

What a Great
HONOUR!



Otunba
**BOLA
ONABADEJO**

Darling, every minute spent with you is always a special moment. Every day you keep excelling in care, love, kindness and sincerity of purpose to the human race. You have been an inspiration to your generation and a gift to mankind. Your life has been a life of service, commitment and absolute dedication not only to your family but the entire human race. As you receive the synochure magazine Role model of the year award, it is our turn to show how exceptional you are to me, our children and the entire family. May the good lord continue to prosper your life to greater heights.



Congratulations my love.

Celebrating
AN EXCEPTIONAL
BOSS

**Otunba Bola
ONABADEJO**

The management and staff of Bola onabadejo & co heartily rejoice with our founder, on his nomination as synochure international magazine Role model of the year award. Sir, you are a peerless leader and an inspiring humanist. You have brought hope and joy to many lives and you deserve to be celebrated. As we join millions of your admirers to celebrate you, we also use this medium to tell you that we appreciate your fatherly guidance over the years and that we are truly proud of you.

Congratulations Sir!



Signed: Management.

Onabadejo & CO.
ESTATE SURVEYORS & VALUERS

FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OF HIGH STANDARD IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- * VALUATION FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES
- * PROPERTY/FACILITY MANAGEMENT
- * PROJECT APPRAISALS & FINANCING
- * PROJECT MANAGEMENT
- * ESTATE AGENCY
- * FEASIBILITY/VIABILITY APPRAISAL
- * PROPERTY RATING AND COMPENSATION
- * GENERAL REAL ESTATE CONSULTANCY

Corporate Head Office: 3 John Olugbo Street, Ikeja, Lagos

www.bolaonabadejoandco.combolaonass@yahoo.co.uk

08038593138, 08023136167, 08023659416, 0802337667107084188744, 08058419857

Otunba Bola onabadejo: A SELFLESS PROFESSIONAL.

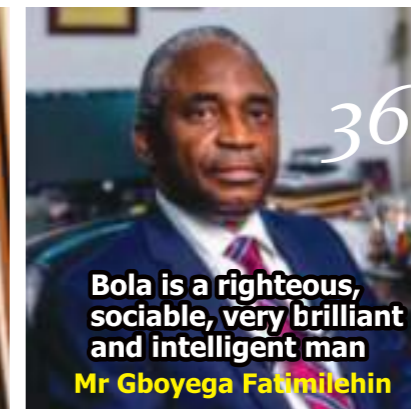


'Lanre Olusunmade
Synochure international

If nature used a one-size-fits-all approach, every animal would make the same sound; every thunder storm would be a rehash of the last; and every human being would be selfless and sympathetic to the plight of the people they come across in life. But nature is diverse and dynamic. And perplexing too. That is why despite boundless resources at their disposal, many well-to-do people in Africa mindlessly ignore the suffering of the poor and exhibit their wealth shamelessly to intimidate the underprivileged. Thereby plunging them into deeper miseries.

Conversely, despite the attitude of many well-to-do people in Nigeria, one man that is committed to the development of the human race and giving back to humanity is Otunba Bolaji Olugbenga Onabadejo, managing partner, Bola onabadejo & co, a firm of estate surveyors and valuers. Despite the fact that he is not a billionaire, the sweeping human transformation being engineered by this amiable personality lends credence to the fact that nature is truly diverse and dynamic.

According to Wikipedia, philanthropy means the love of humanity. A conventional modern definition is private initiatives for the public good, focusing on quality of life. With the above definition, a philanthropist is someone who engages in philanthropy; that is someone who donates his or her time, money and reputation to charitable causes. In every sense of it, Otunba Bola onabadejo can be referred to as a philanthropist. A man of many parts, Otunba Bola onabadejo cares for the old and nurtures the young on the part of greatness. In all the societies he belongs to; Rotary, Methodist church, professional Institute and community development Associations, Otunba Bola onabadejo has written his name in gold by joining others to create a better society for the underprivileged. Indeed, he has enthroned an enviable record of service to the human race and this has crowned him as a selfless professional.



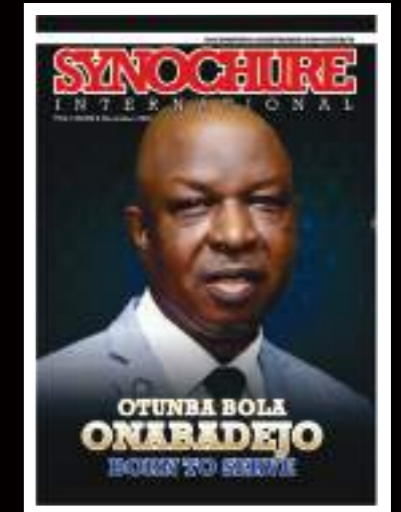
31 Sir Onabadejo is one of those very few Methodists I can vouch for -Rev Akinwale

33 Otunba Onabadejo happened to be one of the successful Role Models for Estate Management students -Victor Alonge

35 When there is nobody to support you, Otunba Bola Onabadejo is always there to support-

HRH OBA Olusegun Ogunye,
The Ojotumoro of Abigi

CONTENT



Publisher/Editor-in-chief
Lanre Olusunmade

Editor
Yomi-Abayomi Olakanmi

Editorial Team
Samuel Olatunji, Bayo Adetu
Samuel Johnson, Yewande Balogun

Editor at Large
Akinrolabu Akinduro

Chief Correspondent
Blessing Gaglo

Director of Marketing
Kehind K. Soetan

Marketing Team
Elizabeth Ogunde, Kunle Adeoti
Biodun Ojo, Rasheed Lukmon

Production Team
(Head Creative/Design)
Adeola Muhez

(Director of Photography)
FEMI IKOTUN

Legal Team
DAPO QUADRI & ASSOCIATES

SYNOCHURE MAGAZINE
is published by
Synochure International Limited
30, Adeleke Street, Allen Avenue,
Ikeja, Lagos.

E-mail:
synochureinternational@gmail.com
lanreolusunmade@yahoo.com
Tel: 08023619128, 08180538522

COVER STORY

Otunba Bola Onabadejo, the first person to be conferred with that integral and vital title in the entire Abigi Ijebu Waterside Kingdom, bared his life ... from Genesis to now, to the duo of Synochure correspondents, Lanre Olusunmade (Publisher) and Yomi-Abayomi Olakanmi (Editor) in this captivating piece.

Excerpts below; read and enjoy.

Recently, you retired as the Lay President of the Methodist Church, Nigeria. What was the experience like?

In 2015, I was nominated and elected as the Lay President of the Diocese of Lagos Mainland of the Methodist Church, Nigeria. It's a three-year tenure office, the first three years is okay but you can be re-elected for another three years, making a total of six years. It is very important to note that it coincided with the time I was elected to be the District Governor of Rotary International, District 9110. These were two serious assignments at the same time. We thank God, I became Lay President Emeritus in December 2021 when I finished the sixth year, two terms and a newly elected president has been put in place. I thank God for the support. It is a lot of work but a very remarkable one and God saw me through.

What impact did you leave behind?

The main job of the lay president is to support the bishop of the Diocese and in my own case, I started with a Bishop and ended with an Arch-Bishop because within that period, my Diocese was elevated to the status of an Arch Diocese of Lagos Mainland. It is not my power or

doing that all these happened but God is the one that measures impact, and grows influence. When we started, there was no office for the bishop and for the Diocese but as I was leaving, we laid the foundation and the work is progressing fast, and by the grace of God, the work will be completed by the end of this year. That is an achievement I think all its glory should go to God. There was peace and there was tremendous progress. Although, it was also the period of Covid-19 outbreak and I had to support members of the Diocese who were originally being supported by the church in the past. It was a time we gave back to some people especially the old ones. In fact, we had some of our meetings online, and had to implore the people to join us for virtual meetings. For the 2020 Synod, only a few people, like 20, attended physically and it was very successful. We were raising funds for so many things, and evangelism was growing the way it should grow as the bedrock of Christianity. When Jesus Christ was going, He said, *"Go ye into the world and make disciples of all nations, converting people, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,"* and that is the main job of the church. In my time as Lay President, we ensured evangelism was given its due place, the church increased in numerical strength as old and backsliding members returned and more souls were won for God. I give all the glory to God for the position the Lagos Mainland Diocese now occupies and the way the people now see it, the respect entire Methodists Conference now bestows on the Diocese – because it has now become a model Diocese for the whole country. The

Methodist Churches all over the country, call the Conference Area comprises about 17 Dioceses but Lagos Mainland is a special one. It is situated at 191, Albert Macaulay Street at Sabo, Yaba, Lagos. We thank God for His grace that sustained me in the office of Lay President for six years.

Why did you join Methodist ... were you born a Methodist?

I was neither born a Methodist nor a Christian; I was born into a Muslim family. Since I was a youngster living back home in Abigi, I have become a Christian at the Anglican church. I was baptized and confirmed during my early days at the University of Ife. Whenever I was in Ijebu, I attended the Anglican Church, but at Lagos, I have been a Methodist. In fact, the primary school I attended is Saint Thomas Anglican Primary School in my town, Abigi, Ijebu Waterside. Though, I was born into a Moslem family but I never practiced Islam for one day.

Before I went to the university, I lived at Surulere but some issues made me move out in 1982 to a room apartment in Mushin, a face-to-face building at Adegbile Street. On the first Sunday in the house, I asked my neighbours which church is nearest to the house, and they said they attended a Methodist Church. I followed them to a Methodist Church in Idi-Araba, and that was the beginning of my history in Methodist, and as God would have it, I left for the university from the area. During holidays, I returned to Mushin and Methodist Church, Idi-Araba, because I was maintaining that one room. I finally left Mushin for Ikeja in 1980, where we had all the children that God gave us after my wedding in



ISLAND GATE

COMMUNITY PARK

ISLAND BOULEVARD

BEACH FRONT

COMMERCIAL ZONE

OSTIA ISLAND

EXPERIENCE
OSTIA ISLAND
... nature's luxurious location for you to live, work and play

Located off Freedom Way, Lekki, Lagos.
www.ostiaisland.com
[@Ostia_Island](https://www.instagram.com/Ostia_Island)
[@OstiaIsland](https://www.facebook.com/OstiaIsland)

As one of Nigeria's first ever eco-friendly and self-sustaining cities, Ostia Island is set to make an indelible mark in housing and real estate all over the world, right from its home city- Lagos state, Nigeria.

The 100 hectares sized island is located in a luxurious location near the Lagos Lagoon and is thoroughly and lushly landscaped, hence creating an exotic environment where one can indeed live, work and play.

Full of state-of-the-art, ultra-modern architectural edifices, Ostia Island is one of the first cities to be linked to the Play App where an array of housing designs which are unique and exclusive to individual plots within the island, can be purchased and built at relatively discounted prices.

Look far no more; come home to luxury at its best; come home to
OSTIA ISLAND

REACH US

Tel: +234807629111, +234807629102, +234807629103
 E-mail: agency@smsnagbato.com
 Website: www.samsonagbto.com

PRICE ₦190,000.00 PER SQUARE METER

To God Alone Be All the Glory

Otunba **BOLA** **ONABADEJO**

Some mankind are specially fabricated by God; their bones are made of iron and their skin is wrapped with brass. They are highly intelligent and updated like a hybrid computer – *coupled with enough chips and bytes* – to process and programme a lasting result. The scientist tagged them 'robotman' whilst psychologist call them genius.

One of such people is Otunba Bola Onabadejo, who is like an eagle among birds, a lion in the company of animals and an anaconda in the group of crawlers.

Bola is a rare mankind who would have had a chapter or book written about him describing him and his achievements had he lived in the era when the Bible was documented.

Otunba Bola did in his time what King David did for the Jews during the struggles for Jewish liberation and like a man called Jehoshaphat, he never begged for many accolades, encomia and honours bestowed on him – but he sure paid his dues like Joseph to fulfil his destiny and secure his place at the top.

Little ... very little did a small town, called Abigi, in Ijebu Waterside know that a star was born and an emancipator was in their midst – when Bola's mother's water broke and the tender voice broke

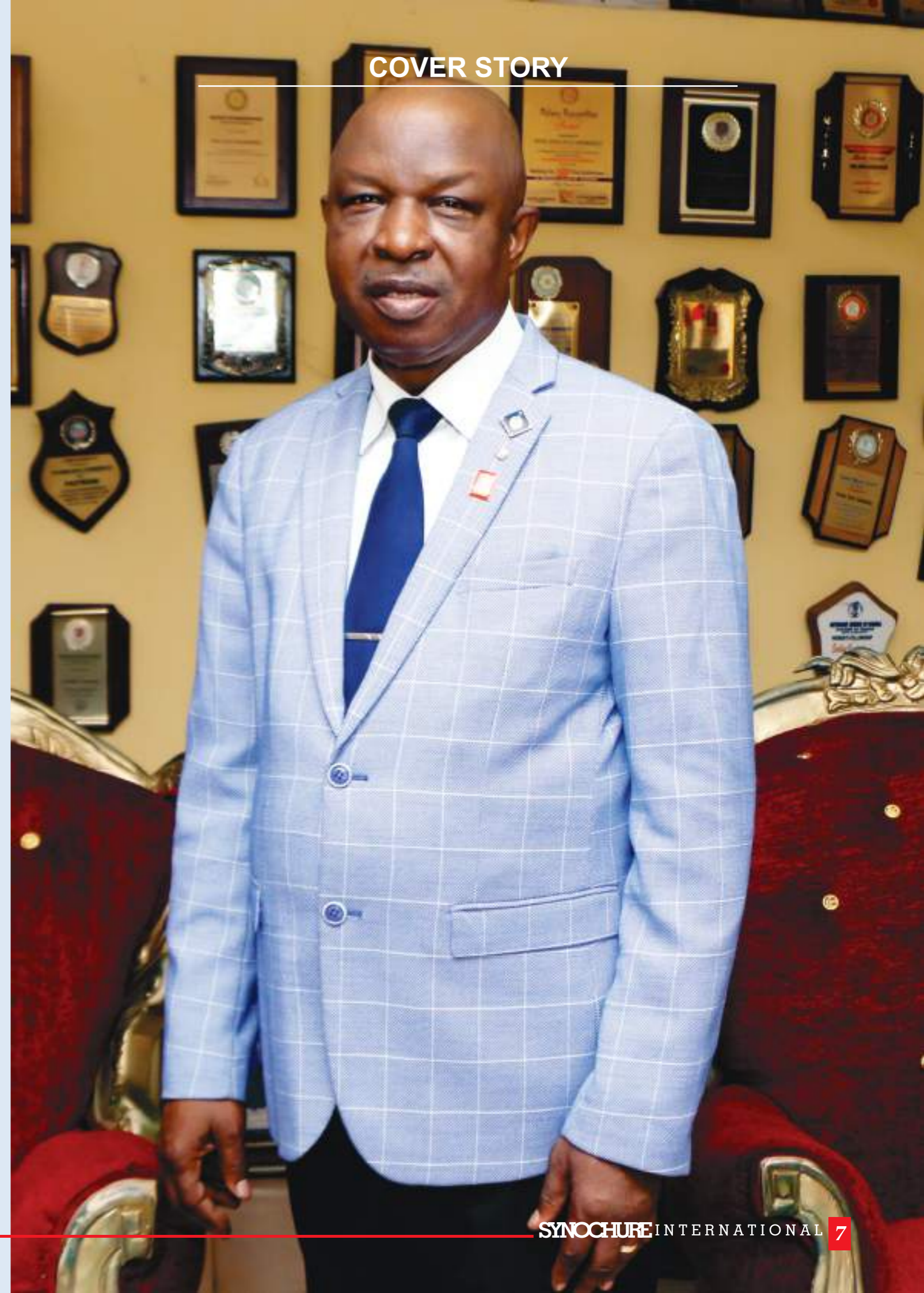
the silence of the day to announce his arrival.

Otunba Bola Onabadejo is like a rock that many rams cannot defeat. He won't challenge them to duel but they will never go scot free if they try to stop his upward surge or thwart his progress. He has overcome many challenges of life – and even the enemies who denied him his rightful place did not know that they were pruning tools that made this Baobab grow larger in girth, taller in height, shrubby and leafy, climbing over the walls, growing protruding branches, covering inside and outside – giving succour, *its fruits*, to the internal and external elements

Otunba Bola Onabadejo is a man of grace who sowed seeds for greatness when most of his mates were asleep and partnered with God with what most of his colleagues would consider a waste and his life becomes a testimony.

From him, a true lesson is learnt that, ***It is the same water that falls on bitter leaf and pineapple – and if bitter leaf now begrudges pineapple for its sweetness; can it petition the Creator?*** What a food for thought!

God is good to Estate Surveyor and Valuer Otunba Bola Onabadejo and it is very glaring – he admitted it in this piece entitled, **"To God Alone Be All the Glory."**





was not even expecting it. One day, Bishop Isaac Olawuyi, now the Arch Bishop of Lagos, sent a friend, Late Bonajo Badejo SAN, that he is considering making me the Lay President. I asked how he came about my name, whether there was nobody in the whole of Yaba where we have the big cathedral. He told me it was a very good opportunity to serve God the way I have been serving God. It was at the high-level meeting of the church that I knew that some people were not happy with my appointment. I told the people I was not going there to earn any income, and when the Bishop made the announcement, I think those who were trying to make trouble repented within themselves. They were from Yaba, the Seat of the Cathedral where we have a lot of big men like Sir Mobolaji Johnson, the former Governor and many

others. Many people questioned the reason for picking the Lay President from Akowonjo, but that's how God wanted it. I became a knight and once you are a Knight, your wife becomes a Lady because it's a journey you have to make together. I never contemplated it, I only asked for strength from God to be able to do the job successfully and God did it.

The journey ended exactly in December 2021 and a new Lay President was introduced in January and he has taken over from me. They still call me for advice and whatever I can do, I still do it. God being my Helper.

Who is Otunba Bola Onabadejo, where were you born, and what schools did you attend?

My Muslim name has been dropped a very long time ago, before I wrote

my WAEC. When my late elder brother, Martins Adekunle Onabadejo of blessed memory gained admission into Saint Luke College in Ibadan, a Teacher Training College, he went with the name of our dad, Kafaru. He returned home and told our father, '*When I introduced myself as Kunle Kafaru, they mocked me,*' because Saint Luke College is basically an Anglican Christian School. He asked papa for our family name and he was told Onabadejo. So, by the time I was doing my school certificate examination, my name had already changed to Onabadejo. I registered as Bolaji Olugbenga Onabadejo. My confirmation hadn't come up then. Both my dad and mom were practising Moslems but my mother eventually surrendered her life to Christ before she died. She was baptised and confirmed in Methodist



1981. There was this Youth League Society in the church at the time, a very vibrant society of young men and ladies. I was still a member of that society in 1981 when I got married. As I was living in Ikeja, I was going to Mushin for church services and programmes till 1994. After I graduated in 1978, I did my compulsory NYSC in 1979 at Kaduna State. I was a part-time lecturing at Kaduna Polytechnic, working at the Ministry of Lands and Survey. I secured a job with my boss, Chief William Odudu, *the only person I refer to as my trainer.* The employment came after I'd taken up a job at the Polytechnic. He asked me to resign but I had to pull a fast string, collected my salary first and then resigned my appointment, Because my elder brother, Late Dr. Kunle

Onabadejo, had cautioned me against playing funny games so as not to rubbish my employment history and the name of the family. In 1991, we moved to this place (i.e. *his house in Akowonjo where we held this interview*) – and we have been here now for 31 years. As time goes on, Idi-Araba Methodist Church (Imole Rere) in her bid to evangelise decided to have another Local Church in Akowonjo and the assurance of making it possible was narrowed down to two, my house and Mr Adewunmi's residence down the road, but after stringent considerations, my sitting room became the ideal location because it is more spacious to hold more worshippers – and the church started from here. This is where (*pointing to a certain perimeter in the living room*) Methodist

Church, Akowonjo started on exactly October 2nd 1994. We spent six here before moving out in 2000 to the spot where the church is now situated at Santos Layout. All my life, the church is like an integral part of my living a fulfilled life – and whenever I'm in Lagos, I go to Methodist, and in Ijebu, I attend Anglican because there was no Methodist in my town before – but the situation is different now, and that has given me a great concern because right now, we have a Methodist Church in Abigi. I donated three plots of land to the mission to build a sanctuary and the church is growing very fast. They are presently building the big church and it gives me joy but the Anglican will not let me go. I told them that since this church is here, we are all here in the name of Christ, to nurture the church to full growth.

The Anglican people said no. Instead, they arranged to make me the Baba Ijo of the church and somehow, God helped me out. I looked at the Church, and found Chief Okeowo who was based in Ibadan to be the oldest. I decided to seek the advice of Professor Femi Olabinjo who was then at the University of Ibadan. Himself being a parishioner of the Church. I told him I was not comfortable with being the Baba Ijo in a church where we have elderly people of about 70, 80, when I was in my 50s.

We arranged a meeting and called the elderly man who was initially penned down to become the Balogun of the church. He was based in Ibadan, Late Chief Okeowo and told him what the church was planning. I told him I didn't feel good with the arrangement where an elderly man like him should be made the Balogun, whilst someone of my age should be the Baba Ijo.

That baba was so happy. Humility is a good virtue. Baba prayed for us, and we promised our support for his ordination and growth of the church. Baba was a very active Anglican even in Ibadan where he lived; they knew him so well. How should a small boy like me then be called Baba Ijo?. That was how I was left off the hook and baba was made Baba Ijo and I was made Balogun Ijo.

A short while after then, they said the entire Ijebu Anglican mission chose me to be the Baba Ewe of Akile Ijebu Christians, we went to Ago-Iwoye to celebrate that, and so has my journey be in Anglican. That was in 2001.

Despite the arrival of Methodist Church in Abigi, Anglican still feel they own me, that I must still be worshipping in Anglican. I believe

Christ is everywhere. Anytime I go home privately, I fellowship at Methodist church, it is very close to my house but whenever there is any special programme in Anglican Church, I do my own bit – but originally, I was born into Islam. My mother was converted into Christianity and she was buried by the Anglican Church in Abigi in 2006. May the soul of my mom – Maria Oluoye Onabadejo continue to rest in peace.

Talk of your journey in Methodist and being the Lay President; did you think of it?

I never thought of being the next person in power and position to the Bishop. Never, I was comfortable being a Christian, supporting the expansion of God's Kingdom in my own capacity but that narrative changed in 2010 at a Diocese of Lagos Mainland gathering in Ikorodu; there was an argument, a dispute over a piece of land. My role in Methodist has highly been promoted since 2001 when I became a Conference Property Adviser, meaning I am one of the professionals advising Methodist Church Nigeria in that particular area. We have Conference Medical Officer, Technical Officer – and so on. I was one of the two property advisers, and you know Methodist, **being the first church that arrived in Nigeria**, has a lot of landed properties. A vast area of where we have CMS Cathedral and bus stop on the Island belong to the Methodist Church. They kept selling and losing ownership and control. All the areas bordering Shell PLC and those gigantic building of Sterling Bank in Marina belongs to the Methodist Church, Nigeria. So, we

need property advisers, property consultants who are well versed to counsel the mission on land matter – and that was the job assigned to me as Conference Property Adviser 2. The Conference Property Adviser I is Sir Biyi Adesanya who was my senior at the University as well as in the profession of Estate Survey and Valuation. The tenure is meant to be for three years, like most appointments in Methodist Church. If you do well, they will reappoint you for another three years, to make it six years on a stretch. I was serving in that capacity when that programme took place at Imota and the Bishop was lamenting that the land was donated to us by Lagos Mainland Diocese; now it appears that Conference is taking over the land (i.e. Methodist Church Nigeria). I said, *'Let me find out the details and authenticity first before we can press further.'* I found out what exactly was happening to the land, leveraged on my position as Conference Officer to gain access to the Prelate of Methodist Church, Dr. S. A. Makinde, introduced myself and stated my reason for the meeting. He said, *'Okay, come on Monday.'* I reported back to my bishop that I have spoken to the Prelate because according to protocol, it's not easy for any bishop to call the Prelate. It's just like when you are talking in the Council of Obas, not all Obas are permitted to just walk up to Awujale of Ijebu land and talk. He would have to schedule an appointment with Awujale, stating his reasons for the meeting – or he will be denied access to the Monarch. Being a Conference Officer is another aspect of my life. God has blessed me with a level of influence and honour that is beyond my wildest imagination. I have been

in the comfort of my room one day, and I took my phone and called Awujale of Ijebuland, Oba Sikiru Adetona, over a security challenge in our place. My club members were dumbfounded, never believed I had such connection. Though, there was an Oba in our club. He couldn't believe it, but when Papa, Kabiyesi, called me back and said, he has spoken to the Governor of Ogun State and he has promised to talk to the Chief of Army Staff. The security challenge then was due to the Niger-Delta boys that were disturbing the peace of our area at that time.

In a nutshell, that particular thing that took place at the Diocese meeting, made me to meet the Prelate one-on-one. He ordered a committee to be set up and look at the land matter. Methodist Chapel in Lekki today stands on that piece of land. We did all the necessary things, legalized the papers, and the Prelate was impressed.

He subsequently asked me to bring my CV showing the activities and services I have rendered in the church since I became a member in Idi-Araba, as the Chairman of the Building Committee, how we got the building erected, got the approval and so on, my roles in my local church, the six years spent in my

“I have never seen anybody who is as privileged as this man from a Muslim background, who within a short time has become one of the leaders in the church.”

sitting room and all those things. He concluded it was a fantastic CV. The next thing I saw was the bishop calling that my name has come from above to become a Knight in Methodist Church. It's not an easy thing and it's not even coming from my Diocese but from the Conference that I should be awarded the Knighthood of John Wesley, the Founder of Methodism in the whole

world.

So, in 2011 they invited us to Badagry where the service was conducted. The Late former Governor of Lagos State, Sir Mobolaji Johnson and wife were knighted the same day with me and we sat side-by-side. Coming back home from the big celebration, one of our ministers, Rev. Coker

said in his sermon, ***“I have never seen anybody who is as privileged as this man from a Muslim background, who within a short time has become one of the leaders in the church.”*** He repeated the statement many times for reasons best known to him.

To God be the glory. I was not actually doing that to please anybody, it is something unusual, a small boy became a knight, and Lay President. I



What were the challenges you faced at Ife!

Challenges? The rate of accident between Ibadan and Ife then was high because the road was not too good, and it was a single carriage way. Many students and other road users died on the road regularly.

Another challenge for all students is finance. Thank God, I had done some little work in Lagos and had little savings and my parents, *with all sense of humility*, were not actually poor. My father was dealing in palm kernel and palm oil. If you want to count wealthy people in our town at the time, my father would be one of them. He was among the three businessmen that had cargo boats bringing garri and other commodities from our town through Makun-Omi to Lagos. It wasn't that I really needed help but when I got there and I heard of scholarship, I became interested. At that time, apart from Shell and probably Lever Brothers' scholarships, no other scholarship was as good as university scholarship. So, they paid the money into your Wema Bank account and you would not finish spending it throughout the session. It is a very little money but with that money, I could at that time and from the money sponsor another person in the same university. Three years later when my younger brother was there to read Pharmacy, the lunch we were buying for 20 kobo had increased greatly to 50 kobo and I saw a lot of bukaterias springing up, because most students could then hardly afford the new rate. The greatest challenge that could have faced any student is finance but thank God, I didn't lack money throughout



my days at the University of Ife.

You were robbed of first class?

I won't say robbed because I never I never knew initially that I actually made a First Class. The first confirmation came about 10 years after graduation. We had a contract interview at the Lagos Airport Hotel in Ikeja after I had started my practice as an Estate Surveyor and Valuer. The governments of Oodua wanted to give out their properties to practising Estate Management firms to manage and they wanted two valuers per State. At the interview, only two valuers were to be selected from each State and I'm staking for Ogun State. I had already seen top Senior Colleagues from Ogun State in my profession. When I saw them, I

I was moved to tears but I cleaned my face. I said, 'Well, with all due respect, I don't believe I made first class because the Ife I know, if I made a First Class, I would have been given. I was a prize winner. I made first class up to my final year but at the end of the day, they said I didn't make it but whatever it is; I thank God today.'

Church Nigeria. To God be the glory for her conversion.

The scenario was somehow funny, after our services, mama would bring her mat to the sitting room to observe her prayer, and my Christian friends were praying that mama's heart be softened to receive Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour, and we kept talking to her but she refused. My Christian friends, and church ministers were praying about it.

Every Ileya festival, I would take mama home, because she has been living with us after baba died in 1990. I would take her to the praying ground every morning of Eid for her prayers, but this particular time, one of my pastor friends came for visit and preached to mama and she accepted Jesus. Mama took care of all our children, starting from Ikeja to when we moved here (Akowonjo). As I got back to Lagos, I announced to all my Christian friends and they were all happy and within one week mama was baptized and she was confirmed at the next confirmation, which is the laying of hands by the Bishop, which always comes up at a particular time. Mama really grew in faith before her demise and I believe she is in heaven.

In one of the services, the preacher noticed mama was in trance of heaven, many years before she eventually passed on.

It is hard to believe that I was born a Moslem and my wife was also from a Moslem home. They are Lagosians, the same family with Oba Akinolu of Lagos. Durojaiye is the first cousin to the

king. I manage some of his properties in Lagos. My wife's father was a very prominent Chartered Accountant, and he worked for BP (British Petroleum) until he retired to set up his own company, Adisa Durojaiye & Company (Chartered Accountants and Auditors)

Which schools did you attend?

My first school was St. Thomas Anglican Primary School in Abigi; it's the oldest primary school in the entire local government area, over 100 years old. I was there in 1958 as a very little boy and I left in 1963, I spent five years. I still remember some of my classmates when I finished in 1963. We have a Public Modern School in my town. It was a very big school, but not a Grammar School, it was called a Public Modern School where students spend three years after primary school. The school was usually for intending teachers. That was the highest educational institution in my locality at that particular time. When my father was preparing that I would also go to that school because my elder brother went there, a new secondary school was established at Ilushin, about five

kilomeeters from my town, Abigi, where I started my secondary education. The school was established by Ilushin Community with the income from rubber plantation on their land. They took in the first set in 1964 and I joined the set. I was in the school between 1964 and 1969. It was a special school because the Principal of the school now of blessed memory, one Mr. J. O. Adelowo from Odogbolu taught us so many things, one of which is cursive handwriting, Bible Studies, English Grammar and Phonetics. He brought us up to work hard, and as first set, we were the ones moulding blocks, cutting grass and those things were part of the things that instilled discipline and hard work in all of us. I can mould blocks and cultivate ground, plant cassava, etc – even up till now.

Immediately I finished secondary school, I found myself in Lagos, living with a maternal uncle. He has been in Lagos for a long time, we used to call him Baba Mulatto because he was very fair in complexion. By the time he brought me in, in 1969, things were not too good for him but he still fulfilled his promise to take me to





Lagos after my secondary school. We were just using a room and parlour at a place in Surulere, off Ojuelegba Road, very close to Tejuosho market. I stayed with him for about 3 years until there was a little disagreement between me and his wife.

As at the time I left his place, I was already working at Lever Brothers in Apapa. One of my friends at Lever Brothers (Mr. Femi Arogundade) helped me in acquiring the apartment at Mushin and brought the key to me in the office. Before then, I managed with a friend as a squatter. Immediately I gained admission and resumed at the university, I went back to my uncle and we normalized our relationship. He said he only over reacted by throwing my things out. I apologised to him and explained that I couldn't keep quiet when his wife was abusing my mother, pinning me to the wall. One of my aunts living in Somolu at the time tried to mediate

in the matter but the woman was too wild to tame. My uncle did nothing to stop the persistent and violent attack on me by his wife, hence my own overreaction.

Although, I should have been more patient as a Christian and diplomatic as a young man but I was too angry to take further insult that day. I charged back at the wife who had been slapping me and abusing my mother. My uncle was mad at me; he went inside and threw my things on the street. That's how I relocated to Mushin from Surulere.

Actually, I enjoyed life at Surulere for three years, 1969 to 1972.

When things were rosy for me and papa was no longer able to cope with life, and God had already provided this accommodation, the first thing I did was to get him an accommodation at the back flat. We stayed together in my house from 1991 to 2001 when he passed on at the ripe age of 79. That's another aspect of my life.

In the morning, my wife would prepare his food, took it to him and at times, he would say he wanted to come and eat here at the main dining room.

Why did you choose University of Ife?

When I joined Lever Brothers in 1970, we formed a group of friends where we had Bode Salako who went to Federal School of Science, and about three others working in engineering department. I was working as a clerk. We were meeting on weekly basis to discuss our future. We discussed about travelling out of the country, and made arrangement to obtain international passports but the man we paid money to get it done duped us. I remember, about three or four of us gave the man money but he didn't give us passports. We went to his house many times but the man was never at home. We thought the best way to secure a better future was to get out of this country. At that time, I gained an admission into one university abroad to study Industrial Management. My WASCE result was very good, so, they gave me admission.

My initial dream was travelling abroad to work and study, but my late brother was not pleased with the idea. When the University of Ife form came out, he encouraged me to take it and I did the exam at a school somewhere in Oshodi. Eventually, they contacted me that I passed and have been admitted to study Estate Management, a course chosen by my brother. He said it was almost the same thing as Industrial Management that I was planning to go and study abroad. I didn't tell him when the admission came, but I had

this girlfriend then who leaked all the secrets to my brother.

I've not met my wife at the time. I met my wife when I was in my second year in Ife.

That my girlfriend told my brother I've been trying to hide the admission from him. My brother called and advised me to accept the admission. It was then I did the necessary things.

I went to Ife. I was not so serious in my first year in the school, I was still thinking of traveling out, believing that the Western State government would offer me scholarship. Though, I didn't know anybody on the scholarship board, I just hoped they would just give me scholarship but when the results came out, I was not considered. It was then I started studying hard and agreed with my brother that God wanted me to study in Nigeria. The second-year result was used to determine University Scholarship Award. My name came out as one of the university scholarship awardees.

My class in Ife is another good thing to talk about. We were just thirteen in the class of but four of us were awarded university scholarships and thus became university scholars.

The first day you stepped into the University of Ife, what was your impression?

I was very impressed. I had been to the University of Lagos since I was living in Lagos. The entrance gate and approach aesthetics and landscaping were impressive. It gave me the first-time impression that I was coming into a great citadel of learning. Travelling between the gate

My class in Ife is another good thing to talk about. We were just thirteen in the class of but four of us were awarded university scholarships and thus became university scholars.

and the sports centre, I actually fell in love with the university. I told myself, this is a very good higher institution I'm entering, and with the background information I have heard that Ife was the university with the largest expanse of land in the whole of Africa and many other things said about it, and the plan that people like Papa Awolowo had for the university, I saw an exquisite school for the first time, the most beautiful environment since I was born. I also saw the tallest man in my entire life when I set my

eyes on Professor Hezekiah Oluwasanmi, the Vice Chancellor then, he was very tall just like king Saul in the Bible.

All those things inspired me to stay but I must tell you, in my first year, I did not do enough academic activities the way I should. Although I was good in mathematics, and I thank God, I was in love with the university. Most

times, we heard noises of ongoing construction, it was oftentimes announced that students should avoid going to certain areas at particular times of the day because of construction process and when you look at the structures already on ground, the Library, the Humanity building, the Health Centre, the Social Sciences and many fantastic structures did remind one that one was really in a very important institution of learning.





saw me as a nationalist, some people saw me as Yoruba whatever. One of the Igbo friends said, Bola, I understand that, *'you are the one leading the onslaught.'* I said, *'I came in for correction and we have done the correction.'* Although, in subsequent years, they always come to me for consultation on one issue or the other. For instance, I am glad that we now have an Hausa man as 2nd Vice President and he will be the President in some years to come. We are passing the message across because we don't have enough Northerners coming up in the profession but we have seen somebody now who was a past national secretary. I like getting involved in such issue but personally, I think, when you are now a kingmaker, install kings and reduce your involvement. Bode is my junior colleague and a good friend. I just believe that's why they think that this man is not interested at all in their politics. They now offer me Trusteeship, I'm one of the five members of the Board of Trustees of the profession presently. My aim is

to continue to contribute positively to the orderly growth and progress of my profession.

Did it take much time before you established your firm and how long did it take to materialise?

Between 1979 and 1984; that was about five and a half years or six years before I started mine. I would not consider the period of pupillage to be too short or long. The truth was that I did not plan to set up practice the time I did, but circumstances beyond my control necessitated it.

My boss owed me many months' salary and it was a dull period for me, considering the economy of Nigeria. In fact, many people would want to set-up a practice when there is buoyancy but I kept enduring the hardship that was hitting me left, right and centre. This is what really happened; I was heading the Lagos State Branch of our office after my boss took me to Ilorin, trained me for about one and a half months and returned me to Lagos to open his Lagos office at Obafemi Awolowo Way in Ikeja. I was doing perfectly

well – and yet this man owed me salaries. Although, most of the work was in Ilorin. The late General Idiagbon's properties were managed by our headquarters in Ilorin and there were several warehouses and hotels under my boss's management and so much more. When Idiagbon became number 2 man, all the tenants who were owing, paid their rents promptly but I was not receiving my regular salary and my boss came out with a plan to transfer me to Ilorin claiming that he was promoting me as a partner. I didn't know. I thought it was a real promotion but as God would do it again, somebody phoned me all the way from Ilorin to inform me that, *'Don't be deceived, the man is not promoting you, he believes you are getting too popular in Lagos, that if you set up your practice, you will corner all his clients. That was his mentality.'* I prayed over the matter, then gave him a condition that, *"I will move to Ilorin but he would have to promote me as promised and pay all my salary arrears. I just got married, I need to settle my home before*

had already taken my mind off the contract. I went to the interview with about four of my staff, two energetic young men and two ladies, to fulfil all righteousness. We were asked questions and we performed very well. I saw a gentleman I had met him in one of the Rotary club's events. He was wearing a white agbada robe and a fitting cap. He didn't ask any question. The Chairman of the interview panel was the former Managing Director of Lever Brothers, Late Mr. Rufus Giwa. He asked another interviewer in white if he had any question for Bola Onabadejo & Co., and the man looked at me, and said, *'Did you say you went to the University of Ife?' He asked and paused, then said, 'You made first class but you were not given.'* I was just like *where am I? He continued, 'Looking back now, how do you feel with your life, with that incident?'* I was moved to tears but I cleaned my face. I said, *'Well, with all due respect, I don't believe I made first class because the Ife I know, if I made a First Class, I would have been given. I was a prize winner. I made first class up to my final year but at the end of the day, they said I didn't make it but whatever it is; I thank God today.'* The interviewers looked at me and I wiped the tears again.

Everybody looked at me, then the man asked again, *'Any question?'* I replied, *'You just reminded me of something I am emotional about.'* He said ok, and looked at the proposal submitted by Bola Onabadejo and Co., concentrated on page six of the proposal and said, *'This is the only company that has given us a prognosis.'*

The man was Prince Julius Adelusi Adeluyi, the owner of the popular Juli

Pharmacy who later became a Minister of Health under the Babangida's Administration. They said we would hear from them. That was the first place I heard that I made a 1st class. Two weeks later, I now phoned my friend who had worked with me at Odudu and Co., who was then working with Oodua in Ibadan when the result would come out? He said, *'What's your problem Bola? If they have to give the job to only one person, the person will be you.'* I asked what he meant, and he said, *'Your firm came first in the interview.'* I was again moved to tears. When I got there, I saw my senior colleagues from Ogun State and they wanted only two, how could this have got to me? I gave all the glory to God. Consequent upon the interview, the Oodua Group gave Bola Onabadejo & Co their tallest building in Lagos, the Unity House.

The issue of First Class came out at the interview for the first time but it was confirmed in 2008 at the Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers Conference in Abuja at the Nicon Noga Hilton Hotel. Alhaji Mutalab and Professor Kunle Abdul Wahab, Special Adviser to President Obasanjo were on the high table. The two of them left the podium at the same time, and I wanted to ask Alhaji Mutalab a question but I was not called. I ran after him to ask the question but he'd left with his entourage. So, I used the opportunity to say hello to my revered and learned lecturer, Professor Kunle Wahab as a matter of courtesy. As soon as I caught up with him, other people such as Late Otunba Tade Ismail, ESV Akin Olaiya who was also at Ife came around.

As soon as I got there, Prof said, *'Oh Bola, how are you?'* He took my hand

and opened up as if there was a running tap in his mouth, and the next thing he asked Otunba Tade Ismail was, *'You know Bola?'* Otunba Tade replied, *'How would I not know him? He's my past chairman in Lagos State branch.'* Then Prof said, *'Bola came to Ife, he made a First Class but I denied him!'* He said that twice. Then I asked him a question, shaking, *'Sir why did you deny me?'* It was like a drama. This was a man that I held at a very high esteem to be a consultant in my practice. And he confessed, that I was the 1st Ife graduate to make him a consultant, not knowing that this man has shortchanged me and robbed me. He wanted to give an answer when Otunba Tade Ismail interrupted him and said in his white man's phonetics, *'Of course, they can't just give you First Class.'* He just covered the discussion; he didn't allow the man to answer that question. I just turned back, went back to the hall, picked my bag, went into my room on the 16th floor, entered the bathroom and wept. Usually, it's not easy for me to cry but I really wept that day. Is this thing a dream or so? I remembered what happened, what Prince Julius Adelusi Adeluyi said earlier when I phoned him later that night after that interview. I said, *'Sir what you said about me in that interview, how did you come about it?'* He just said, *'Bola, more people know you than you know yourself, just keep doing good and your best at all times.'* I never knew that the man knew anything about me at all. Even though when we met at Rotary, I was a small boy, whereas he was a well-respected Past District Governor (PDG). But to have known me to that extent was a surprise to me. How he got the information till now, I didn't know until years later when the

person who did it now confessed with his own mouth. Can you see life?

Looking at it, I give glory to God because if I was given that first class, I would be contented being a lecturer and I may have soared higher than this – only God knows the best but it pained me that I was denied and on two occasions, I had turned down admission opportunities for Master's at Unilag. The first time, I was carried away. The second time, I promised Professor Ajayi Obe and he tried his possible best for me but I did not pursue it. Maybe it is what I call academic arrogance but whatever it is, the fact is that I didn't have that first class and it affected me. I know I would have gotten my PhD and other qualifications like that by now, and like many of my friends, be retiring as a Professor.

Recently, I met Otunba Gbenga Daniel, former governor of Ogun State and Aremo Osoba at the retirement party of Professor Segun Awonusi who was my classmate. We went to the same secondary school. He is a professor of English, and former Commissioner for Education, and former Vice-Chancellor of TASUED. He is now Emeritus Professor and politician.

My brother with his PhD and two or three Master's Degrees was lecturing at OSU when he died in an auto accident in 1990 whilst travelling between Ijebu-Ode and Ago-Iwoye. When I look back at all this thing called life, I conclude that God knows where He is taking man to. I still have the ambition of studying more but not now, maybe after retirement.

I have been offered many honorary doctorates from universities outside Nigeria but I don't believe in it.

In a nutshell, first class or no first class, God has been ever good to me. He has always seen that everything I do comes out in First Class. God knows where all of us are going too. It has not affected me in anyway, I continue to do my work, I have confidence in God and in myself. I am not a very loud person. I have led our institution as Branch Chairman of Lagos State when I was very young, and Lagos State branch is known as '**the branch**' in our profession.

In what way has the University of Ife really affected you in your professional practice?

I thank God for giving me the opportunity to study Estate Management at the University of Ife. I was sent to LSDPC in my second year for attachment – and there, I met my amiable and beautiful wife. Four of us were sent to the parastatal including Kola Akomolede and two others from our class. My wife just finished her WASC exam at the time and was working. She was very shy then but to the glory of God, we celebrated 40 years of marriage last year.

University of Ife impacted in me hard work, discipline and serious academic standards. In a class of thirteen, four of us were university scholars. We have the likes of Kola Akomolede, Gboyega Fatimilehin, Anjola Jesu (formerly Akinyosoye) who is now a pastor. We were undertaking courses outside our department more than in the department. They call us, '**Jack of all trades**' and we would tell them, we are '**masters of all**' because we go to law, did a bit of study in that department especially Land Law, we beat them, Law of Tort and Contract,

most of the time, we beat them. We have to do Agric Economics, Highway Engineering, Mathematics, Land Surveying, Quantity Surveying and you have to be good in them all. That is why they call us **Jack of all trades**. But you need all those things to be an effective manager, even, including Sociology because we are going to deal with human beings, and all those things we learnt are useful in life, in practice and the profession – and as God would have it, I joined the professional institution early enough. I started working at the branch level and that culminated into my becoming the chairman in 1989. At the state level, we have the Chairman while at the national level, we have the President. Due to my brother's death in 1990, I had some setback about life. I was living but I was not happy and when I came back, I wanted to contest for Vice Chairman and a younger colleague of mine who was my junior in the university wanted to contest against me. I told him, "**I only left for a while because of the disappointments I had. If not, you would have met me in the exco. You don't need to contest against me.**" I asked to step down but he said no. We went into the election and I won massively. That's how I came in as the Vice-Chairman and when you are the vice chairman, you will likely or automatically become the chairman. As the vice chairman for two years, you have understudied the persons there, you have known how to do this and somebody cannot just come from outside to contest against you. So, in a nutshell, we thank God that my two years was very productive because that was the time the man before me applied to Lagos State for the land. It was in my year that we got the



approval for the land. It was under the military regime we got the land and approval. It's part of my CV today that the Lagos State Branch land was gotten during my time as the Branch Chairman.

How deep are you at the national level ... your involvement at the national level?

I didn't show much interest. I was national treasurer. I was in the council for some years and in 2008, something happened, we saw an aberration in the sense that some people lined themselves up as the president, first Vice President, second Vice President. I'm not tribalistic but these three people are all from the Same Anambra State in the South East, to the extent that they visited Late Governor Alao Akala of Oyo State and introduced themselves as members of the Management Committee, and the governor asked them, '**Is this a national body where seven of you are in the management committee, and about five of you are Ibos?**' The matter came to my attention and some of us decided to look into that issue critically. There must be injection in-between. We put somebody from another part of the country into the setting; that was when we sourced for Bode Adedeji. "**Bode, are you ready?**" – and he said yes. I was in that group, we called it a **National Lifeline Group**. The mission was to give our profession the life of focus and professionalism in diversity. It was a very big election in Awka. It was a real battle, like when you want to go and meet a lion in his den but we thanked God for the outcome of the election. We were able to put Bode in-between Emeka Eleh and Emeka Onuorah to break their initial plan. They gave me a name, some people

Rotary of Gbagada beat me with a very narrow margin, and something that has to do with money and probably lack of adequate Rotary knowledge, and the governor then said, *“Bola, you have done very well, you are entitled to the first position but Rotary of Gbagada has given me two Paul Harris Fellows (PHF), and if you can just give me one, you will have the first position.”* So, I talked to some of my friends, they were not ready to cooperate, that's how we came second. The chance of coming first in the district did not come until 2001 when I was the Chairman of the District Conference; my club came first in that year for the first time when Rotarian Tony Akhine, a pharmacist was the president. Some years later, we came first again during the Presidency of Rotarian Chuks Igwe. In the year 1998 / 99 Rotary Year, our Charter President, Martin Itolei became the District Governor. He did after managing a spinal-cord injury sustained during an accident in Abuja. We thank God for his life and the leadership he gave to the club and people like me in his lifetime. Shortly after his death, pressure was being mounted on me to show interest in the DGN Position. I attended the interview first in 2012/2013, I was not selected. 2013/2014, it was the third interview I attended in 2012 that I was selected. They now nominated me as District Governor to head the District 9110 that comprised Lagos and Ogun States. There were three Districts in Nigeria then but District 9110 covered Lagos and Ogun States and it was the most dynamic of all the four Districts. We have district 9141, 9142 towards the East, Southeast but we have 9125 right from Ibadan extending to Kutuwenji to the far north comprising about 23 states

including Federal Capital City. But despite that, Lagos and Ogun District 9110 is the leader in Nigeria. I was privileged to lead that group. They call us Governor of two states without a siren. I served Rotary as Governor in 2015/2016 Rotary Year. At that same time, I was Lay President in the Lagos Mainland Diocese. My wife too was Past President of the Inner Wheel Club of Akowonjo. She even became president before me. So, Rotary has become the other part of me, anywhere I am in any part of the world, I continue my rotary whether in Canada in Germany or in the US, the first thing to do is where is the nearest Rotary Club to me and I fellowship with them.

What is the most challenging situation in your rotary life, and did it ever cross your mind that you are going to be a district governor when you joined?

Well, it did not cross my mind as most of the things I encountered in life. I don't struggle to become anything or hold a post. People started calling me into it. Immediately after the death of our Charter President who became the first district governor in my club, because when you say you have a district, many clubs will belong to that district. The district is just the administrative head of all the clubs in the geographical area. Rotary services are done at the club level. My club is still at Akowonjo. And I came in, in 2015/2016 as the Second District Governor from that club. When you are talking of challenges, there is no journey in life that is so smooth, that there won't be challenges. Challenges, most times could come your way. One thing about me is that everything I do in Rotary is transparent. Most of the meetings I



attend with my wife. It's only the last two years that we were not able to attend the Rotary International Conventions due to Covid-19 and its travelling implications. However, I believe

moving to Ilorin,” but the man refused to pay me. Late General Idiagbon intervened in the matter. He couldn't pay me, so I looked at the whole thing and as at December, I decided to resign. That is what I used to tell young men of today that, I did not register a firm until I've resigned because the date of registration [CAC] will be there. But these days, you see young people while working in a firm, some of them will be doing Private Practice. I don't believe in it. I didn't plan it, Many things in my life are accidental. Where I had my office for 24 years at 13, Ogundana Street, Ikeja, Lagos was being managed by Odudu & Co., and by the time I left, the landlady, an Alhaja was the one that first encouraged me when she heard I wanted to leave the firm. She said, *“Baba ibeji, are you not ready and qualified to start this work?”* I said, *“I am a qualified estate surveyor.”* She gave me the vacant flat and asked me to start my private practice. The day we went there for the first time, our housemaid went along with kerosene to remove the stained gum on the floor. There was no table whatsoever. On that first day we went there, people started coming, two people came that they wanted to do valuation. I asked them how they heard about me and they said from one baba. I asked them to pay 500 naira each as deposit. You can imagine what that meant in 1985, the two of them deposited 1000 naira. It was a time when you could buy a Peugeot car for a little over 5000 naira. We did a valuation job and we bought five cars on the same day, just

Between 1979 and 1984; that was about five and a half years or six years before I started mine. I would not consider the period of pupillage to be too short or long. The truth was that I did not plan to set up practice the time I did, but circumstances beyond my control necessitated it.

one valuation from a hotel down my office street. Which work do you want to do now that you will buy five cars? As we are talking, to get a new car now can't be less than seven million naira and if you want to buy five; that's about 35 million Naira and which work do you want to do to get 35 Million Naira at a go? We bought about five Tokunbo Toyota Corolla for about 30 something million-naira last year. May God help Nigeria. I never planned to really have a practice, it was my boss that pushed me out, he didn't have good intention but I never knew, it was somebody that called me that the man was not planning well for me. So, I thank God for how far I have come on my own. God has always been my Guide.

How were you able to sustain your clients?

The motto says that client's satisfaction is very important and the underlining factor is hard work and that's what I will say. It's like the university I attended and the man who trained me. Mr. Williams

Odudu was a workaholic and I always tell my staff that I was not trained to say that it is 6pm or 5pm, go and close. No, I was trained to finish all jobs on my table because by tomorrow another one would come. This man was not the only valuer in Ilorin but virtually all valuation briefs were coming to him, even when he was still in the Ministry. At that time, you could be in Ministry and still have your own practice. I will go to Offa to do valuation and as I was coming back another one

in Ilorin was already waiting for me and he would say you must finish all your reports before you leave office. He would switch on the generator if there was no light. It is no longer the case nowadays. I'm having one of them who is a married woman, *“I want to go and take care of my children.”* That's why the white people will either wait and have all the children before they take up employment. When it is 6pm, they will be at my door knocking to say, *“Goodnight, sir.”* It is a matter of policy; they have to say goodnight to me when they are going. Hard work is a very important part, tenacity of purpose is also vital – you know what you set to achieve for the day, and pursue it with all seriousness. Apart from the socio-economic and the social aspect of it, my late boss who trained me would say, *“Bola, when you are broke is the time to let people feel that you are rich.”* So, when things are not easy, my boss would buy new status car. He would then visit one of the MDs office. What

job can you not give to this type of a man especially when he was both academically and professionally okay. He had a very sound Master's degree, and knew his job so well. When you know the job, the only thing you need is just the connection and the job will be coming. I thank God for his life. I started my private practice in February 1985. A lot of people have passed through his firm. The problem we have now is scarcity of good, sound young men and women willing to be professionals. You can interview ten people and you may not even get three suitable to be employed. When you get them started, they are so much in a hurry and highly mobile. The good one that I felt would stay didn't even spend two months. You employ somebody, you do all the necessary things, give them identity cards, complimentary cards etc. He works for three months, you have written introductory letters to your clients, three months in office, he resigns. I don't know what they are looking for. The one that pained me most was the one that went to Abeokuta to go and take government job. If you know you will take government job, why did you have to take this job in the first place? I have to keep on writing that the property manager is now another person. I don't know if the money is not substantial for them. I don't think we are paying the least. So, it may be true that they don't have opportunity to steal money here, it will be difficult for you to steal money if you work in my place. The employment issue is a very big challenge we are having

these days. And that is why we are trying to encourage the younger ones that are there to be patient and the money will come eventually. You don't just come in the first day and say that you want to be richer than the boss that has been there for 30 years. If you humble yourself, you will be richer than your boss. My intention now is to hand over the practice to some younger people and have some time to rest. Not just resting alone now, be able to really move ahead and brainstorm with them and they will be getting other good news on the job. I only need three good

“Bola, you have done very well, you are entitled to the first position but Rotary of Gbagada has given me two Paul Harris Fellows (PHF), and if you can just give me one, you will have the first position.”

surveyors to hand over the firm to with some percentages acquired by them to become partners.

How about your children; is anyone interested in your profession and do you have a succession plan towards any for the firm?

That's why I ask this big man (pointing at his son) to wait. He is an Estate Surveyor; he's not with me, he is on his own. Anyway, he worked there for a while but he is on his own by God's grace. I think he will come back at the appropriate time.

When and how did you join Rotary, and what do you think the club and the people will remember you for?

Rotary experience is deep and diverse for different individuals. A lot of people tell lies but Rotary is the number one leading service organisation in the world. It was established in 1905 and it has remained the most significant, the most important voluntary organisation in the world. The Rotary Foundation is the power house, the engine room controlling what we call the four-star rating by an organization called the Charity Navigator in America. It is the only service organization that has a permanent seat in the United Nations. Those Drafting Committee that gathered at the end of the second world war in 1945 to prepare the charter of the United Nations had many Rotarians among them. Some other organisations may try to imitate Rotary but they are yet to meet up with Rotary standard. Rotary believes in meeting every week, some others meet once a month. When I wanted to join Rotary at the start of my practice in 1985, I decided to go all the way. I joined Ikeja Club the same day with Sunny Ade and other friends. Everything a young man like me was looking for was contact and I believe that at Rotary, you can meet a lot of people. Then, I was working and living in Ikeja, I wanted a Rotary Club where there was no Estate Surveyor and Valuer. I looked at Rotary Club of Ikeja, I have a very senior colleague there, Dipo Onabanjo. I looked at Agege, I have a very senior colleague

there, Charles Adebisi, I looked at Opebi, I saw Femi Asiwaju, a good friend and colleague, who is now a pastor. So, when I looked round and saw all of them, I said, which club that did not have estate surveyor as a member. It was a selfish motive. I wanted every brief there to be coming to me as the only professional Estate Surveyor and Valuer there. So, when I met Femi, the only one at the club in Ikeja at the meeting point at Godfather nightclub near the railway line. He said Rotary Club of Akowonjo was meeting at the Nite Club in January 1986 first after the charter list had been sent to R.I. I never thought, I would build a house or live in Akowonjo. I saw Akowonjo as a very terrible place where robbers were always on rampage. We were meeting in Ikeja, not knowing that virtually all the members were landlords in Akowonjo. The Charter members were very robust personalities, including retired colonels and majors in the military; they have sent charter members' names, those who started the club to the US. So, when I joined, we celebrated the charter together. The names of charter members were 48. So, myself and few others joined as members at Charter on February 21, 1986 when we celebrated the charter at Lagos Airport Hotel. The late business mogul from Akoko, Alhaji Jobifele was the Chairman of the occasion. Rotary Club Akowonjo was chartered exactly 21st of February in 1986. The chartered president lived at 129 Akowonjo road. He's late now. Within few years, I became secretary of the club and started rising, to vice president and president in 1996/97 rotary year. So that year was significant because the club came second in the district.



CONGRATULATIONS TO A MAN OF HONOUR.



The management and staff of MCN properties & Investment company limited heartily felicitate with an outstanding worker in the vineyard of God,

OTUNBA BOLA ONABADEJO

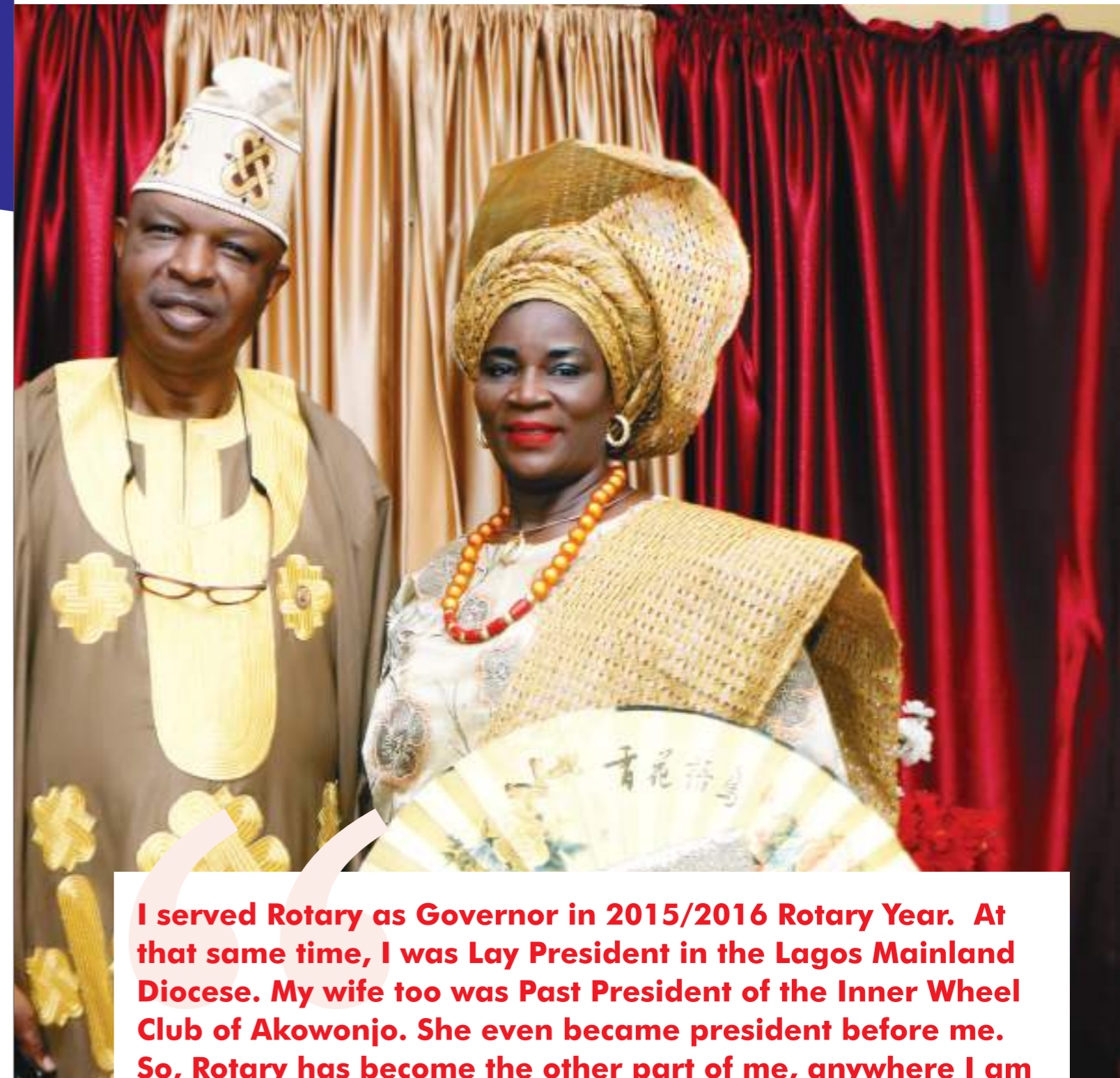
as he receives the Synochure international magazine Role model of the year award . Your contributions towards the development of the church of God is not unnoticed. Our prayer is that God Almighty will grant you more years in good health and sound mind to experience more honours and appreciation.

Congratulations!

Signed By:



MCN
PROPERTIES & INVESTMENT
COMPANY LIMITED.



I served Rotary as Governor in 2015/2016 Rotary Year. At that same time, I was Lay President in the Lagos Mainland Diocese. My wife too was Past President of the Inner Wheel Club of Akowonjo. She even became president before me. So, Rotary has become the other part of me, anywhere I am in any part of the world,

that challenges, when they confront a man in life make him stronger, especially if he is able to overcome them, and no one overcomes except by His abiding grace.



His Nephews and Nieces see him as father not uncle

Mrs. Sarah Onabadejo

There are several women we run into everywhere on a daily basis. There are ladies in sophisticated places; some of them lording it over their husbands and a bulk of them being referred to as madams but wives – good and godly wives – are relatively scarce. They are as rare as eagles on our skylines. Marriages are collapsing because homes are lacking wives in principle and custom but Chief (Mrs). Sarah Onabadejo has withstood many storms, overcome many challenging seasons and emerged a winner despite it all.

Sarah Onabadejo is a wife, mother and friend. In the dynasty of Otunba Bola Onabadejo, she is a mother Eagle that keeps the eaglets flying, she's the gust of wind that Otunba feels under his wings whenever he spreads his arms to fly – and because of this amazing gift, Otunba Bola Onabadejo has been soaring to greater heights.

Sarah can pass for a statue of Amazing Grace – and like a Proverbs 31 woman, she can be told, "Many women have done excellently but you excel them all."

Sarah Onabadejo, born in the year 1956 in Lagos is the daughter of a female teacher and a chartered accountant dad, Alhaji Ibrahim Adisa Durojaiye of blessed memory. She studied Secretarial Administration at the popular Lagos State Polytechnic. She worked in a pharmaceutical company before resigning to set up a private business in 1991 –

specialising in event planning and rental services in order to create ample time for mothering and nurturing her kids.

Below is the brief of tete-a-tete she had with our correspondents.

How and when did she meet her heartthrob, Bola Onabadejo, she replied, "Initially, I didn't know that we would get married but on my 21st birthday, I asked him to meet my dad. He consulted his parents after the meeting and his family met my family officially and the wedding date was fixed. That was how it all started; I was very shy and skeptical about how fast everything was going but he kept on pressing when I was not thinking much of marriage at the time as much as I was about continuing my education – but he kept his promises."

What type of man is Sarah's husband? Without struggling for word, she opened up, "My hubby is a father of many children, not

really biological; he treated other children as his. We can't count how many family members have lived with us or how much he has paid as schools fees. They graduated and he guided them on their various professions. Some are in Canada, some are medical doctors. He trained his late elder brother's children through school and was there for them till they married, and we even acted as parents on their wedding days. The entire family members, especially his nephews and nieces look up to my husband as father not uncle because he played fatherly roles in their lives – whether their parents were alive or late."

After listening to the story of how generous Otunba is, one cannot but wonder how accommodating this woman is. Otunba wouldn't have been able to play that fatherly roles effectively without the support of Mama Sarah Onabadejo.

I can stand for Otunba Onabadejo anytime, anywhere

-Chief (ESV) Ayodele Sangosanya



Sun rises in the morning but moon glows all through the night whilst stars shine most in the darkest hour of the night. If human life is likened to a day, one man that has enjoyed all day goodness of God is Ayodele Gbadebo Sangosanya. He was born 84 years ago in Ijebu Ode. London trained Estate Surveyor, ESV Ayodele Gbadebo Sangosanya, worked at UAC as the Head of the Estate Department and the United Bank for Africa (UBA) as HOD Estate Department and rose to

become a Director before retiring. How and when did he meet Otunba Bola Onabadejo and what has their relationship yielded for both parties. He said, "I met Otunba Bola onabadejo about 40 years ago through the profession. He was an active member of the institute and we, as the elders of the institute, noticed his active role in the institute and that was how I took interest in him." "He is a complete gentleman and a generous man. He respects the elders and is very honest. I can

stand for him anytime, anywhere. He is a straight forward person. I recalled when I recommended him for a job in our church, he performed credibly well. He is someone that will not disappoint when you give him any assignment. In fact he will do it beyond your expectations." He added and asked God to give Otunba Onabadejo long life and sound health to enjoy his years of labour.

Otunba got to the vantage of his life and career without having any connection

Niyi Oliwo



When sun rises in the morning, it does not only illuminate but it gives heat that dries cloth, feeds plants and gives vitamins that rejuvenate the skin. People like Niyi Oluwo are sunlight, they radiate joy, affect lives positively and transform, for better, whoever connects with them.

In the speech of Niyi Oluwo, he took us on a ride of how influential Otunba is and what the world can learn from him. The genesis begins thus: "I was enjoying working at Barclay's

Bank now Union Bank, not even thinking about furthering my education when Otunba and a couple of friends visited me at Idumota Branch, Lagos Island, Lagos where I was and as we were chatting and joking, Otunba said, "This work will tie you down. Don't relax on this 10 kobo you are collecting; go for your exams and better your life. I know you are brilliant; go ahead and study more." That was what prompted me to go for my A' levels and realigned my thoughts from just working and doing CIB to sit for my A levels before I could gain admission into Unilag to read Geography. I can

never forget that his prompting pushed me into my destiny."

He also spoke to our correspondent on Onabadejo's contribution to his place of birth and national development, "When he was Chairman of Ada Development Council, I was the Secretary. As Chairman for several years, he contributed a lot to the development of the town by organising dance in December and Ileya festivals, and with the supports of our elders, several people always come home for those celebrations. His positive contributions enhanced the State and nation.

Otunba Bola Onabadejo is Great friend and a wonderful family man

-Dr. Olukayode Akinlade



Enigmatic Olukayode Akinlade is a Chartered Member of Rotary Club. He is as quiet as fire but his effect and exploits are large enough and well pronounced for the world to see. He is fearless and powerful.

An Ekiti indigene, Dr. Akinlade, is a graduate of the College of Medicine, University of Lagos. He worked in various hospitals for like 10 years before he started Crown Hospital where he presently works as Medical

Director and CEO.

Speaking to our correspondent on Otunba Bola Onabadejo and his distinctive traits, Dr. Akinlade said, "I think we met both socially and professionally at Rotary. He became a member of Rotary Club, Akowonjo about the same time I also became a member. As two professionals in Rotary Club of Akowonjo, we patronise each other, he patronises my hospital and I retain Bola Onabadejo & Co as official Estate Surveyor and Valuers."

"Otunba Bola Onabadejo is a

great friend and a wonderful family man. I respect the way he manages those two departments of his life, and since our first meeting, we have not departed from each other.

"Otunba Bola is a gentleman to the core. He calls a spade, a spade. He doesn't mince his words; he stays on the part of Justice and truth. I have never heard of any controversy during any of his leadership as Rotary President or District Governor and none when he was Chairman of OPIC Management Board, and in his hometown, his impact is glaring."

Bola is a good person, a trusted friend and business ally

Biyi Adesanya



He that lives in a glass house must not throw stone for he can shatter the whole building and it is also advisable that it is not ideal to be throwing pebbles in a market square. These great ideologies have been duly observed by Elder Biyi Adesanya and they formed the materials that built his life and made him tick.

ESV Biyi Adesanya graduated from the University of Ife and served in Kwara State, worked in an established estate surveying organisation before establishing his own practice that shot him to the top of his career.

Speaking to us in an interview session, he said about his professional colleague, "We were together at University of Ife in the same department. He was very brilliant, one of the best at the time. Bola can be vouched for; he has integrity and this has led him to taking many leadership positions in life. He was the class representative of the whole class. He is not authoritative, instead very simple. He went into private practice earlier than me." "Bola is a good person, a trusted friend and business ally. We dealt together on some projects and properties; I handled some for him and he did for me.

We are very cordial at professional level. We are both Methodists. He is also a significant Rotarian - a District Governor." He added. He also hinted on Otunba Bola Onabadejo's involvement and influence on friends and contributions to national development, "Thanks to God we are both serving God in our capacities - but I can tell you that Bola has laid a solid foundation for others to follow.



Otunba runs with a strong vision and works on it till the goals are achieved

Femi Adenekan

Whether an elephant delivers its calves in wet or dry season, they will be bigger than cows – because that is the original plan of deity that created both. Enigmatic Femi Adenekan is destined to be big.

Currently the Chairman of Printers Association, Somolu and Lagos State Chairman and also maintains the treasury of the Cooperative Printers Association.

Speaking on his first meeting with

and the benefits of knowing Otunba Bola Onabadejo, Femi said, “Rotary brought us together. We met through fellowshiping and networking. I have been looking up to him since our first meeting. We got closer when we went for the Rotary Institute in Israel for leadership training where we sat side-by-side. He asked few questions that I answered. After lunch, we left for Australia for the Convention. Upon our return, he called me to be his District Secretary. I thought of it and I said yes and that was how we became very close. I served as district

secretary when he was governor in 2005/2006.

Otunba is a good inspiration; disciplined, principled and orderly – always conscious of his image to stand out among his peers. I must confess - he's a workaholic, he could work overnight. He believes things have to be done well. I don't really know how and when he sleeps; he could work till 2 am, sleep by 3 and wake up again at 6 and he would be good to go. When I looked at his age, I was challenged at his level of strength and commitment. He takes his work, responsibilities and roles seriously.

Otunba is polite and respectful; call him once, he will answer 10 times.

Chief Segun Odumosu

What makes life effective is not noise but substance. The container is of no meaning without content. Chief Segun Odumosu is tick, not because of his physique but what he carries within – the wisdom, knowledge and willpower that get his friends and protégé yearning for more whenever they meet him.

Whilst fielding questions from our journalist on the person and professionalism of Otunba Onabadejo, Chief Segun Odumosu said, “I met Otunba

Onabadejo about 30 years ago. He was in-charge of one of my properties and was doing very well. I liked the way he handled things. So, when he set-up his own, I said, ‘I'm with you, ’ and he hasn't let me down since inception. I introduced him to various people and places and if there is any need for an estate surveyor, he is the first person I call. He's polite and respectful; call him once, he will answer 10 times. He runs his company

effectively by prioritising his clients and he once proved that to me when one of his boys, years ago was playing some tricks on water rate. He fired the two fraudulent boys. I have never regretted dealing with him. If I had, I would long have stopped dealing with him.” Otunba with his level of success and experience still takes advice from me and he's always grateful for every piece I offered. Our relationship is very cordial.”

Personally, I like to think that his levels of commitment, integrity and focus aren't really common in our society

Mr Ogunwale

Michael Babalola Ogunwale is like breeze that tortures the skin in cold weather and pacify same in heat. In grace period and off season, he's relevant. As breeze circulates oxygen, Engineer Michael Oguntola brings satisfaction to friends and family and brings perfection to projects.

How did he meet Otunba Onabadejo, Michael took us down the memory lane and brought to focus the personality and professionalism of our role model from his own perspective, “I met Otunba Onabadejo in the year 2000 during my induction into the

Rotary Club of Akowonjo. He's very committed to whatever he is doing. He is meticulous, organised and disciplined. He is one of the three people I respect and love to relate with. He cares about people deeply.

Sometimes, he may be misunderstood but he's very committed. There are times he can be in conflict with you if he thinks you are not as committed to a course as he expects – but anything he takes up, he takes it seriously. He is a fantastic family



man; I looked at his relationship with his wife and children and discovered true expression of love.”

What unforgettable experience has he had with Otunba? Michael Ogunwale said, “When my dad passed on to glory in 2012, Otunba came for his burial at Moro and that means a lot to me”.



Sir Onabadejo is one of those very few Methodists I can vouch for

Rev Akinwale

From time immemorial, the Lord has been speaking through his prophets, preachers and pastors. These gentlemen and women are like oracles that expose the mind of God for us – and through their important ministries, they bring us closer to God through Jesus Christ, the Saviour. Rt. Rev. Dr. Michael Olusegun Akinwale is a Methodist Bishop and an outstanding man of God.

Speaking on the meeting and life of Otunba Onabadejo, Rev. Akinwale said “Sir Bola Onabadejo and I have been together for almost three decades. I knew him when the church at Akowonjo started. He has always been a committed member of Methodist Church before he settled down at Akowojo and what really attracted me to him was his humility and honesty. He is very humble, very honest and takes his words as his bond. He can be relied on. He's upright, good and godly. I am close to his family; he is a

home maker. He lives what he preaches and he is one of those very few Methodists I can vouch for anywhere.”

“He would have been a very good minister had he followed the line of ministry, his lifestyle is in accordance with the Words of God. You can never see him getting involved in any fraudulent activity.”

Onabadejo is very diligent, thorough, upright, honest and dedicated to his family and church.



Nobody but God can build a house, watch over a city and makes a life beautiful and colourful – but His grace, though available for all, can be tapped into by only a few people who greatly enjoy and exploit its benefits. One of the few is Mr. Gboyega Fatimilehin, one of the principal partners of Diya Fatimilehin & Co. Estate Manager. Mr. Gboyega Fatimilehin is a popular Estate surveyor with more than 40 years cognate experience.

He spoke to our correspondent on

Bola is a righteous, sociable, very brilliant and intelligent man

Mr Gboyega Fatimilehin

his relationship with Otunba Onabadejo. In his words, “Otunba and I met at Ife when I joined the class of Estate Management from Electronics because of my fascination for real estate and for many years, we’ve been friends. Otunba is righteous, sociable, very brilliant and intelligent. He was a quiet and a very serious student; his brilliance won him a university scholarship at the time. Apart from that, he is an upright person you can rely on. He is jovial and lively. It was fun growing up with him. When we left the university, he started working with Odudu and Co., heading their office in Lagos.”

“Bola is a real good friend, a Methodist long before he came to Ife. He is a remarkable person, very interesting to be with and quite jovial. When he was in Odudu and Co., he was virtually the man of Lagos. “Otunba has integrity – the major requirement for being in Estate Management profession. Each time you meet him, you’ll discover new things. His ethics includes hard work, focus and seriousness about things he derives pleasure and values from.” He chipped in.



When the king goes on a journey, the servants will take over the palace, playing, singing and dancing like they are in-charge of the kingdom but if it remains a minute for the king's return, the pawn will take his place, the slaves will hide and the nobles will recognise the limitations of their authorities as both loyalists and foes prostrate in reverences. Prince Oyebadejo is a royalty with elegant gaits and

Bola is a very disciplined man; anybody who deals with him must copy his straight forwardness and honesty

Prince Oyebadejo

majestic stride. When he talks, no small fry will question his authority.

He spoke to our correspondent on his first meeting and relationship with Otunba Bola Onabadejo, “I have known Bola for almost 40 years; we are both Rotarians. We served as presidents of different areas the same year. He looks after my properties and has been very honest, straightforward, considerate and reliable. You need not exercise any fear when dealing with him.”

“He is somebody you won't regret meeting. When I was celebrating my 80th birthday, he was with me all through the day. I

have no regret knowing him and I'm happy that he is growing in leaps and bounds.” He added.

Bola is a very disciplined man and anybody who deals with him must copy his straightforwardness and honesty. He doesn't lie and he's not flamboyant or lives a false life.”

“Our relationship is like brothers. I consult him anytime I have problem; we share ideas and discuss issues. Anytime he needs my advice, he consults me. I have never seen him with bad company. Professionally, he is at the peak of his career, well respected by his colleagues and other professionals. He is a man to be emulated in all aspects.”

Otunba Onabadejo happened to be one of the successful Role Models for Estate Management students

Victor Alonge

Some men are born great, some inherit greatness but there are other men like Victor Alonge who grow great to achieve greatness.

Victor is an Estate Surveyor and Valuer, a Fellow of the Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers.

Whilst talking to our correspondent on his relationship with Otunba Bola Onabadejo, Victor said, “I have known Otunba Onabadejo since my days at Obafemi Awolowo University in the mid-80s as a result of my activities in Ife. I was the President of the Estate Management Students Association

and by virtue of that position, I interacted a lot with our alumni.”

“Otunba Onabadejo happened to be one of the successful Role Models for Estate Management students. His record at the University challenged us to go all the way, and his views are issues concerning our profession. He was also a Rotarian while I was a Rotaractor at the time, and the way he related with people endeared me to him. I respect the way he carries himself and the way he analyses issues. He is very objective and highly intelligent. He always acknowledges superior argument



even if you are not his peer. He is really humble; he doesn't make noise about his achievements or his capacity but everything speaks volume. He is plain and decisive.”

“He is a professional to the core and no matter how close you are to him, or how much he likes you, when it comes to speaking the truth, he doesn't mince his words.



Women are now taking their rightful positions in the world – professionally, diplomatically and politically and Barrister Bukola Sanni's masculinity before the Judge overshadows her biological femininity. She's confident like a rock and daring like an ocean.

How did a legal luminary meet an estate guru, she replied, “I have known Otunba passively but not really close. We met officially,

Otunba is a very brilliant and respectable man-

Barr. Bukola Sanni

sometime in November 2016 when I was invited to be the Company Secretary of a Microfinance Bank where he was a Chairman. It has been a very cordial relationship. I call him friend because of the way we relate, he is such a fantastic person.”

“He is a very brilliant and respectable man, very articulate. Whenever I prepare the minutes, he will read it like three times before he sends it to the board. If I write anything that does not make sense to him, he will tell me bluntly. There was a particular time an issue occurred at the board meeting and the elderly people on the board were aggrieved, Otunba stood up

and prostrated before them. I regarded this as humility at the peak and that is a character worth emulating.”

“When Chairman is working I know I should not disturb. He's very articulate and hardly forgets things. He might seem like he has forgotten but the moment I say something in that regard, he remembers. He also takes his own minutes as I write mine, and when I miss something, he goes back to his to correct me.”

Barrister Bukola Sanni who viewed her relationship with Otunba as father & daughter has learnt from him how to be articulate, diligent and disciplined.

Otunba really values friendship

ESV. Kola Adefila

Women are now taking their rightful positions in the world – professionally, diplomatically and politically and Barrister Bukola Sanni’s masculinity before the Judge overshadows her biological femininity. She’s confident like a rock and daring like an ocean.

How did a legal luminary meet an estate guru, she replied, “I have known Otunba passively but not really close. We met officially, sometime in November 2016 when I was invited to be the Company Secretary of a Microfinance Bank where he was a Chairman. It has been a very cordial relationship. I call him friend because of the way we relate, he is such a fantastic person.”

“He is a very brilliant and respectable man, very articulate. Whenever I prepare the minutes, he will read it like three times before he sends it to the board. If I write anything that does not make sense to him, he will tell me bluntly. There was a particular time an issue occurred at the board meeting and the elderly people on the board were aggrieved, Otunba stood up and prostrated before them. I regarded this as humility at the peak and that is a character worth emulating.”

“When Chairman is working I know I should not disturb. He’s very articulate and hardly forgets things. He might seem like he has



forgotten but the moment I say something in that regard, he remembers. He also takes his own minutes as I write mine, and when I miss something, he goes back to his to correct me.”

Barrister Bukola Sanni who viewed her relationship with Otunba as father & daughter has learnt from him how to be articulate, diligent and disciplined.

Bola is a dependable friend

Prof. Olusegun Awonusi

scholars (or dogs) will question the authority of Professor Olusegun Awonusi (the tiger) in the jungle of education.

This erudite scholar, Professor Awonusi took us down the memory lane to the boyhood moments he shared with Otunba Bola Onabadejo, “I have known Bola Onabadejo since we were kids. He is from Abigi while I am from Ilushin, a neighbourhood town to Abigi. We were both pioneers of the secondary in the area and right from when we were in school, Bola has been a very serious student. Despite the fact that he is very brilliant, he never relented on his academics, rather

he was getting better every time. “Bola is a dependable friend. In fact, we see ourselves more of a brother than a friend, a straightforward person who never deceived people on any issue he is involved in, and as a family man, he is extremely responsible.”

“Bola is a go-getter who never takes no for an answer. Abigi and the entire Local Government Area can never forget his contributions towards the development of the area. Indeed, he is a blessing to his people.” He rounded up by asking God to keep his friend of long standing safe and secure.



Who will dare compare a tiger with a dog? No matter how wild a dog is, it can never survive in the wilderness of wild animals that is a normal habitation for tigers. Till eternity ends and starts all over again, dogs are domestic animals – whatever its specie – and tigers are wild animals. Any dog that challenges tiger to a duel has signed its own death certificate.

To be a professor is not a joke, it is not a child’s play; no small



Otunba Bola Onabadejo is fatherly

Mr. Olusola Adu

workforce of GSK (Glasgow SmithKline) where he rose to the position of covering the whole Africa region. He also worked at Conoil before retiring to start Prioserve Consults Ltd.

How did he meet Otunba and what has their relationship bred? Adu replied, “I met Otunba Bola Onabadejo at the Methodist Church. I have been hearing about him but we eventually got close when I was to take-over the position of the Lay President from him and since then, he has been very supportive all the way. In fact, he has been guiding me on the workings of a Lay President.”

“Otunba Bola Onabadejo is

fatherly. He really cares. Although he can’t give birth to me, he has been playing the role of a father to me. He is very dependable. He usually takes his time to make you understand what he is saying perfectly well. He played a major role in the development of the church. He has invested financially, spiritually and kindly to the development of the church. He currently chairs the investment arm of the church with the aim of putting their money in various investments to benefit the church.”

It is only a fool that winks in the dark and a stupid man will dodge behind his fingers. Whilst hardworking Adu is flying beyond the reach, the unserious students are still crawling in the mud, wallowing in darkness.

The powerful Olusola Adu attended University of Lagos for his first and second degrees and returned to the same campus as a lecturer before joining the

When there is nobody to support you, Otunba Bola Onabadejo is always there to support-

HRH OBA Olusegun Ogunye, The Ojotumoro of Abigi

In Yoruba land, everybody prostrates before the King – even if he is a child. A man that is crowned a monarch will never, till he returns into the womb of the earth and joins his ancestors prostrates again before any mankind.

Alayeluwa Olusegun Ogunye is the Deity, after the Almighty, that the entire Abigi Town worships.

This retired astute banker and sociable Kabiyesi Olusegun Ogunye spoke on his relationship with and personality of Otunba Onabadejo, “I met Otunba Bola Onabadejo in Lagos but never

knew we were from the same place. I met him on a professional platform. I came home with my dad and he was telling me about some successful sons of Abigi, he mentioned Otunba Bola Onabadejo and Chief Kola Fajingbesi’s names. I later met Chief Fajingbesi in Lagos and he told me about Otunba’s wife’s coming birthday ceremony and that was how I got very close to Otunba Bola Onabadejo and since then, we



have bonded very well.”

“Otunba is an enigma, an element with several lives. He is kind and humble to a fault. In fact, I can say he is humility personified. He is gifted in many aspects. He serves without expecting rewards. When there is nobody to support you, Otunba Bola is always there to support.” He said.



As a person, I know that Otunba has genuine interest in whatever I am doing

Mrs. Omotunde Lawson
Governor, District 9110 Rotary Club, Nigeria

professional educator par excellence.

On her relationship with Otunba Bola Onabadejo, she said, "I met Otunba Bola Onabadejo when I joined Rotary Club and what really caught my attention about him was the way he handled any topic he took as one of the facilitators when I newly joined the club. By the time I got closer to him, I noticed he is a gentle man to the core and very

meticulous in whatever he does. He is very straightforward and has the interest of people at heart."

She compared and contrasted the life and style of our Role Model, and inferred, "The younger ones can learn a lot from his life. He has a very clean heart. Nothing bothers Otunba and this makes him look younger. He is a powerful dresser, always neat and impeccably dressed. A very thorough professional and an organised person."

What a man can do, a woman can also do – and even do better. At least both the tigress and the tiger hunt for preys. After 42 years of Rotary Club in Nigeria, Mrs Omotunde Lawson is taking over as the first female District Governor of District 9110 Nigeria. 'Ko sele ri' as she is fondly called is a retired Director of Education in Lagos State. She is a

Otunba Bola Onabadejo is a complete gentleman, a committed member of Rotary Club and an outstanding humanist-

Dr. Kamoru Omotosho

Dr. Kamoru Omotosho is the Past District Governor 9110, Nigeria for the year 2012/2013 Rotary year.

Calm and cool Omotosho is a man of honour and dignity. Like Obatala, a Yoruba deity, Omotosho is a boss of bosses whose gentility must not be confused for stupidity. His words are full of authority and power, and his strides are elegant and honourable.

Dr. Omotosho is a Senior Medical Practitioner with over three decades experience since his graduation from University of Ibadan.

Dr. Omotosho who has held several distinguished positions in

Rotary, both locally and internationally spoke on his relationship and personality of Otunba Bola Onabadejo thus, "I met Otunba Bola Onabadejo at Rotary Club and the first thing that attracted me to him was his resourcefulness and commitment towards the development of Rotary Club. Along the line, our paths crossed as members of various committees and that was how we became very close to the extent of becoming family friends. He has invited me to various private occasions which I gladly attended and I'd done same which he reciprocated.



"Otunba Bola Onabadejo is a complete gentleman, a committed member of Rotary Club and an outstanding humanist. I wasn't surprised when he became the District Governor because right from inception, he has been very committed to the ideals of the club and services to humanity come to him naturally. He believes so much in the development of human race and he can go to any level to contribute his quota.



Knowing Otunba has impacted my life positively in many ways-

Dr. Femi Olagunju

On his relationship with Otunba Bola Onabadejo, he said, "I was looking for an accommodation to start my clinic when someone introduced Otunba Bola Onabadejo's firm to me and when I got there, the rent was a little bit higher than what I bargained for and there was someone who was ready to pay the required amount but in the course of our interaction, he inquired what I needed the space for and I told him is for a clinic. Instantly, he said I should pay the money on me for the accommodation and that he would use the difference in the

payment to sow a seed into my dream. Honestly, I was flabbergasted. I couldn't believe we still have people like that in Nigeria. That was how the relationship started."

What deepens the relationship of a medical expert and property giant? Olagunju replied, "I have come to see Otunba as a father who is always interested in the wellbeing of his children and I am one of them. He is as straight as a ruler, he will never tell you what he cannot do and once he gives you his word, you can go to bed with it because he will never disappoint you.

Otunba takes up many things at a time and you will think he will not succeed – but he is an achiever

Arch. Adewale Adetona

The Seriki of Ijaiye, Abeokuta, Architect Adewale Adetona is no small personality. His spirit is as big as an elephant, his soul is larger than tiger and his majesty – is more influential than that of a lion.

What connected Adewale to Bola and what are the things that keep them going? The Seriki of Ijaiye- Abeokuta replied, "I worked at Lagos State Ministry of Works for about two years when Alhaji Lateef Jakande was governor of Lagos State and it was that time I met Otunba Bola

Onabadejo through a secondary school mate who is also an Estate Surveyor and Bola's mate at life. We were a circle of about 20 gathering together as friends, colleagues and associates but I have been interacting closely with Otunba since 1981."

"Otunba takes up many things at a time and you will think he will not succeed but he is an achiever. He gives deserved attention to all things and he is a very good friend. Whenever I fall sick, he is always available. He is a family man, a scholar, a



core professional – as his other colleagues always refer to him. If he takes up an assignment, he will see it to the end."

"He was the chairman of an Estate, he was the one that gave us the design for the estate building and he saw to the realization of the project, he also rose to become the district governor of Rotary Club. Bola can be relied upon at any time."



No sane person will dare compare falling rain with the previous rain. The previous rain is in the past, no matter how long it fell – it has stopped, but who can say when this present rain will stop except God, and if He decides its torrents might be heavier than that of Noah's time. Rasheed Abimbola Omisabi is a current rave, falling rain who presently reigns in the field of Estate Survey.

Otunba Bola Onabadejo gave me a brand new car as my official ride

ESV rasheed Abimbola onisabi.

How and when did ESV Rasheed Abimbola Omisabi meet Otunba Bola Onabadejo and what can he say about our man of the moment? He replied, "As the Lord planned it, I met him during my Industrial attachment with Odudu & Partners when he, Otunba Bola Onabadejo, was the Head of the Lagos office. and that was where I first met him before I later worked for his private firm. Since then, we have never parted ways. I will forever respect him as my boss.

"He is a professional of repute and a very honest man. As you are aware that the backbone of our profession is integrity and if you are not honest with clients' resources, then you have soiled your integrity. He is not a greedy person. He will not short-change people for financial gain. He is a thorough bred professional that knows his onions when it comes to the workings and standards of the profession. He does not tolerate laziness and if you want to be his friend, you must be very hardworking."

Otunba Bola Onabadejo discovered and mentored me

ESV KAYODE MOSURO

Comparing a tiger with a dog is foolishness. Though Kayode Mosuro treads gently, his gentility must not be taken for granted. Like a tiger, he may not be barking like a dog to announce his presence or make noise about his achievements, but he is sure a trailblazer.

How did Mosuro meet Otunba Onabadejo? He replied, "After my NYSC, I joined the firm of Bola Onabadejo & Co., where I worked in different departments of the firm. Shortly after I joined the firm, I was transferred to the Victoria Island branch of the firm and after spending some time

there, I was transferred back to Ikeja Branch to solve some problems and I was there for a long time before leaving to set-up my private practice.

"The day I told Otunba I was leaving, it was an emotional moment for both of us. Otunba discovered and mentored me. He is both my father and Role model – and any other good name you can call a good boss." He added.

Kayode Mosuro was asked to x-ray and evaluate his old time boss, and without mincing word, he said, "Otunba Bola Onabadejo is a disciplinarian to the core. He is a



no-nonsense man. He does not accept anything less than the best. He took me through the core of the profession and anywhere you see any of his graduates, the difference is always clear. He does not believe in failure and he is a workaholic. Otunba is very detailed and there is no aspect of the profession that he doesn't know and understand very well."



Take it or leave it, the intensity of the sun cannot be compared to that of the moon. While many can travel to the moon, voyage to the sun will be suicidal. Many professors can be trampled on, but Femi Otubanjo is a man of class and might that cannot be easily pushed aside.

Femi Otubanjo is a retired Professor of Political Science, University of Ibadan.

Otunba is a very humble person, respectable

Femi Otubanjo

When asked, 'how and when did you meet Otunba Bola Onabadejo and what can you say about him?' Professor Femi Otubanjo replied, "Otunba and I are from the same town but we did not meet until I got involved in some waterside activities – and out of all the people I met on the waterside platform, he was the most affable, the most friendly person and the one that I interacted with more than the other people on the platform."

"Otunba is a very humble person, respectable. He is friendly, warm, lively and very reliable. His dependability manifested when we

were preparing for the coronation of our Oba. He never missed one meeting, even if he's going to be late, he would have given advance notice. That shows you he's an organized and somebody that one can work with. In him, I find a really wonderful person in terms of focus and I'm not surprised that he was made the

Lay President of the Methodist church and District Governor of Rotary.

Speaking further, he said, "Otunba is a very good townsman, so committed to waterside, a demonstration of all that you'll want in a human being"

Otunba Bola Onabadejo is a man of honour, commanding respect anywhere he goes

Mrs. Folashade Awe, Acting General Manager, Airport Hotel

subsidiary of OODUA Group of Companies and worked in various companies in the group before she was finally moved to the Airport Hotel as the Head of Accounts before being promoted to be the General Manager in acting capacity.

How did she meet Otunba Onabadejo? She replied, "I met Otunba Bola Onabadejo when I was the Head of Accounts at the Airport Hotel. "Otunba Bola Onabadejo has paid the necessary price to excel in his chosen profession. He is a man of honour, commanding respect anywhere he goes. Wherever I meet him, I

always give him the full respect he deserves. I have never sat down when greeting him. Why? Because honour is written all over him. He is a complete gentleman." Furthermore, she viewed Otunba as a man of integrity, though looks larger than life, his degree of humility gathers enough heat that can melt any wax of pride and arrogance in any mankind. She added, 'As he is honoured as the Role-Model for Nigerian Youths, which I believe he truly deserves, I wish him the best of everything in life and wish him long life in good health and sound mind."



Felicitation to an OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL.

On behalf of my self and family, I wish to heartily and most sincerely congratulate Otunba Bola onabadejo for being a recipient of the Synochure international magazine Role model of the year award. Very few people are qualified to be described as outstanding and you are one of them. This award without any doubt is a well deserved one. We pray that the good lord will continue to grant you all your heart desires in good health and sound mind.

Congratulations!



Signed By:
ESV. KOLA ADEFILA.

THIS CAP TRULY FITS



As you receive the synochure international magazine Role model of the year award I heartily rejoice with you. Your sojourn on this planet has been a tremendous blessing to the current and future generation. You are truly an inspiration to the younger ones.

Congratulations Ore,

Signed: **Prof. Segun Awonusi.**

WHAT A GREAT Honour!



On behalf of my family, I heartily felicitate with my mentor, as he receives the Synochure international magazine Role model of the year award. Oga, this is a honour you truly deserve. Indeed, we look forward to your selection for a National Honour. May you continue to increase from glory to glory.



Congratulations sir!

Signed: **ESV. Kayode mosuro.**

A HONOUR WELL DESERVED.

As you receive the synochure international magazine Role model of the year award, I am 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 and attachments.

Congratulations.

Signed
ESV. Biyi Adesanya.



ANOTHER FEATHER TO YOUR **CAP!**

On behalf of my family, I heartily rejoice with my friend and brother,
OTUNBA BOLA ONABADEJO
as he receives synochure international magazine Role model of the year award. Your humility, openness and fear of God distinguish you from others. We pray that Almighty God will continue to endow you with great wisdom.

Congratulations.

Signed.
Arch. Wale Adetona.





Congratulations to a Role Model.

On behalf of my family. I heartily rejoice with an outstanding humanist,

OTUNBA BOLA ONABADEJO

as he receives the Synochure international magazine Role model of the year award. Otunba, 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 sir!

Signed.

Bar. Bukola Sanni.



Congratulations.

I heartily felicitate with an outstanding professional,

OTUNBA BOLA ONABADEJO

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

Signed.

Chief (ESV.)

A.G Sangosanya.



Congratulations to an outstanding Rotarian.



It is my pleasure to rejoice with you on this joyous occasion of your Nomination as synochure international magazine Role model of the year. Like the jelly fish which cannot hide in water. Your sterling qualities will always fish you out. Your contributions towards the development of Rotary club in Nigeria especially our district will never go unnoticed. You have indeed written your name in Gold as a great Ambassador of the club. Please accept my felicitation.

Signed: **DG. Omotunde Lawson**
District Governor, District 9110.



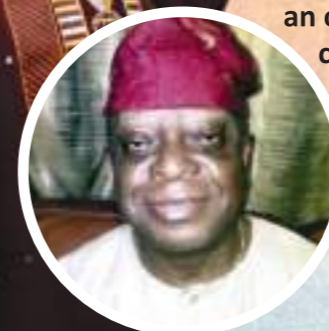
A GREAT ACHIEVER OF NO MEAN STATUS.

On behalf of my family, I heartily rejoice with my brother, Otunba Bola onabadejo as he receives the Synochure international magazine Role model of the year. Otunba, your humility and simplicity had distinguish you from others. You are an outstanding community leader and you deserve to be celebrated. I wish you more recognitions as you progress in life.

Congratulations!

Signed

Prof. Femi otubanjo.



A GREAT ACHIEVER OF NO MEAN STATUS.

As brilliant shining stars cannot be hidden, so also is

OTUNBA BOLA ONABADEJO

who has been acknowledged with deserved accolades because of his numerous achievements never be left unsung. I congratulate you as you receive the synochure international magazine Role model of the year award. May you live long

*To receive more laurels
in good health.*

Congratulations!

SIGNED. ESV. BIMBO ONISABI.



FELICITATION TO A DEPENDABLE BROTHER.

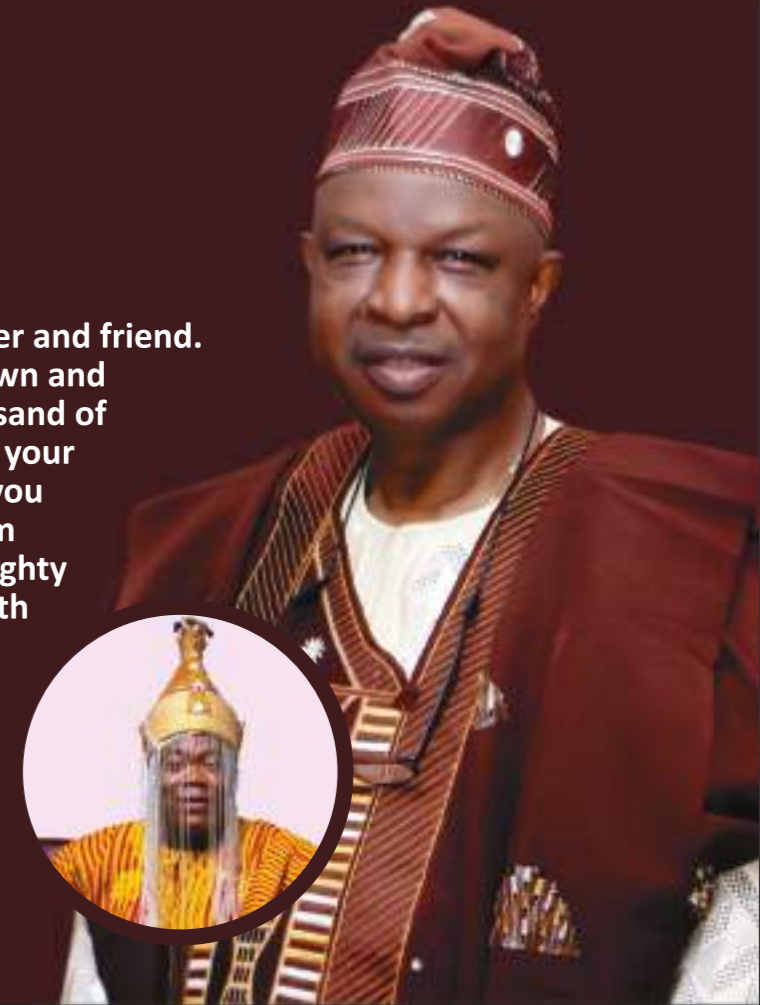
My dear Otunba, you have been a loyal brother and friend. Your footprint in the development of Abigi Town and humanity as a whole cannot be erased in the sand of time. You have brought honour and dignity to your people and you deserve to be celebrated. As you receive the Role model of the year Award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

Congratulations!

Signed By:

Alayeluwa Oba OLUSEGUN OGUNYE,

The Ojotumoro of Abigi.



Felicitation to an outstanding PROFESSIONAL.

As you receive the synochure international magazine Role model of the year award. I heartily felicitate with you. The award is richly deserved because of your numerous contributions to the development of your professional calling and humanity as a whole. I sincerely congratulate you for this feat.

Congratulations.

Signed.

Prince Oyebadejo.



Felicitations to an Outstanding Family Man.

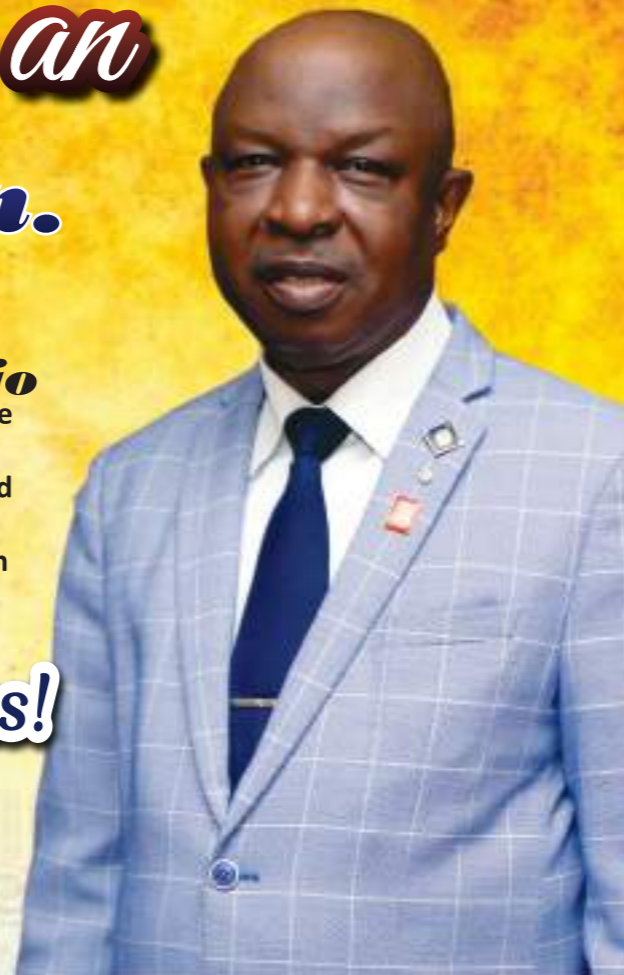
On behalf of my self and family. I heartily rejoice with my friend and brother,

Otunba Bola Onabadejo as he receives the Synochure international magazine Role model of the year award. In every aspect of your life, you have been outstanding and the reward is this recognition. You are indeed a Role model to the younger ones. I wish you more laurels in good health and sound mind.



Congratulations!

Signed
Dr. Kayode Akinlade.



FELICITATION TO A DEPENDABLE FATHER.

On behalf of my self and family I heartily rejoice with an amiable father and friend,

OTUNBA BOLA ONABADEJO

as he receives the Synochure international magazine Role model of year award. Beyond any reasonable doubt, excellence has always been your target and this uncommon virtue has reflected in all your dealings in life. This is an award well deserved and it worth celebrating.



CONGRATULATIONS sir!

Signed
Mr. Olusola Adu.



Felicitations to an outstanding **Rotarian**

On behalf of my family, I heartily rejoice with

PDG. Otunba Bola onabadejo

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

Otunba, beyond any reasonable doubt, excellence has always been your target and this uncommon virtue has reflected in all your endeavours. May Almighty Allah continue to guide your path in good health and sound mind.



Congratulations.

Signed:
PDG. (DR.) Kamoru Omotosho.



Profile



The Man of God. Most Revd. Dr. Obafemi Adeleye, is one of the very few individuals who have sacrificed their visions and passions to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. Adeleye has surrendered his will, yielded his whole being and desire to follow his Master, Jesus Christ, as a pathfinder – to even explore the wilderness, in search of lost sheep, reconciling them to the Shepherd. In his message to our office on Otunba Bola Onabadejo, MR Dr.

Otunba Onabadejo's contributions to the growth and development of the Church are enormous

– Most Rev. Dr. Obafemi Bamidele Adeleye
Archbishop of Lagos Mainland, Methodist Church Nigeria

Adeleye wrote, "I met Otunba Bola Onabadejo in a Church program organized for Church officers about 6 years ago. He is a committed Christian, a philanthropist and a professional to the core." He also wrote on an indelible experience Otunba Onabadejo impressed upon him, "He played a prominent role during the lockdown as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic' he gave palliatives and cash gifts to the ministers of God and the needy in general. His contributions to the growth and development of the Church are enormous. He has served the

Church in various capacities as Lay President of the Diocese of Lagos Mainland, Church Steward, Circuit Steward, Church Leader, member and Chairman of the Investment Committee, and he is the current Chairman of Methodist Property and Investment Company." In conclusion Most Reverend Dr. Obafemi Bamidele Adeleye congratulated Otunba Bola Onabadejo on this feat, implored him to do more and encouraged youths to emulate his kindness and generosity.



Our Services....

- Obstetric Scan • Abdominal Scan • Eye Scan • Oesophageal Scan
- Breast Scan • Mammogram • Musculoskeletal Scan
- 2D Colour Doppler • 3D/4D U.S.S • Vascular (Doppler) USS
- Folliculometry • Physiotherapy • Routine X-rays • HSG
- IVU, Barium Studies etc • Cardiology (ECG) • Routine ANC Check
- Echocardiogram • Histology/Cytology • HIV Screening • Mobile Diagnosis
- Clinical Chemistry • Hormonal Profiles • Haematology
- Blood Bank • Routine Medical Check-up • Pre-Marital Investigation

For Enquiries:

ALABA BRANCH OFFICE:

ON-GEORGE HOUSE

5, Osunbanjo Close, ON-George Bus Stop, Sabo-Oniba, Alaba, Lagos, Nigeria.

+2348024254767

HEAD OFFICE:

ON-GEORGE VILLA

1A, Adeoye Fafore Street, ON-George Bus Stop, Ikotun-Idimu Road, Ikotun, Lagos, Nigeria.

+2348023020223 +2348024624227

EGBEDA BRANCH OFFICE:

ON-GEORGE PLACE

6, Ponle Street, Ponle Bus Stop, Egbeda, Lagos, Nigeria.

+2347017220282

@ON-George Medicals

www.ongeorgemedicals.com

Email: info@ongeorgemedicals.com, ongeorgemedicals@gmail.com

With Excellent Diagnosis Customer Satisfaction is Guaranteed



ANOTHER TO YOUR
CAP!

The Methodist church of Nigeria (Diocese of Lagos Mainland) heartily rejoice with a genuine lover of God,

OTUNBA BOLA ONABADEJO

as he receives the Synochure international magazine Role model of the year award. Sir, you have contributed a lot to the house of God and humanity as a whole and you deserve to be celebrated. We join your your teeming well wishers to wish you more laurels in good health and sound mind.

Congratulations!

Signed by:

Dr. Obafemi Adeleye

Archbishop, Lagos Mainland Diocese, Methodist church of Nigeria.





Felicitation

to

A DEPENDABLE HUMANIST

ESV (Otunba) Bola Onabadejo

On behalf of my self and Nelson Thorpe Alonge, I heartily felicitate with an outstanding professional and role model **ESV (Otunba) Bola Onabadejo** as he receives the SYNOCHURE ROLE MODEL OF THE YEAR AWARD. Sir, you are a peerless leader and an inspiring HUMANIST. You brought hope and joy to many lives. Everyday you keep excelling in care, love, kindness and sincerity of purpose to humanity. As you receive this award, it is my turn to show how exceptional you are to me. I appreciate you always.

Congratulations sir!


NELSON THORPE ALONGE
 CHARTERED SURVEYORS
 ESTATE SURVEYORS & VALUERS

LAGOS
 1B Isaac John Street, G.R.A. Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria Tel: +234 (0) 815 086 1305, +234 (0) 815 086 1308

ABUJA
 3rd Floor, NDPHC Building,
 Plot 1490, Samuel Ademulegun Street,
 Central Area, Abuja F.C.T. Nigeria
 Tel: +234 (0) 703 666 1502
 +234 (0) 815 086 1316

LONDON
 52A Spring Grove, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 1NS
 Tel: +44(0)2075820353
 Mobile: +44(0)7908428490
 www.nelsonthorpealonge.com



Signed **ESV. Victor Adekunle Alonge**
 BSc (Hons.) MSc, FNIVS, FRICS, ACI Arb, RSV, FIOI
 Senior Partner / CEO



**BAM ALUSTEEL
 RESOURCES CO. LTD.**



- Our services include, but not limited to**
- The fabrication and erection of Windows, Doors,
 - Office Partitioning,
 - Curtain walls and Façades,
 - Composite Panel Cladding,
 - Aluminium and Stone Coated Steel roofing,
 - Office cabins – mobile and immobile,
 - Vehicle body building,
 - Decorative concrete and Industrial flooring

RALEX HOUSE: PLOT 8 BLOCK C, ACME ROAD, OGBA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, OGBA, IKEJA, LAGOS.

bam_alusteel@yahoo.com info@bamalusteelresources.com

www.bamalusteelresources.com



Alausa Heights

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:
2 Bedroom | 3 Bedroom

LOCATION:
Alausa, Ikeja

PRICE:
2 Bedroom - N65m
3 Bedroom - N85m



Knight Villas

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:
8 units of 5 bedroom townhouses with boys quarter

LOCATION:
Banana Island, Lagos

PRICE:
2 Bedroom - N850m per unit



Alexander Court

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:
3 Bedroom Apartment
4 Bedroom Penthouse

LOCATION:
Olawale Dada Road,
Off Alfred Rewane, Ikoyi, Lagos

PRICE:
3 Bedroom - N200m
4 Bedroom - N375m



Locke Homes

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:
1 Bedroom | 2 Bedroom | 3 Bedroom

LOCATION:
Lekki County,
Ikota, Lagos

PRICE:
1 Bedroom - N28m
2 Bedroom - N38m
3 Bedroom - N45m

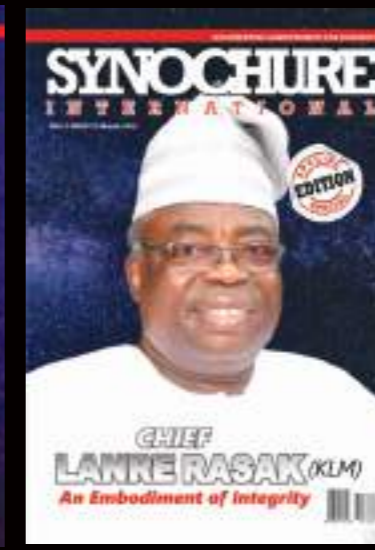


Meridian Court

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:
1 Bedroom | 2 Bedroom | 3 Bedroom

LOCATION:
Aja, Lagos

PRICE:
1 Bedroom - N18m
2 Bedroom - N27m
3 Bedroom - N38m



FOR SPECIAL
ORDER AND
SUBSCRIPTION
CALL:
08023619128,
08182007340

0803 304 2470, 0815 499 0434, 0815 099 3114, 0915 099 3115
sales@diyafatimileyin.net

www.diyafatimileyin.net



...Documenting Achievements for Posterity