____

Chief Titus Ashaolu SAN.



this **CAP** Truly Fits.

On behalf of my family I
heartily rejoice with

Mallam Yusuf Ali SAN

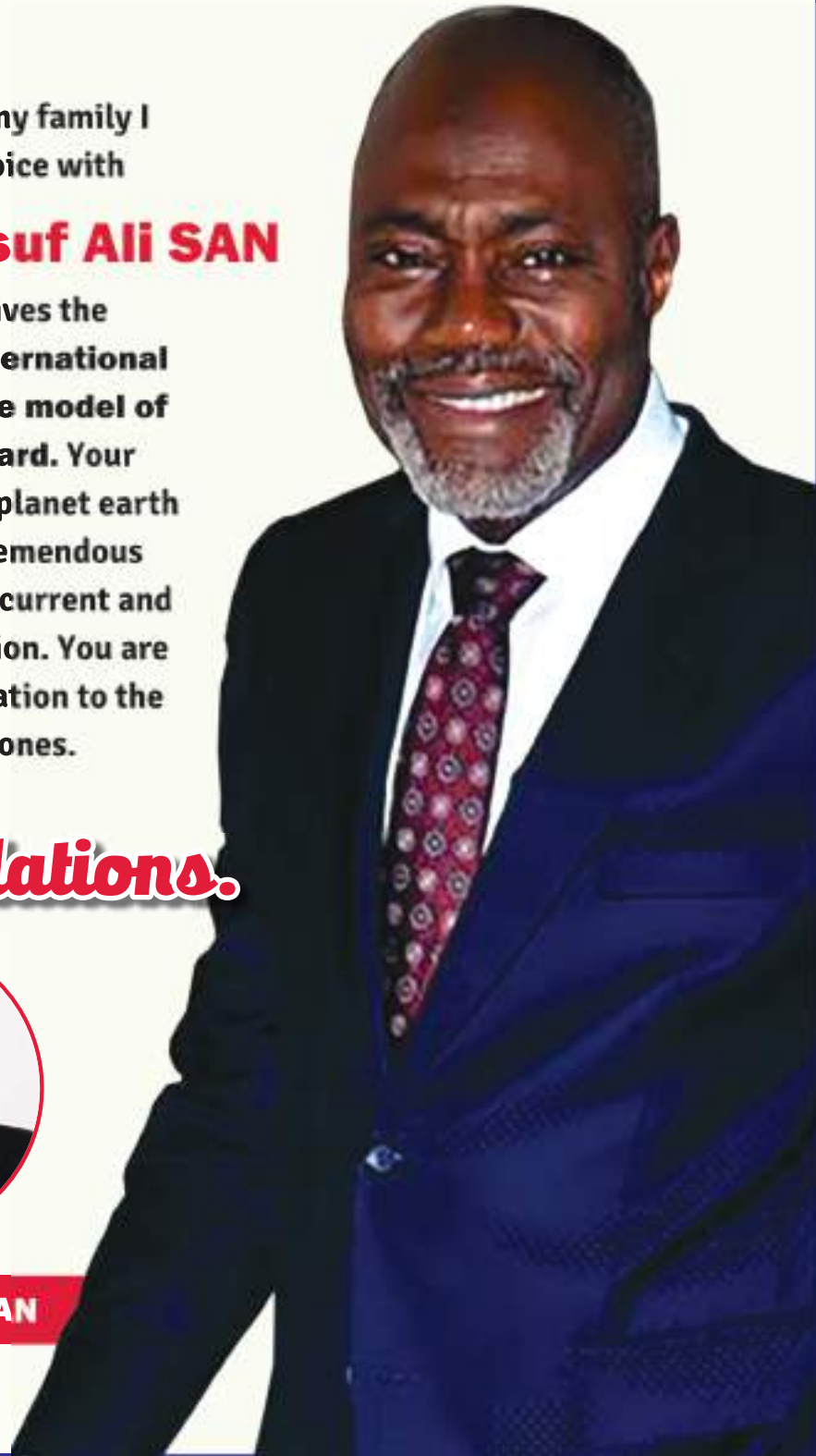
as he receives the
**Synochure international
magazine Role model of
the year award.** Your
sojourn on this planet earth
has been a tremendous
blessing to the current and
future generation. You are
truly an inspiration to the
younger ones.

Congratulations.



Signed

Chief Joseph Daudu SAN



Another feather to your Cap!

On behalf of my family, I heartily
rejoice with my friend and brother
Mallam Yusuf Ali SAN
as he receives the **Synochure
international magazine Role model
of the year award.** Your humility,
openness and fear of God
distinguish you from others. We pray
that Almighty Allah will continue to
endow you with great wisdom.

Congratulations.



Signed

Dr. Biodun Layonu SAN.



Felicitation to an outstanding **PROFESSIONAL**

**Mallam
Yusuf Ali SAN**

On behalf of my self and family, I heartily felicitate with an outstanding professional and role model,

as he receives the Synochure International Magazine Role Model of the year award.

Sir, you are a peerless professional and an inspiring humanist. You have brought hope and joy to many lives and am happy to be associated with you.

Congratulations.



Signed

Alhaji Adebayo Oba SAN.



Congratulations TO A ROLE MODEL.



On behalf of my family I heartily felicitate with an outstanding Role model

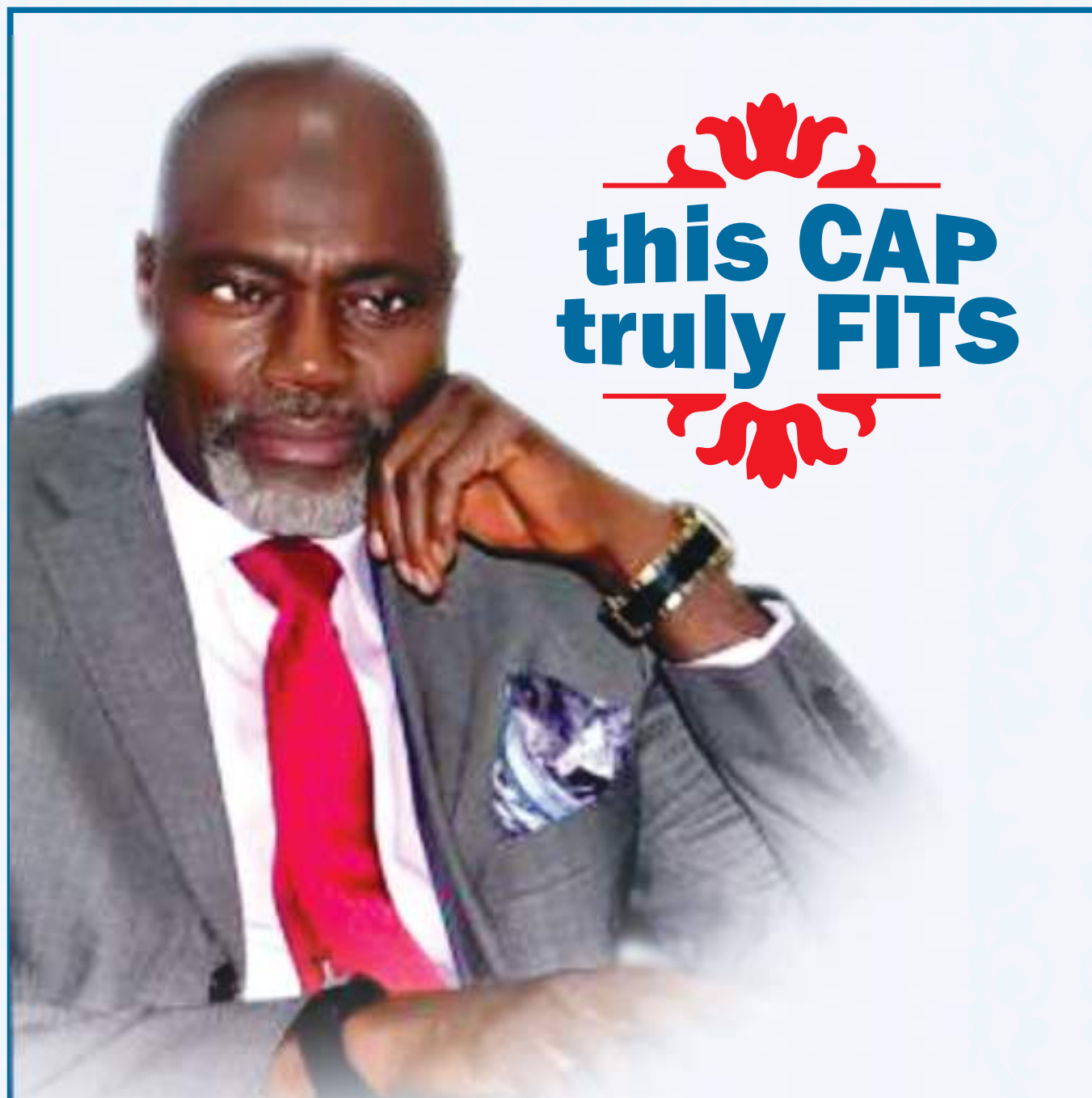
MALLAM YUSUF OLAOLU ALI SAN

as he receives the Synochure international magazine Role model of the year award. You are indeed a role model. Your humility and forthrightness are unsurpassed. Your commitment and diligence to any good endeavour is not hidden and this honour is surely befitting.

Congratulations.

Signed | **Chief R. A . RABANA SAN.**





**this CAP
truly FITS**

On behalf of my family I heartily rejoice with

Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN

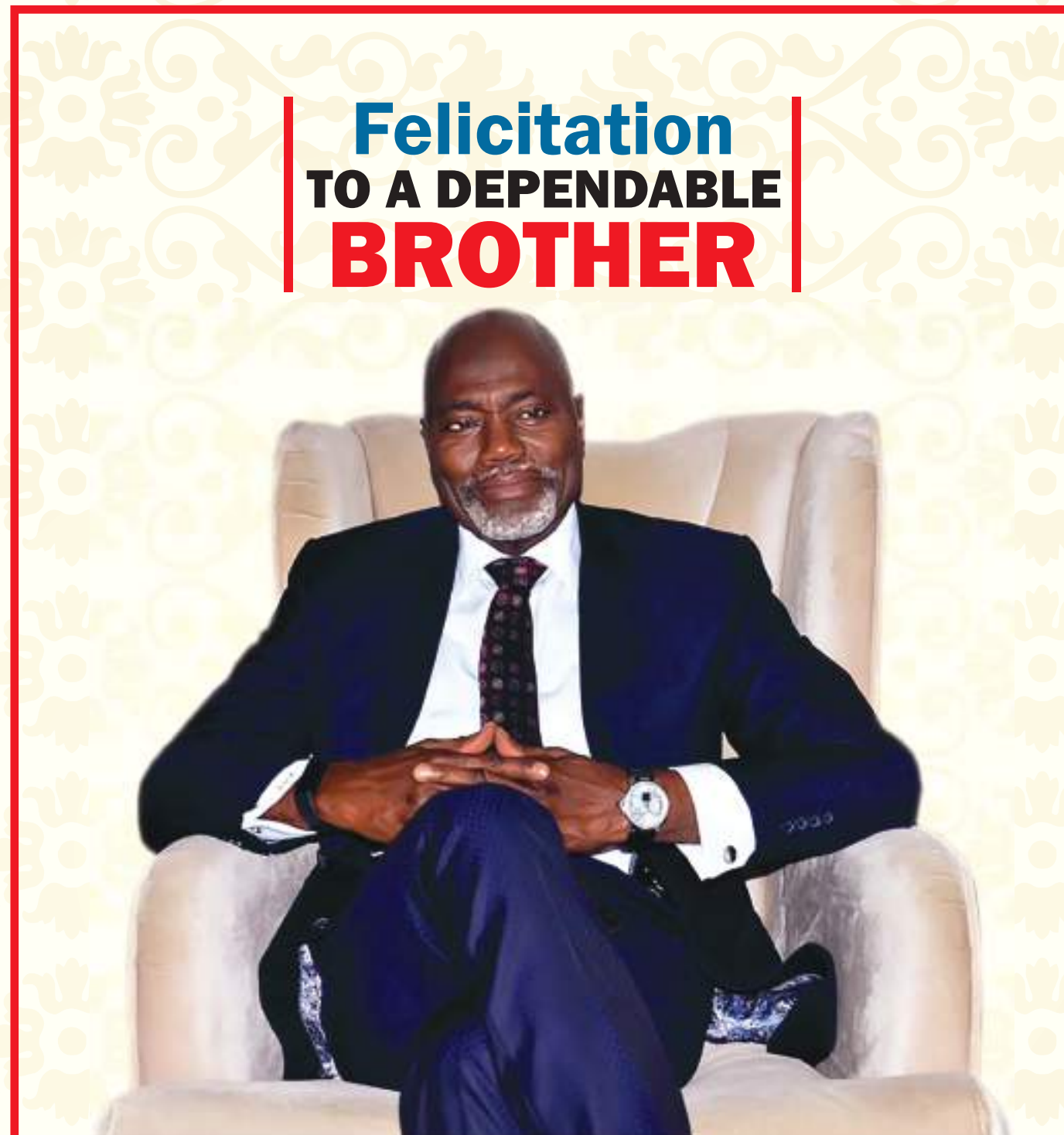
as he receives the Synochure international magazine Role model of the year award. Like the jelly fish which cannot hide in water, your sterling qualities will always fish you out. This is an honour well deserved.

Congratulations.



Signed

ASIWAJU ADEGBOYEGA AWOMOLO SAN.



**Felicitation
TO A DEPENDABLE
BROTHER**

My dear Mallam, you have been a loyal brother and friend. Your footprint in the development of the Law profession and humanity as a whole cannot be erased in the sand of time. You have brought honour and dignity to your people and you deserve to be celebrated. As you receive the synochure international magazine Role model of the year award, I pray Almighty Allah will continue to prosper you in good health and sound mind.

Congratulations.

**MALLAM
YUSUF OLAOLU ALI SAN**



Signed **Alhaji Ahmed Raji SAN**

A GREAT ACHIEVER
OF NO MEAN
STATUS

On behalf of my family, I heartily rejoice with my friend and brother

**Mallam Yusuf
Olaolu Ali SAN**

as he receives the SYNOCHURE
INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE ROLE
MODEL OF THE YEAR AWARD.

Your humility and simplicity distinguish you from others. You have contributed immensely to the development of your profession and humanity as a whole. I pray Almighty God will continue to prosper you in wisdom, good health and sound mind.

Congratulations



Signed
Chief Niyi Akintola SAN.



CONGRATULATIONS
to an outstanding
HUMANIST

I heartily rejoice with an outstanding humanist

Mallam Yusuf Ali SAN

as he receives the Synochure international magazine Role model of the year award. Beyond any reasonable doubt, excellence has always been your target and this uncommon virtue has reflected in all your endeavours.

Congratulations.

Signed

Mr. Seun Abimbola SAN



**FELICITATION
TO A THOROUGH BRED
PROFESSIONAL.**

On behalf of my family I heartily rejoice with

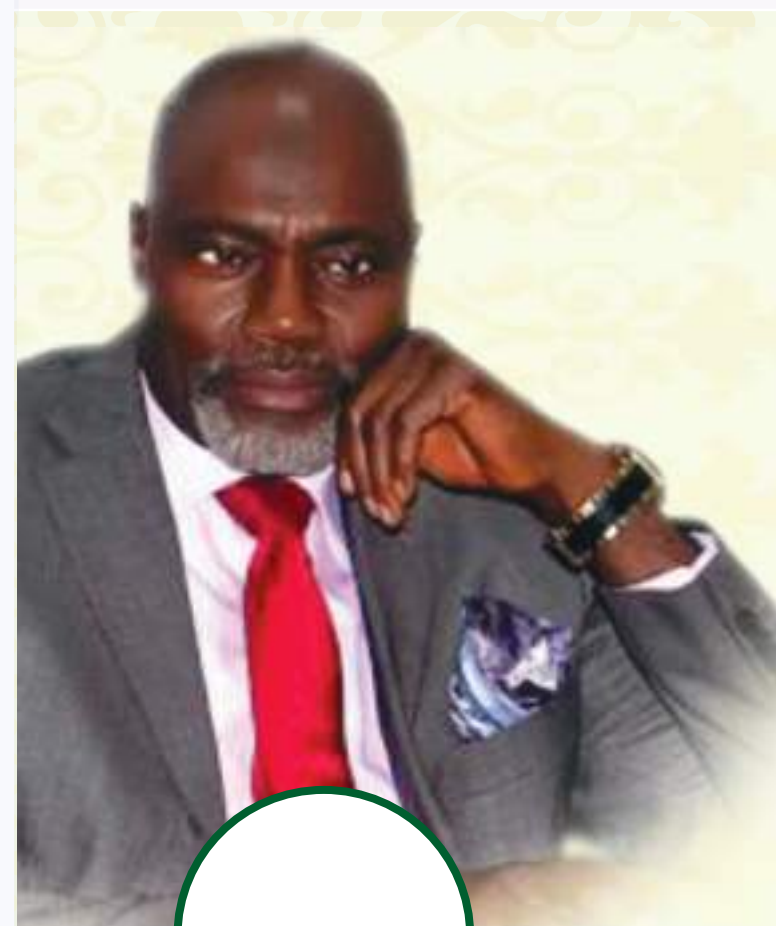
**Mallam Yusuf
Olaolu Ali SAN**

as he receives the Synochure international magazine Role model of the year award.

In every aspect of your life, you have always been outstanding and the reward is this recognition among others. You are indeed a role model to the younger generation. I wish you more laurels in good health and sound mind.

Congratulations

Signed **Mrs. Bimbo Akeredolu SAN**



Felicitations

TO A LOYAL AND DEPENDABLE **FRIEND**

On behalf of my family I heartily rejoice with my dependable brother and friend

Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN

as he receives the Synochure international magazine Role model of the year award . Mallam, it is no surprise that numerous Honours are coming your way for your contribution in making this world a better place. Your milk of kindness to everyone that comes your way will never go unnoticed. Your have brought joy and happiness to many lives and you deserve to be celebrated.

Congratulations
My Brother!

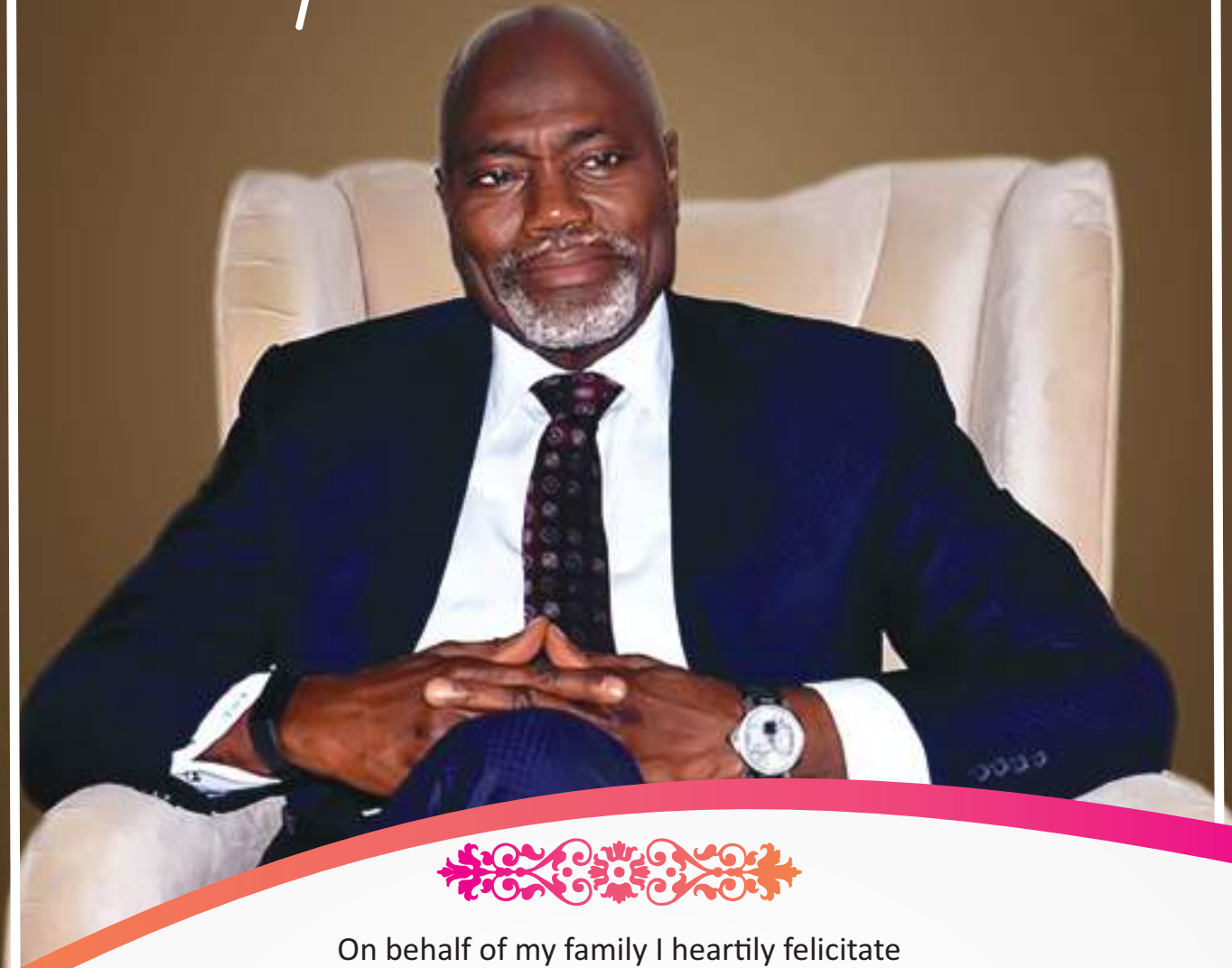


Signed

Alh. Trimisiyu Bakare.

Felicitations

TO A GREAT ACHIEVER.



On behalf of my family I heartily felicitate with my brother and friend

Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN

as he receives the **Synochure International Magazine Role Model Of The Year Award.**

Ore, your life has been a life of service, commitment and absolute dedication to humanity. You are not only outstanding in your chosen profession but also a reference pool of knowledge. You have ran a good race and you deserve to be celebrated.

Congratulations Ore!



Signed **Dr. Gani Adeniran.**



Congratulations
TO A DEPENDABLE HUMANIST.
On behalf of my family I heartily felicitate
with an outstanding humanist

Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN

as he receives the **Synochure International Magazine Role Model Of The Year Award.** Sir, it is my pleasure to rejoice with you on this joyous occasion. Your contributions towards the development of humanity will never go unnoticed. You have written your name in Gold and humanity will never forget you.

Congratulations!



Signed **Mrs. F. M olowoleni.**

THIS CAP TRULY FIT

On behalf of my family, I heartily rejoice with one of the greatest humanist,

Mallam Yusuf Ali, SAN

as he receives the **Synochure Magazine Role Model of the year award.** It is our belief that your unblemished reputation has earned you this honour. It is an honour truly deserved. You have indeed written your name in Gold and posterity will forever be kind to you.



Congratulations.



Signed

Mr. & Mrs. Fidelis Anosike



On behalf of my family I heartily rejoice with a distinguish personality

MALLAM YUSUF OLAOLU ALI SAN

as he receives the **Synochure international magazine Role model of the year award.** Mallam this award is richly deserved because of your numerous contributions to the country and humanity as a whole. This indeed marks yet another milestone in the annals of your enviable achievements and attachments.

CONGRATULATIONS.



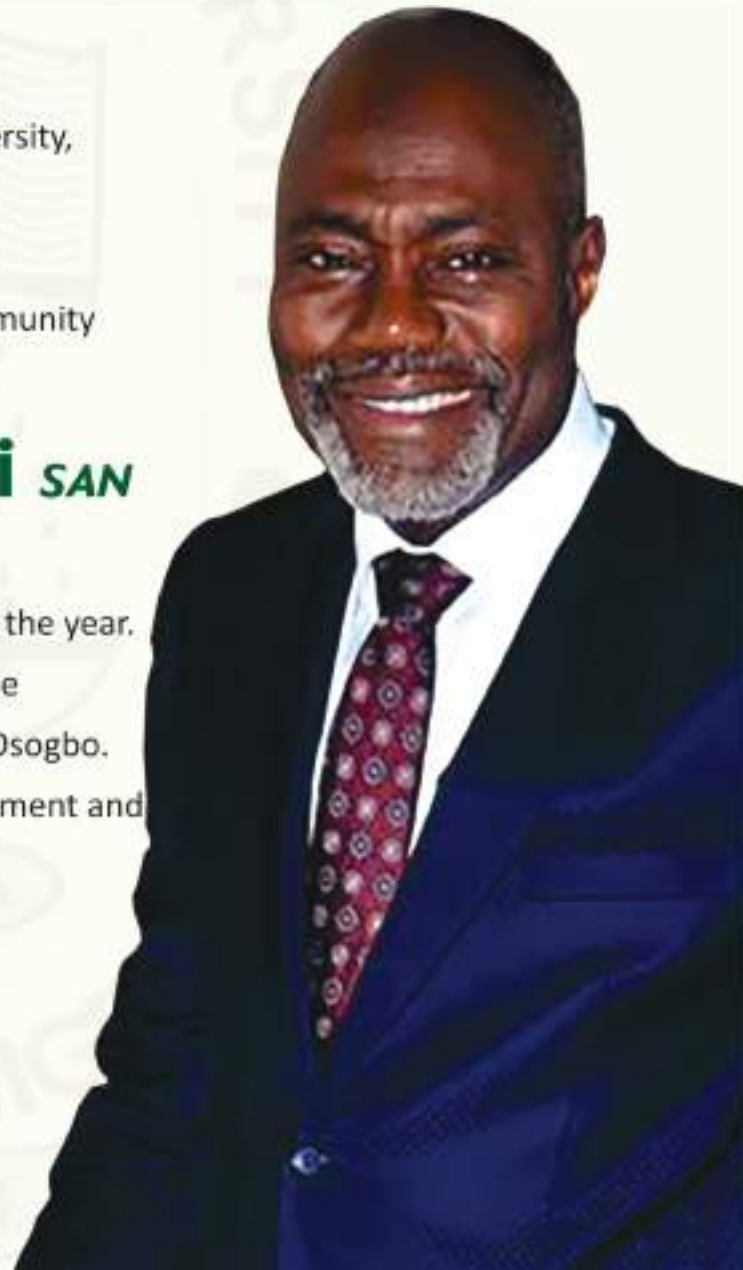
Signed **ALHAJI AKIN OLAJIDE.**



The Vice Chancellor of Fountain University,
Osogbo, Prof. Amidu Olalekan Sanni
On behalf of the Council, the Senate,
Management and the University community
Heartily felicitate with

Mallam Yusu Ali SAN

On his recognition as the synochure
International Magazine Role model of the year.
We appreciate your contribution to the
development of Fountain University, Osogbo.
We identify with you in this proud moment and
wish you God's guidance.



Signed: **Mr Adenekan Sheriff A**
Ag. Registrar Fountain University, Osogbo, Nigeria

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO A TRAIL BLAZER



MALLAM YUSUF ALI, SAN



On behalf of my family and Chambers -
MESSRS WOLE OLANIPEKUN & CO.,
I, congratulate most heartily and sincerely,
a dearly beloved friend and worthy ally, a
foremost legal practitioner and Bar leader,
a worthy Senior Citizen and cheerful
philanthropist, a mentor and role model
to our teeming youth,
Mallam Yusuf Ali, SAN,
on your nomination as the role model of
the year by **Synochure International
Magazine**. This is no doubt, another
notable feather added to your already
exquisitely decorated cap and it is
marvelous in our sight.

While we rejoice and felicitate with you on
this great and auspicious occasion, we are
happy to be associated with you and your
beloved family.



**Chief Wole
Olanipekun**

OFR, SAN, LL.D., D.Litt., FCIArb., FNIALS

A GREAT ACHIEVER OF NO MEAN STATUS

On behalf of my family, I heartily felicitate with

Mallam Yusuf Ali SAN

as he receives the **Synochure international magazine Role model of the year award.**

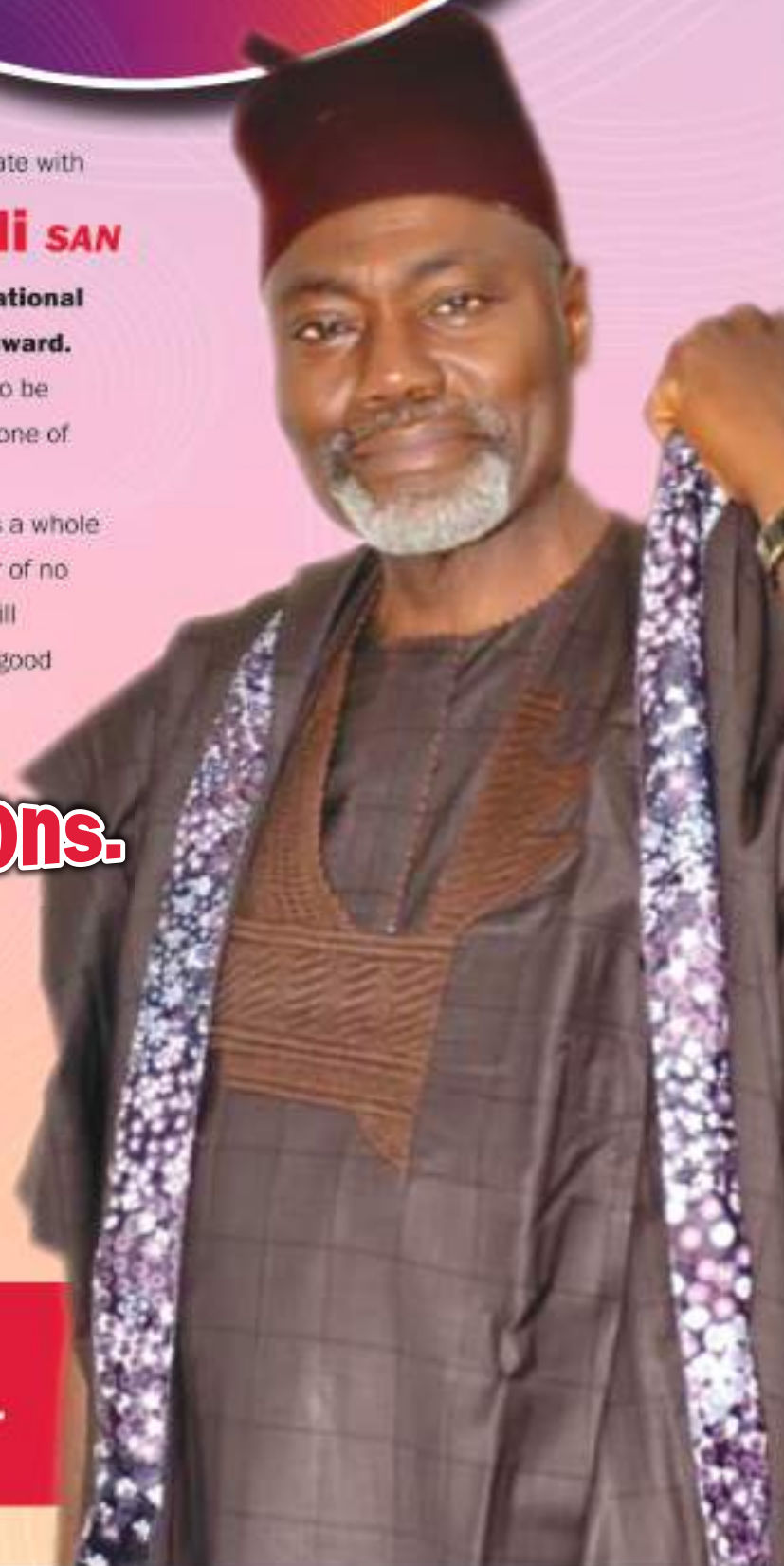
Mallam, very few people are qualified to be described as outstanding and you are one of them. Your contributions towards the development of Islam and humanity as a whole has distinguish you as a great achiever of no mean status. We pray Almighty Allah will continue to grant you more wisdom in good health and sound mind.

congratulations.



Signed.

**Asiwaju (Dr.)
Khamis olatunde Badmus.**
Asiwaju Musulumi of Yorubaland.



Celebrating ICON

On behalf of my family, I heartily rejoice with you on the occasion of your nomination as Role model of the year by synochure international magazine. I cherish your unmatched contributions to the development of humanity. I cherish your sense of justice, fairness and equity. May Almighty Allah continue to bless and protect you.

Congratulations.

**Mallam Yusuf
Olaolu Ali SAN**



Signed **Alhaji Ayeloja**

Felicitation to a dependable BROTHER

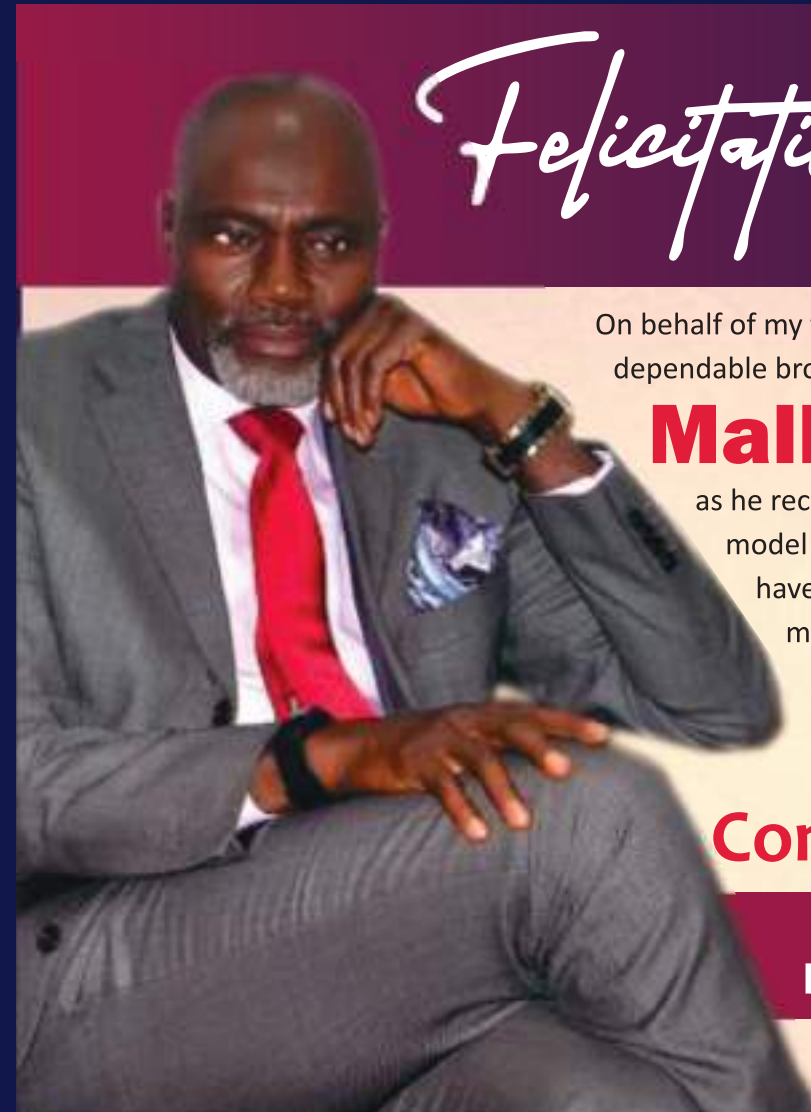
On behalf of my family I heartily rejoice with an amiable and dependable brother,

Mallam Yusuf Ali SAN

as he receives the Synochure international magazine Role model of the year award. Sir, since our path crossed, you have been very supportive and dependable. You have maintained a high level of integrity for the younger ones to follow and I believe your contributions towards the development of not only your profession but humanity will forever be appreciated.

Congratulations.

Signed
Prof. Abiodun Alao.





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Celebrating **An Outstanding** **PERSONALITY**



On behalf of my family, we heartily felicitate with an outstanding personality

Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN

as he receives the **SYNOCHURE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE ROLE MODEL OF THE YEAR AWARD**. As an astute legal luminary, you are a source of inspiration to all who come in contact with you. Your immense contributions to the rapid transformation of AI- HIKMAH university can never go unnoticed. You have written your name in gold and you truly deserve this honour. We pray for more healthy life on earth in sound mind.

Congratulations



Signed

Alhaji (Dr.) Abdulraheem Amoo Oladimeji.
OFR, FNAEAP, Founder, AI- HIKMAH university.

MALLAM YUSUF ALI SAN:

Celebration Of Excellence, Humility And Patriotism

Mallam Yusuf Ali, SAN is a wonderful Legal Luminary who has by all standards demonstrated high sense of humility, excellence and competence in the prestigious legal practice.

I have known him for many years and my relationship with him transcends business or official. He has proved himself to be a dependable and reliable big brother who I lean on to solve many personal and corporate issues.

Mallam Yusuf Ali SAN is one of the highly respected legal practitioners and he has for many years mentored young lawyers to attain the pinnacle of their career either on the Bench or in the Bar to become Justices and Senior Advocates of Nigeria, (SAN) respectively.

In addition, the awardee, is an integral part of the many achievements recorded by KAM Holding Ltd. as a distinguished member of the Board of Trustees, infact, he is a great asset to humanity.

The award confer on him is not only worthy but also it is an encouragement for him not relent in his good works of putting smiles on the faces of the downtrodden and assisting the weak to get desirable justice in the court of law through his painstaking intellectual dispositions.

On behalf of my family, associates, management and staff of KAM Holding Ltd., I rejoice with Mallam Yusuf Ali SAN on this wonderful award and wish him many more of such honours on earth.

Once again, congratulations to a trailblazer, patriotic Nigerian and a global citizen of repute.

Dr. Kamoru Yusuf FCSN, FNMS
Group Managing Director/ CEO, KAM Holding Ltd.



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