

# FELICITATION

to a

# Great Achiever

On behalf of the Nigerian Institution of Surveyors, Lagos state branch, I heartily rejoice with a distinguished professional **Surv. Akinloye Olufemi Oyegbola**, FNIS FNIA as he receives the Synochure **Role Model** of the year Award.

Sir, when the list of outstanding surveyors is to be compiled, your name will take prominent space because of your contributions towards the development of the profession. You are a shining star to the younger generation and we pray Almighty God will grant you more years of achievements in good health and sound mind.

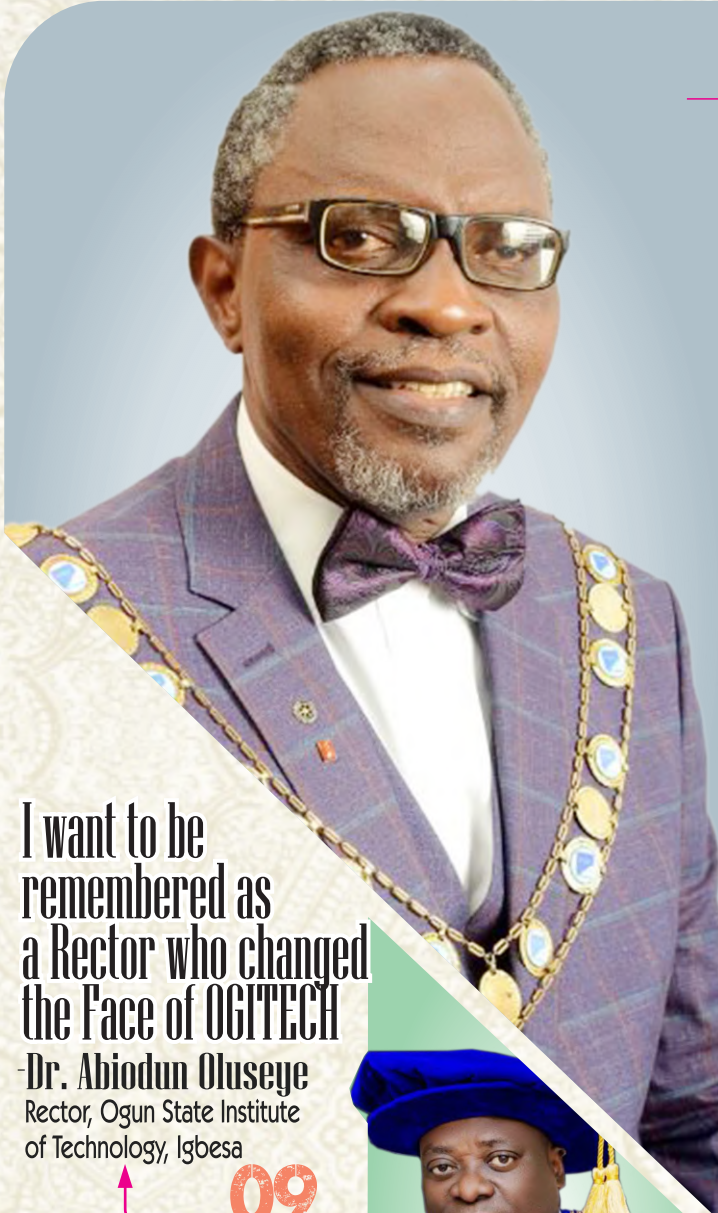
*Congratulations sir!*

Signed

**Surv. Kolade Kasim**, FNIS  
Chairman,

Nigerian Institution of Surveyors, Lagos state branch





I want to be remembered as a Rector who changed the Face of OGITECH

-Dr. Abiodun Oluseye  
Rector, Ogun State Institute of Technology, Igbesa

09

Surv. Akin Oyegbola is a very brilliant man with great ideas

Surv. Olajumoke V. Joseph

45

20  
"Man made money for convenience, why Worship it"  
Surv. Akinloye Olufemi Oyegbola  
FNIS, FNIA, PPNIS

46  
Surv. Akin Oyegbola, is a professional to the core; objective and straightforward  
Prof. Ayandokun



05

Prof. Oluwole Banjo  
VC, Tai Solarin University of Education

# CONT

# Publisher's Note

## INTEGRITY ALL THE WAY

In the pre-independence and post-independence eras of our national development, honesty was considered the best policy, and remarkably, the degree of trust among the generality of the people in their dealings – *whether with others or among themselves* – was superb and common. Such high display of moral rectitude and uncommon discipline for those in that era remains evergreen but Transparency International's indicting report on Nigeria as one of the most corrupt nations in the world is considered a magnanimously demeaning position



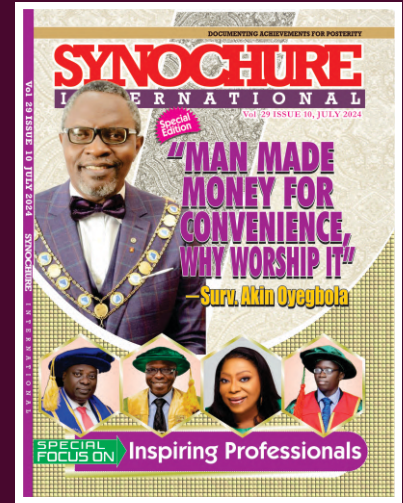
**Lanre Olusunmade**  
Synochure international

by not a few Nigerians who felt Nigeria is indeed good enough for the first position.

Notwithstanding this sordid enactment of negative history, Nigeria has not been in short supply of men and women of integrity who have distinguished themselves even to the admiration of the international community and one of such personalities is Surv. Akinloye Olufemi Oyegbola, FNIS, FNIA, Former President, Nigerian Institution of Surveyors (NIS) and Association of Professional Bodies of Nigeria (APBN) and recently, Chairman, Governing Board of Baptist College of Theology, Oyo.

Surv. Akinloye Olufemi Oyegbola is one Nigerian after the hearts of many people at home and abroad and the reason is not far-fetched; in everything he does, he puts integrity first. If it is not open, he will not be part of it.

Also, in continuation of our series on Inspiring Professionals, we are showcasing in this edition professionals of distinction who have displayed uncommon determination, resilience and 'never - say - die' attitude to their professional callings with a special reference to heads of higher institutions in Ogun State.



**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)  
Olatunji Gbenga

(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:**  
synochure.int@gmail.com  
Tel: 08023619128, 09132103256  
www.synochure.com

# EDNT



*Inspiring*  
**SPECIAL FOCUS ON Professionals**



# Prof. Oluwole Banjo

Vice Chancellor, Tai Solarin University of Education

There is a difference between intelligence and wisdom. Intelligence is the ability to acquire and apply knowledge whilst wisdom is having experience, knowledge and good judgement. Intelligence can be bought but wisdom is a natural endowment. Intelligence informs whilst wisdom transforms. Now imagine a man who is bestowed with both – he shall be the envy of his mates and a light to his generation.

**T**herefore, Oluwole Banjo is a combination of intelligence, intellect and wisdom; as he breathes knowledge, he speaks wisdom and lives excellence.

Prof. Oluwole Banjo is a man of many facets, a classroom exponent and a boardroom guru. He was born in Ibadan about 59 years ago, and holds a BSc in Agricultural Science from Ogun State University – with a specialisation in Animal Production. He proceeded to University of Ibadan for his Master's in Animal Nutrition. He became a Lecturer at the Ogun State College of Education, which later became Tai Solarin College of Education, rose through the rank and when the college was elevated to become a university in 2005, he continued to grow until he became a professor, and in 2016 he became the Dean of the College of Science and Information Technology. He was later appointed as the Dean of the College of Vocational and Technology Education, from where he became the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Acting Vice Chancellor before he was confirmed as the substantive fifth Vice Chancellor of Tai Solarin University of Education (TASUED).

In this piece is the story of an Animal Scientist that turned into an academician, Professor Oluwole Banjo, who turned the lemon the world served him into lemonade to serenade the same world.



Oluwole spoke to our correspondent on why he chose Agric Science and the benefits he's got sticking to academics viz, "I was motivated to study Agricultural Science by my mother who ran a poultry in the early 1970s. I was an assistant in the management of the birds and whenever a vet doctor visited, I took interest in seeing

how the birds were diagnosed, and those experiences informed my decision to become an animal scientist but to become an academician was motivated out my love to impart knowledge, and because I like to see nature grow like planting maize. In the same vein, I believe if you train or encourage your students, you are planting

seeds. I love imparting even to local farmers. I train them on how to improve their productivity and I'm really enjoying it up to this moment."

It is a known fact that birds fly against the resistance of the wind, Professor Oluwole Banjo spoke on his life as a youngster, lecturer and agriculturist; "I was just 24 when I had my Master's Degree. My first girlfriend then was 26, and most of my mates were quite older than me – and in as much as I enjoyed what I was doing, so also I was under pressure to leave OSCE (TASCE) because I saw the levels my mates lecturing in federal universities were. I was about to resign when somebody in the ministry informed me that the College will soon be transformed into a university, that the bill was almost passed at the Ogun State House of Assembly. That information prompted me to go for my PhD and as soon as I bagged that PhD in 2005, I became the first indigenous HOD in Agric."

Tipping off the edge to confirm stability, our correspondent asked Prof, "Despite the knowledge of agriculture in most of our institutions, why is there still deficits of food production?" Professor Oluwole Banjo replied, "I will still blame that on governance because people's efforts to invest or divest into agriculture is jeopardised by insecurity – kidnapping, banditry, killings and mayhem – have driven many away from their farms. As a Fellow of Agricultural Society of Nigeria, we are doing a lot of things to improve agriculture in Nigeria – even in my school, students are taught to be farmpreneurs.

If Professor Oluwole Banjo is really sold out to academics and still an agriculturist, what are his unforgettable moments as a lecturer? "The first day I stepped into a classroom to lecture in a

higher institution, seeing some of my age mates and older ones got me a bit skeptical. I thought I wouldn't be able to deliver but after a while, I gained so much confidence, delivering my lectures well to the extent that most of the students were my friends.

The journey of a thousand miles starts with a step. Did Prof. Banjo ever think on that jittery first day that he would one day become a VC of the same school. The answer is emphatic no. "I didn't have such thoughts. I was just doing my job as a lecturer. All I dreamt of was to become a professor and retire to start a business some day." Said Prof. Banjo who still has a year for sabbatical after his tenure as VC.

Although, he is planning to return to TASUED to continue his job after the sabbatical because lecturing gave him a sort of fulfilment he may not get doing something else, "Becoming a professor is a big joy and becoming a vice chancellor, reaching the peak of my career brought greater joy and nothing can be more fulfilling than that." He believed that Professor Ayodele Awojobi and Dr. Tai Solarin of blessed memory were his greatest inspiration and role models as a young man. Professor Banjo mentioned a cancer that's been eating deep into the organ of this country, "Our leaders are running this country in such a way that the youths now believe that chasing and having money alone is the only way when in our own time, becoming professionals was our major goal, and these days, the moral environment is changing drastically. In our time, you could not drop out of school and be proud of it but they now say education is a scam."

To Professor Banjo, TASUED's staff's dedication, discipline and



passion are the features that made the school an envy of many schools, and he opined that the school in the next 10 years will become a highly ranked school globally as the school management is working tirelessly to ensure that the school enjoys an uninterrupted power supply.

In conclusion, sociable Professor Oluwole Banjo who enjoys fraternising with people, exercising regularly and travelling for relaxation wants to be remembered as the one who improved the administrative sector of Tai Solarin University of Education. "In the university system, if you don't have proper administrative unit, running the school will be very difficult. So, I want to leave a standard that is globally accepted, in terms of infrastructure and system that will make the school stand out."

# I have not become a Rector to compete

**Dr. Mobolaji Agbolade Onasanya**  
Rector, Abraham Adesanya Polytechnic

A lion needs no point to prove to other animals that he is the king of the jungle ... not just because he will never tuck his tail and run away from any animal but his elegant gaits, giant strides and the ability to hunt down any beast without fear or prejudice are enough proofs that he is the only animal that roars and other animals cower.

conferences where he presented seasoned papers. He has also published numerous academic journal papers. He is a member of notable professional bodies including the Nigeria Society of Engineers (NSE) and the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN). His academic interest cuts across Electrical Power Systems and Renewable Energy & Sustainable Development.

Dr. Onasanya, a consummate team leader with flexible, enthusiastic, self-motivated personality and a deep sense of humanness, after spending 23 years at Yabatech moved to Abraham Adesanya Polytechnic and in a few months, he became the Rector of the school. While fielding questions from our correspondents, Dr. Onasanya took us through the journey of his life in academia. He declared, "I must confess that it was never part of my plan to be in academics. When Yabatech advert came out for lecturer, I applied because a friend of mine was already a staff in the school. I thought I won't stay for long at Yabatech. I went for an exam at Chevron and I scored the highest mark among 500 applicants. I was not given the job because I had no godfather – and all my

**E**ng. Dr. Mobolaji Agbolade Onasanya, the Lion that will never run from any other beast was born in Ebute-Metta area of Lagos on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1970. He went to the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro and Yaba College of Technology for his OND and HND respectively. He acquired his BSc and MSc in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from University of Lagos. He also possesses a Master's in Project Management (MPM) and PhD in Renewable Energy from De Montfort University Leicester, the United Kingdom.

Dr. Onasanya joined the services of Yaba College of Technology in the year 2000 and rose through the ranks to become a Chief Lecturer in 2017. Before his

election as the Dean of Engineering in the year 2020, he had served at various levels and in various capacities in the college - including as a 2-term Head of Electrical/Electronics Engineering Department. His period as the Head of Department witnessed modest but remarkable advancements among both staff and students, including facilitating an existing MOU between Schneider Electric Nigeria Ltd. and the College. Dr. Onasanya has also served a number of tertiary intuitions in various academic capacities. He was once an Adjunct Lecturer at University of Ibadan, Oyo State.

Dr. Onasanya has attended a number of local and international

attempts to leave lecturing for something more lucrative did not materialise in five years – but I was doing very well at Yabatech and that was how I spent 23 years at the college. I am where God planned for me to be – academics.” On being the Rector of Abraham Adesanya Polytechnic; the preparations, challenges and feats, Dr. Onasanya said, “Being a HOD, Dean and Director at Yabatech have prepared me for any challenging leadership position but the position of a Rector is another ball game entirely. It will seem like you have the power of life and death as many people look up to you and your decision can make or mar people's destinies, build or destroy the school. I realised I have to boost the morale of the people who were used to seeing their Rector. I had to make them realise that they don't have to run away when they see me coming because leadership is not tyranny. I'm not a boss but a leader, and by so doing, I discovered wonderful people here who want me to succeed.”

“To be honest, I was ill-prepared for this post because I'd given up my expectation of the appointment.

When I got here I realised that what we took for granted at Yabatech are jobs to be done here. Ogun State government as my employer was doing its best but that best was not impacting as much and I thought of TETFUND in order to lure them to do a project but our school is not on TETFUND list as that would have been one of the veritable ways of getting physical development funds but I was told that the likelihood of us getting on TETFUND list is not feasible. The truth must be told, the physical or structural development of this school cannot be left to the management alone. The money meant for overheads, workers salaries and physical development is huge. It is either we the indigenes decide to own this school, see it as ours, as the only special institution in Ijebu-Igbo . There are a number of Ijebu-Igbo indigenes that are capable of



turning things around.”

In eight months of being the Rector of Abraham Adesanya Polytechnic, Dr. Onasanya landmark achievements are as explained by him, “I met two ongoing projects when I got here, the School of Environmental Building and the Needs Building that are at the tail end. We have limited funds to initiate any big project but my belief is that our staff and students should be comfortable. I have given facelift to some of our structures by adding fans, light, toilet and water facilities to make the environment comfortable for the students. The students body wrote me a wonderful letter that touched my heart stating how they had to stand through lectures and study under harsh conditions before I took over, and the staff members were also impressed with the new administrative style. We now ensure that staff retirement savings account is operating and adequately furnished.”

Dr. Onasanya and his administration have planned a regular review of

activities for the development of the school, to compare achieved goals with targeted goals, and he has also created a platform where the staff are given the opportunity to be the best they can be academically and professionally. He often counselled his staff, not only to be a member of professional bodies but to ensure they attend conferences in order to network and update themselves, and he has resolved to embark on regular and prompt promotions of staff as at when due – and that promise reflected in the last promotion done in the school as virtually all the staff members were promoted. Speaking further on his life and career, Dr. Onasanya said, “I don't think any man can be more fulfilled than getting to the pinnacle of his career. I never imagined that I will become a rector; I still see it as a dream. I am very thankful that God regarded me worthy of this great privilege. I have not become a Rector to compete with anybody but to acknowledge the contributions of the previous heads, and add significant values and features that people can point to – especially in the area of staff empowerment. Physical and non-physical achievements that people can point to. I also want the students to have better experience and feeling of the institution than before. I want them to feel a management that really cares about their success. My goal is to upgrade staff, students and structures of the school.” So was the interview with the man who wants to be remembered as the little man that came and did the little he can do to the best of his ability and with the help of my colleagues, Dr. Mobolaji Agbolade Onasanya concluded.



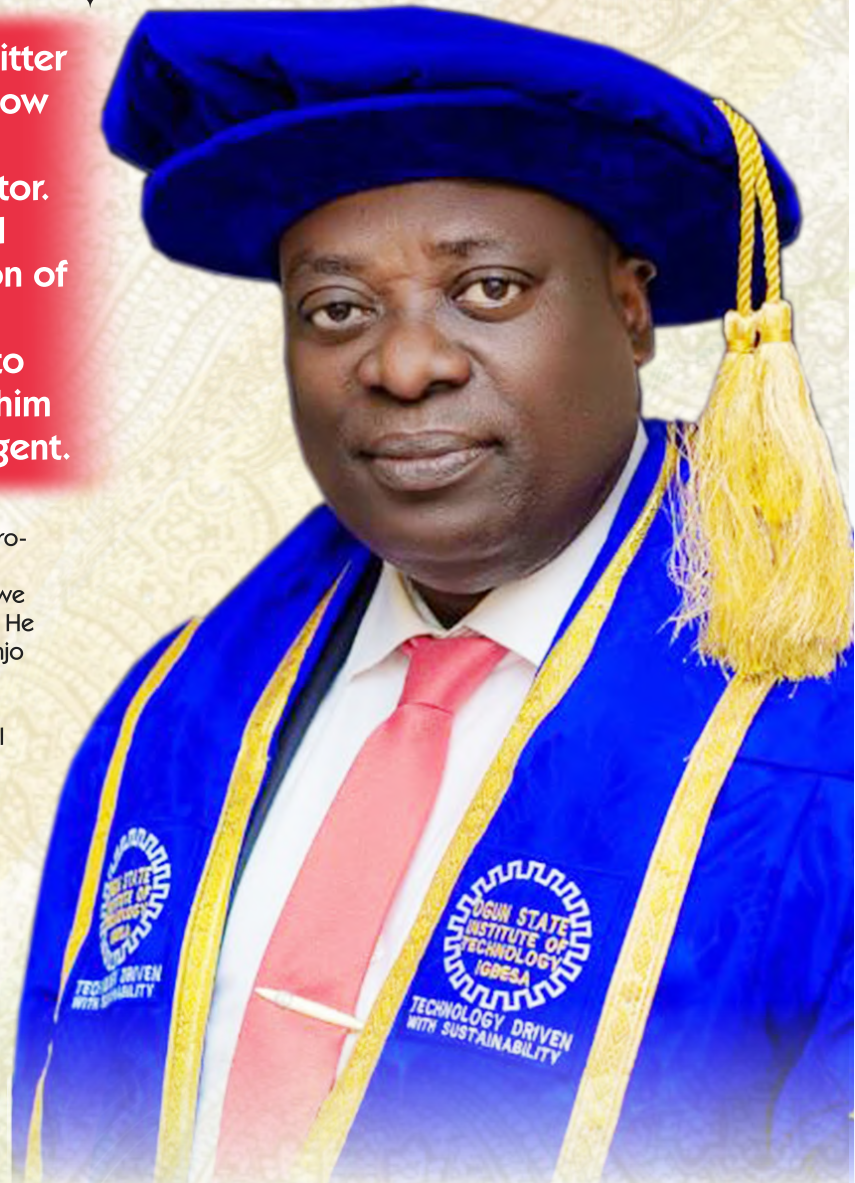
# I want to be remembered as a Rector who changed the Face of OGITECH

**-Dr. Abiodun Babatunde Oluseye**

Rector, Ogun State Institute of Technology, Igbesa

It is the same water that falls on bitter leaf and pineapple; if bitter leaf now begrudges the pineapple for its sweetness, let it petition the Creator. Abiodun is a specially crafted and endowed mankind – a combination of sensitivity and sensibility, and like pineapple, he can easily adapt into any features. You cannot sit with him and not be wiser and more intelligent.

**D**r. Abiodun Babatunde Oluseye, a pragmatic and pro-development personality was born on the 1st of January, 1970 at Ilaro, Ogun State. He attended Awe High School in Awe, Oyo State between 1979 and 1984. He proceeded to Ogun State University, now Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye for the pursuit of a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and graduated in 1995. From there, he enrolled for a Master's Degree programme in International Relations at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife and graduated in 1998. Almost immediately, he commenced another Master's degree programme in English at the prestigious University of Lagos and graduated in 2002. Having secured a lecturing appointment with the Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro in 1999, Oluseye went for a Doctor of Philosophy degree in English at the Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State where he bagged his Ph.D. in 2021. The academic titan began his career as a Lecturer III in 1999 at the Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro and rose through the ranks to become a Chief Lecturer in 2017. During these periods, he was Dean of Schools and Head of Department at different times, Chairman and Member of different Committees. His administrative prowess and doggedness made him a unique being at his place of work to the Management, his colleagues and the students populace. Abiodun's passion for growth and development of the coming generations is second to none as his students never stop calling since his new appointment. The cordial relationship built with staff and the people around him is a pointer to his amiability. While fielding questions from Synochure International Magazine correspondent, Lanre Olusunmade on his appointment as Rector and his plans for the school, Dr. Abiodun Oluseye said, "I wasn't surprised when appointed as the Rector of the institute because having been in the system for over 20 years starting from Federal polytechnic, Ilaro as a lecturer to holding other important positions including being a board member of Mapoly, I believe I have garnered enough experience to deliver outstanding leadership for the polytechnic. Since I assumed office about eight months ago, my blueprint for the institution has been development, development and more developments. We started by changing the face of the polytechnic through the



construction of a new entrance gate and some other important buildings including the Rector's office. We also constructed a perimeter fence to prevent the land of the institute from encroachment."

Abiodun is also a renowned unionist as he served as Secretary and Chairman of the Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics, Federal Polytechnic Ilaro for many years. His tenure had so many achievements to his credit. Some of which are:

- i. Uninterrupted academic sessions.
- ii. Initiating the building of Academic Staff Union of Polytechnic (ASUP)'s house.
- iii. Establishment of soft loan facility for members of staff.
- iv. Initiating payment of promotion arrears,
- v. Distributing gifts to members at the end of the year, among others.

Oluseye's wealth of experience has taken him to other institutions where he served in various capacities. He was a Governing Council member and Chairman, Appointments and

Promotions Committee of the Moshood Abiola Polytechnic, Abeokuta. He has been an External Assessor and Associate Lecturer at the Moshood Abiola Polytechnic, Abeokuta, Gateway ICT Polytechnic, Sapade, The Polytechnic, Ibadan, the Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos State, Abraham Adesanya (ICT) Polytechnic, Ijebu-Igbo, Yaba College of Technology, Yaba, Lagos State, among others.

“We have also got in touch with some companies in the free trade zone for partnerships like taking our students for industrial attachments, and other beneficial involvements that will impart knowledge in our students,” added Dr. Abiodun Oluseye, a man with so many awards to his credit due to his diligence, hardwork and altruistic stance always.

As a winsome individual, a change agent and a leader who is a light that illuminates darkness, Abiodun's plan for the betterment of the students is so glaring. According to him, “We have also mandated every student admitted into the school to start CISCO professional exam and ensure they are certified before graduation because as an institution, it is our responsibility to make sure our students are not only rolled out of classroom but employable and relevant at all times,, making good and legitimate money. Our dream is for organisations to look for our graduates because of their specialization and not the other way.” “Furthermore, we are introducing about seven courses to complement what we have at the moment and we have also made delivery of some modern equipment for teaching and the response we get from some employers of our graduates have been very encouraging and we are working hard to take further steps in making them the toast of employers in the country and beyond.”

Dr. Oluseye has more than 55 academic publications to his credit as a scholar. Aside being a consummate academician, he is also a community development guru. He was also the brain behind the execution of many projects in his community. These include the electrification of projects at different communities in Ado Odo Ota Local Government and Yewa South Local Government areas. The pedigree built over the years has earned Dr. Oluseye the appointment as the third substantive Rector of the Ogun State Institute of Technology, Igbesa, in August, 2023 and he has



proved his mettle since his assumption of office as the Rector. This, has effortlessly endeared both the staff and students to him. In less than one year in office, the erudite scholar has made significant strides, repositioning the Institute for greater glories and accomplishing a multitude of numerous feats that include, but are not limited to:

- i. Securing full accreditation for 25 programmes, ensuring their validity for the next 5 years.
- ii. Construction and beautification of the Institute's access road.
- iii. Reconstruction of the Institute's main Gate into a modern and befitting one.
- iv. Increase of the monthly salaries of the security officers and all other adjunct workforce.
- v. Upgrading of Institute's Medical Centre's infrastructure and personnel for effective service delivery
- vi. Having a health Insurance scheme for the staff.
- vii. Face lifting the Board/Conference Room through the provision of modern Communication System and other gadgets.
- viii. Payment twice, in less than a year, salary arrears met on his resumption.
- ix. Embarking on a massive

beautification of the Campus with a especial reference to achieving an enviable eco-friendly landscape.

- x. Renovation and complete transformation of the Rector and Governing Council's offices.
  - xi. Conversion of HND holders entry point to Assistant Lecturer in OGITECH as against Instructor.
  - xii. Embarking on a massive drive to reclaim the Institute's land through massive construction of perimeter fencing.
  - xiii. Facilitator of an ICT centre being built by the Federal Government among others.
- Besides, Dr. Oluseye has won many awards including;
- i. Honourary Award as a Member of the Ogun State House of Assembly.
  - ii. Award of Pillar of Support to the Union by the Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics
  - iii. Merit Award as Chairman, Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics.
  - iv. Award of Special Honour by the Students' Representative Council of Moshood Abiola Polytechnic.
  - v. Nelson Mandela Leadership Award of Excellence and Interiority by the Youth Assembly of Nigeria (YAN).
  - vi. Award of Achievement by the Association of Students of English Studies
  - vii. Award of Excellence by the Yewa Peoples' Development Council

Dr. Oluseye is a thorough-bred professional, a Fellow, Institute of Business Diplomacy and Financial Management (FBDFM) and Ife Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS). He is also an active Member of many professional bodies. Some of which are: The International Association of Teachers of English as second Language (IATEFL), International Association of Media and Communication Research (IAMCR). Canadian Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE). African Literature Association (ALA), Lagos Studies Association (LSA), African Studies Association (ASA), just to mention a few.

Dr. Abiodun Oluseye is a passionate, supportive, dedicated, resilient, hardworking, objective, focused and jovial but disciplined individual who wants to be remembered as the Rector who changed the face of the polytechnic.

# Professor Joseph Femi Adebisi

Dean, College of Private Sector Accounting,  
ANAN University, Kwali, Plateau State



**B**orn on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of March 1958 in Ayetoro Gbede in Ijumu LGA of Kogi State, Prof. Femi Adebisi attended Kwara College of Technology (now Kwara State Polytechnic) for his HND, Adekunle Ajasin University (MSc) Ebonyi State University (PhD) and Wesley University (BSc). As a man of immense experience, he has worked in various organisations and capacities. He started as a classroom teacher at Okebukun High School in Kabba/Bunu LGA, Auditor 2 at Kwara State Education Management Board, Internal Auditor 1 at Kogi State Teaching Service Commission, Internal Auditor of Kogi Savings and Loans Limited, and Bank of the North Limited.

Anyone, even a child, can look straight into the smiling face of the moon but anyone that looks directly into the eyes of the sun might go blind. The intensity of the sun cannot be compared with that of the moon, both produce light but the light of the sun can scorch the skin from millions of miles away. It's only a fool that will dare Professor Joseph Femi Adebisi in the field of Accounting and Finance. He paid the required price to win a well deserved prize.

As an erudite scholar, Prof. Adebisi was appointed Part-time Lecturer at Kogi State Polytechnic in 1995. He joined the service of Kogi State University in October 2010 as Lecturer 1 and was made HOD in 2011. He was elected Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Management Sciences in 2012, and was afterwards appointed DG, Nigerian College of Accountancy, Kwali from 2013 to 2019. He later joined Prince Abubakar Audu University (PAAU) before he was appointed Professor of Accounting and Finance of ANAN University in November 2021, and he is currently the Dean, College of Private Sector Accounting in the same university.

A professional accountant to the core, Professor Femi Adebisi is a member of professional bodies in Nigeria and abroad such as Certified Public Accountants of Australia, Institute of Financial Accountants, UK, Certified Public Accountants of Ireland, and Fellow of the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN), The Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN), American Chartered System Accountants (ACSA), and Chartered Economists

of Nigeria (CEN).

It's good to acquire knowledge, better to apply the knowledge but the best is to impart that knowledge in others. Professor Adebisi has done well in these three areas and especially in the areas of imparting knowledge. He has published many journals (at local and international levels), authored many books such as "Theory and Problems of Financial Accounting, Auditing and Investigation", "Concepts and Principles, Advanced Financial Accounting Concepts and Practices", and "Auditing at a Glance" among others.

Professor Joseph Femi Adebisi is a sqp in many tall poplars. He may be an invisible organ but his signature is written all over thousands of students that have passed through his tutelage, and the posterity will forever remember and cherish this great man who refused to pursue money when most of his mates did, for his great contributions to the development of mankind.

# Revd. Canon Benjamin C. Osioma, PhD

Former President, Association of National Accountants of Nigeria

**Great men are not born great, they grow great to achieve greatness. As a youngster, Benjamin had his eyes on the peak, set on that journey early enough, daring danger and discharging energy. He paid the price to win the prize and today, he can look back and say, "I move and God lifts me up."**

Rev'd Canon Benjamin Chuka Osioma, a native of Enugwu-Nanka in Orumba North Local Government Area of Anambra State journey to the top began in elementary school just like any other kid but his determination kept him focused. He was admitted into the University of Nigeria in 1973, graduating with BSc. (First Class Honours) in 1977. He also holds MBA (Finance) and PhD (Finance) in 1989. After his NYSC service at the Central Bank of Nigeria, Jos in 1977-78, he worked as an Accountant III at the Industrial Training Fund, Jos, from 1978-1979. He then taught at the tertiary level in 1979 as a Lecturer II, and by 1991, he was elevated to the rank of Professor of Accounting. On October 14, 2020, he retired from active and meritorious service in academia as a Professor for 29 years – during which he served two terms as Dean of Faculty, Director of Centre for Entrepreneurial Studies and spent several terms as Head of Accounting Department, and Member of the University Governing Council. In 2022, the Senate of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka appointed him Professor Emeritus. Rev'd Canon Benjamin Chuka Osioma is a registered member of ANAN since 1995. Between 1977 and 2001, he was Director-General (DG) of the Nigerian College of Accountancy (NCA), Kwall and he served as Chairman, ANAN Think Tank, Education and Training Committee; and Board of Trustees,

Society for Forensic Accounting. He is a Fellow of 10 Professional bodies in Nigeria, including ANAN, Institute of Management Consultants, Nigerian Institute of Management and Chartered Institute of Forensics. In 2012, he was appointed into the Governing Council of ANAN, and soon proceeded into the EXCO in 2013 as Membership Secretary. Going through the ranks of ANAN Treasurer, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President before he was installed the 12<sup>th</sup> President of ANAN on April 29, 2021 till April 30, 2023, and has since assumed the role of Elder Statesman as IPP (Immediate Past President) of the association. Rev'd Osioma saw ANAN as a natural progression for an Accounting graduate and a platform for him or her to actualise his/her desire to effectively contribute to our nation's socio-economic development. Talking about his past, he said, "In our days, the perception was that individuals who joined ANAN were academic and professional never-do-wells but when I became the DG of the NCA in 1997, I gave four years of my life to the development of that College – channelling a path to a fruitful professional service. I created most of the by-lines, catch-phrases and punch-lines for which ANAN was known in those early years. I owe so much of our achievements in those days to the support and encouragement I received from our early fathers such as Odumeru and Ibekwe." ANAN, the stone that builders rejected has proved to be a turning point in rebranding and repositioning



the accountancy profession in Nigeria and Africa. In Rev'd Canon Ben Osioma's word, "From a personal point of view, ANAN offered me the opportunity to contribute to economic and industrial development of the country as a Radio or TV Guest, Conferences speaker and Trainer, and it enabled me to impact positively on my professional challenges."

At a time in his professional career and service, he took a six-year sabbatical from ANAN because of a sore moment in his relationship with the Management and Council of the Association – especially with the cold treatment he received from the then President, Mr. Sunday Aloba but it never, at any time crossed his mind to leave the association.

"There was a time ANAN faced no less than 10 court cases with countless court orders sacking and restoring the Council and Management, and restraining the Association from carrying out its statutory functions including collecting fees from students.

# My main purpose of coming back to Nigeria is to bring down the cost of IVF

-Dr. Nobert Ekeh

Dr. Nobert Ifeanyi Chukwu-Ekeh was born in the former Eastern Nigeria in an area now known as Aniocha LGA, Anambra State. He studied Medicine at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the UK. He practised in Canada for about 13 years before coming back to Nigeria.



He is one of the very few Nigerians that believed in reversing brain drain and with the sole intention of putting Nigeria in the very heart of the world.

What informed Dr. Ekeh's decision to go into IVF? He replied, "It was actually the Redeemed Christian Church's 'More than Conquerors' programme in 2005 that inspired me to start an IVF centre in Nigeria. I saw how people in need of the fruits of the womb trooped out in the auditorium when Daddy G.O Adeboye called them for special prayer. I just came back from Canada at the time and was staying with my younger sister and her husband who are members of RCCG. On my return to Canada, I lost interest in the practice of O&G. I felt like returning home to start

something on IVF. So, I went to work in an IVF centre to see how things are done. I came back to Nigeria and set up my business."

Dr. Ekeh also spoke about the challenges of running such a costly centre without compromising quality, "I would say I was instrumental at bringing down the cost of IVF to a million naira. I was even told in a meeting that I wouldn't be able to successfully do IVF with 500,000 naira. When I came back in 2012/13, I was doing IVF with roughly N520,000. My main purpose of coming back to Nigeria is to bring down the cost of IVF. Although, there were challenges of electricity and fuelling the generator but we soon overcame that with inverter and solar panel. It was a big challenge to maintain electricity for 24 hours non-stop. I started by charging 350,000 naira for

the IVF and other charges for the drugs. The cheapest amount of drugs I used was 142,000 naira. When I started, I was doing it as they come but I now do it in batches every month – and on an average, we would have delivered between 1,000 and 1,200 successful IVF babies to date. On December 31st, 2022 we had a quadruplet; two boys and two girls, and this year, we've had two sets of triplets."

"I have also trained quite a few doctors who are fully practising and doing well, running IVF centres successfully." Said Dr. Ekeh who hopes that the economy will become so viable for younger physicians to find their greener pastures in Nigeria.

# It is natural for me to serve

**Chief (Mrs). Teju Phillips**

**Tested and trusted Chief (Mrs) Maria Olateju Phillips (Née Fernandez) is a descendant of the Olumegbon Family in Isale-Eko Area of Lagos Island, Lagos State. She is the daughter of Late Ambassador Chief Antonio 'Dehinde Fernandez (His Imperial Highness, Garsan Fulani) and Princess Ibilola Lipede of the Royal Ruling House in Abeokuta, Ogun State.**



She is happily married to Engr. Olanrewaju Phillips and are blessed with four children. Chief (Mrs) Teju Phillips is a successful Chartered Accountant who holds an ACCA from England and Wales. She speaks Yoruba, English and French fluently. She has sat on several boards including Keystone Bank, Lagos State Lottery Board, Alma Beach Estate Ltd (a subsidiary of Rims Merchant Bank Ltd) and Maridot Ventures Ltd. She was Honourable Commissioner for Special Duties & Inter-Governmental Relations in Lagos State, a renowned Management/Financial Consultant to many companies and was at a time, the Divisional Commercial Manager of Kingsway Stores, a division of the United African Company (UAC) of Nig. Plc. Her other appointments include but not limited to the following: Chairman, Organizing Committee of the Institute of Directors (IoD) Nigeria; Council Member, Bank Directors Association of Nigeria; Board Member, Women In Boardroom; Member, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) Presidential Committee; Member, ICAN Annual Conference Committee; Member of 100 Eminent Persons Group set-up by the Federal Government of Nigeria for the 'Nigeria 2010 World Cup Bid'; Board Member, State Primary Education Board, Ogun State; Chairman, Accommodation Committee FIFA 1999, Junior World Cup Championship held in

Lagos; Chairman, Accommodation Committee of IMO '98 Federal Annual Sports Festival, held in Imo State; Chairman, Accommodation Committee, 1st African Women Championships, Ogun State. Speaking on her political career, Mrs. Phillips said, "I've always been a people's person. I am nice to my classmates, relatives and people around me. So, it is natural for me to serve because it's a continuation of nature. My flair for service prompted me into politics. My father encouraged me to come into politics and expose my talents and virtues." She gave politics her all but she did not realise how dirty politics can be. "Having schooled abroad and worked in multinational companies where things are done prim and proper, I underestimated the filthiness of political players. I only came in naïvely to serve; unknown to me that my professional drill, exposure, training, and moral virtues would be shaken by the torrent of political storm – but I survived the challenges, though tough." One begins to wonder why Chief (Mrs). Phillips has tagged along with Progressive since inception – not switching carpets like other politicians – despite the brouhaha and sometimes, disappointments from party leaders and followers. "I'm a very resilient person. I believe in the ideals and ideologies and the perception of the group. I don't waiver or change. As Lagos Commissioner of

Commerce, Teju Phillips contributed to trade missions and developed the commercial relationships, and Special Duties Commissioner, she worked with many ministries and governmental agencies. "That inter-governmental post was the best for my personality. It exposed my true nature. I met presidents of nations, dined and wined with them, exchanged ideas and views. I enjoyed every bit of it." She added. Chief (Mrs). Phillips had vied for governorship of Lagos State and senatorial seats but never given a nod due to party structure and system. "Professional career is one side of the coin and political career is another – but they are intertwined; professional expertise can be useful in political administration and political ideologies can boost professional career. For example, I'm using my abilities and knowledge as an accountant to manage LASACO for Lagos State." Said Teju Phillips who believes that accountancy is one career that connects and manages all aspects of life.

# I have faced a lot of challenges in life but none of them could stop me from being an accountant

*-Folashade Ayoola Awe*



**Princess Folashade Ayoola Awe is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, a minister of God, wife of Barrister Olumuyiwa Awe and mother. A native of Ikole-Ekiti, Folashade holds HND Accountancy of the Polytechnic, Ibadan.**

**S**he served with Ashaka Paints Nigeria Limited. She became a Chartered Accountant in 2007 and was confirmed FCA in 2018. She was redeployed to Odua Investment as Business Development Manager. She was moved to Odua Printing and Publishing Company Limited as Acting General Manager in 2013 and was later moved to Lagos in December 2017 till March 2022 when she was announced the Acting General Manager of the hotel that presently heads the Management of that hotel. Why did Folashade choose accounting as a career and course of study? "I've had the determination to be a chartered accountant right from childhood; my elder brother, Prince Adekunle Adeleye foretold me. I picked interest in commercial studies

especially accounts, business method, typewriting and commerce. I am the product of my brother; he was my motivator." Did she ever feel like quitting accounting for other career? Folashade replied, "I'm a go-getter. When I am determined to achieve something, I do it. I have faced a lot of challenges in life but none of them could stop me from being an accountant – there was a time

I was unable to pass ICAN. I failed the exams many times but eventually I passed, and it was a great achievement on my part. I was so proud of myself."

Who is an accountant and how is being a chartered accountant rubbed off on Folashade's career? Princess replied, "You cannot be a professional accountant except you are a chartered accountant. Being a graduate of accounting does not make you an accountant. I became an accountant immediately I qualified, passed the final stage of my ICAN – and as at that time, we had very few chartered accountants in the conglomerates. The management of the group was on the search for accountants among all the subsidiaries. Immediately I qualified, I was transferred to the group headquarters and that

became a great leverage for me. The fulfilment I now have surpassed the cost of determination, money spent along the line, timing and the emotional stress I went through in passing the exams to become a chartered accountant. What I have gained surpassed the sacrifice. Remember, I was already married and blessed with two children before passing the final stage ... hmmm, that was not for a lazy man.

She was asked to highlight some of the benefits gained. "Moving to the group headquarters put me into the limelight, good salary, promotion and opportunities to relate with and operate at the top echelon. I am not really fascinated about banking job because of my family. I will not jeopardize my family because of my career. Odua gives an opportunity to build a career without neglecting your home. I joined as a clerk, became the credit officer and I performed creditably well."

Princess Folashade Awe loves to unwind with her husband and looks forward to joining him in Ibadan on weekends. She also admonished youths to be determined about their goals.



# I never felt like leaving the insurance industry for one day

**-Dr. Ben Ujoatuonu**  
MD UNIVERSAL INSURANCE

**Enigmatic Dr. Benedict Ugochukwu Ujoatuonu is a thoroughbred insurance professional and guru with many years of enviable experience in the industry. He was born and bred in a village in Mbaise Local Government Area of Imo State. He studied Insurance at IMT, Enugu.**

**W**hat inspired Dr. Ben Ujoatuonu into studying Insurance, he replied, "There was nothing like JAMB at the time, you just pick form and apply into any school of your choice. There was a man from my place who was a Dean of the School of Business at IMT my father contacted for my admission – and that was how I got to hear about the course for the first time. I took the course grudgingly but today, I'm grateful to that man for his advice and the path he placed me." Ben did his IT at Niger Insurance, Onitsha where his eyes were opened to the prospects in the insurance business, service in Lagos at AllCO Insurance. He has also worked with Regency Insurance Company Limited (now Regency Alliance), Capital Insurance (now Veritas Capital), Global Commerce and General Insurance, Coral International Insurance Company Limited and Crown Insurance Brokers before docking at Universal Insurance

PLC as Head of Technical AGM. He also lectured at Essential Tutors in Oshodi preparing students for insurance professional exams for more than 10 years.

"I have always been blessed with good superiors who were interested in my growth right from the time I started my IT, Youth Service, and career proper. I subjected myself to learning from the best people in the industry to move up the ladder. I enjoyed the flow – and I never felt like leaving the industry for one day." He said about his career.

Speaking about his own contributions to upgrading insurance industry in Nigeria, Dr. Ben said, "I've trained so many insurance professionals; there is certainly no company you will enter where you won't see somebody who has passed through my tutelage and they are all doing wonderfully well. I am very fulfilled as an insurer. As a superior, I have positive impact on my subordinates. I don't have all the money but I'm satisfied. I thank God for all the privileges I have. While fielding question on insurance orientation, Dr. Ben said, "I do not believe that there is no insurance awareness. What we don't have is insurance education. Many people have heard about insurance but extremely few know

what insurance will benefit them. It is about being educated and internalising the need for insurance. Now, the Chartered Insurance Institute is running a programme in collaboration with various insurance companies and the Nigerian Insurance Association, taking insurance to the grassroots – to primary and secondary schools, introducing insurance as a subject and donating books so that young folks can get acquainted with insurance. The National Insurance Commission has also set up publicity committees to create awareness on the radio. This is different from individual companies' advertising their products, but talking about the issues and importance of insurance, I have gone to schools, some secondary schools here in Lagos, with my team. I have gone to even my own alma mater, talking on insurance benefits." Said Dr. Ben who under his leadership management, Universal Insurance has come to the forefront – and as the end of 2022 accounting year, the company made 5.6 Billion Naira and over 630 million Naira in profit. At the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2023, the company made 6.3 billion Naira.



# Experiential Marketing is an industry that is very proactive

*-Mrs. Tolu Medeben*

Some people are so incredible like an assumed lump of coal that turned into diamond. Their emergence is magical and their exploits are miraculous. Such is Tolulope Medeben, the daughter of HRM Oba Funsho Adeolu, Alaye of Ode-Remo, Ogun State, the garrulous and loquacious Chief Eleyinmi of the popular 1970's sitcom – *the Village Headmaster*. She is both magical and miraculous and her results are phenomenal.

Princess Tolulope did Theatre Arts at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife and Higher Degree in China Business at China-Europe Business International School. In this executive marketer's statement, she said: "I took a major in Broadcasting but somehow, in the year 2000, my path moved into Experiential Marketing – and I have been on that for 23 years. I didn't pursue acting as a career because I love my private life, I wanted to do things in the background. I contacted Mustapha Amigo who took me to Klink Studios where I got my editing and subtitling experience. Then and there, I knew acting was not for me. I saw a lot of things I couldn't be part of." Tolulope's early life as an experiential marketer is lurked in several challenges especially the roles of motherhood and wife. In her words, "Experiential Marketing is an industry that is very proactive. My early years in this industry were always on the road – either out of town or out of the country. I got married in 1998, had my first child in 1999, started marketing in 2000 and the second child came almost immediately. I remember being overdue for the delivery of my last child and I got ready to go to work. Then my husband said, 'No, you

cannot go ... your EDD has already passed. Just imagine giving birth in the office or something happens. Wouldn't they say, I'm irresponsible?' My husband is a doctor – and that very day, I was at home with my brother-in-law when my water broke. I was juggling together office, field, motherhood and wife roles." Has she ever felt like throwing-in the towel? Tolulope replied, "I never felt like leaving the profession despite all the challenges, collision, disagreements and the dangers ... I love the work and enjoy every bit and every moment of it. It takes me to places, connects me to people and broadens my horizon." Speaking to our correspondent about the core of her career and how she penetrated the market, Tolu said, "Experiential Marketing is the ability to ensure that consumers have a personal experience of a product or services, leveraging on their major senses of hearing, seeing, tasting, feeling and smelling. Why this? He who feels it knows it. This is different from radio or TV adverts and it is not the same thing as on-the-shelf display. It is a one-on-one personal experience that can be confirmed by the end users. We didn't start getting it right immediately. I even intended selling off all my



equipment after we lost our first major bid. After that, we had this British Council job that was completely not related with what we do but someone counselled us to go ahead and give it a shot. We tried a different approach – and it brought more jobs. We leveraged on that work and we gained more accounts. I love this job because it enabled me empower quite a lot of people ... countless number of experiential marketers have passed through me. By so doing, I am giving back something worthwhile to the world in terms of people's development and growth." On the professional body of communication marketers, she said, "I love being a part of something progressive, something inspiring, something authentic and innovative. I am proud of being one of those people that created inroads for marketing communications industry. Although I never thought I would be President of the association someday but here I am," said Tolulope who loves to be remembered as a woman that was true to herself in all ramifications.



# Advertising came natural and easy for me

*-Tunde Shobanjo*

**A patient dog, they say, eats the fattest bone. While some people fish for tilapia in the ocean, the smart ones look for whales and sharks – big and rare creatures, larger than what a dragnet can catch. Tunde Shobanjo is a diligent, versatile and patient mankind with tangible results to show for his years of hard work.**

**H**e is the son of Media Mogul, Biodun Shobanjo of Insight

Communications. Babatunde Shobanjo was born in Lagos, Nigeria. He studied Business Administration at Middlesex University in London, UK and Wilberforce University in Ohio, the United States of America. He lived and worked in the USA for 11 years before returning to Nigeria.

Why did he choose Business Administration as course of study at the university and settled for advertising? Tunde replied, "I chose Business Administration as guided by my father. My initial intention was to be an advertiser. I didn't know much. But as I got into the university, I was encouraged to study Business because it opens up the mind and creates more avenues for opportunities. I'm not just pigeonholed into one direction, and that choice helped my take-off as a stockbroker. I worked for some of the biggest investment firms including Goldman Sachs

before joining De-Mayo and Company where I cut my teeth in advertising. I got into advertising a little late – in my late 20s. So I had to catch-up. Advertising came natural and easy for me because I'm good with people." "Nigeria business terrain is quite different from the USA. When you work in the States, you enjoy freedom of expression and the culture is different. In Nigeria, you need to assimilate the normal culture of being around the people and dealing with them but I found a way to fit in quickly, a way to be grounded. The moment I landed in Nigeria, the hot sun removed everything foreign in me – and whenever I travel these days, I want to return home after two or three days. This country is destined for greatness, and I'm gonna be a part of it."

Tunde Shobanjo spoke on the challenges of running an advertising agency and managing clients' brands hinting on peculiarity of products, services and companies involved as well as targeted audience/users.

"Every account has its own peculiar challenges; some experiences will test your resolve as a person, some will test your patience while some will

challenge your mental capacity to get out of trouble and deliver – and that's one peculiar factor in Nigeria, you will be trained on how to interact with people of different personalities and backgrounds on one account. It's about rallying the people and delivering for your clients. Every client, every account has its peculiarity – depending on the season and the campaign you're running."

I still have a lot to do as a professional, a lot to learn. This industry keeps evolving at unimaginable speed and one has to be on his toes in order to catch up. Gone are the days when TV, radio and billboards are enough for running your ad but today, digital world has taken over and it keeps improving on a daily basis with Gen Zs, the millennials and Gen Alphas. In this industry, we are probably two steps behind the Western world."

In conclusion, Tunde wants the wrong mindset of today's youths corrected. They should see the world as a global village where social media has come to stay and they can positively harness its opportunities without burning out their values.

# SYNOCHURE

## INTERNATIONAL

DOCUMENTING ACHIEVEMENTS FOR POSTERITY

**SYNOCHURE**  
INTERNATIONAL  
VOL. 22 ISSUE 4 MAY 2023

**30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**ALAYELUWA OBA  
OLATUNDE FALABI**  
Lambeloye II, Akore Of Ife Kingdom

**Tales of Grace**

DOCUMENTING ACHIEVEMENTS FOR POSTERITY

**SYNOCHURE**  
INTERNATIONAL  
MAGAZINE  
VOL. 22 ISSUE 4 MAY 2023

**Abraham AKINOLA LASEBIKAN**  
Blazing the trail of Excellence.

**EXCLUSIVE! WHY I BUILT  
NSBILLION HOSPITAL**  
- OTUNSA CUREDOM BALOGUN

DOCUMENTING ACHIEVEMENTS FOR POSTERITY

**SYNOCHURE**  
INTERNATIONAL  
VOL. 23 ISSUE 9 DEC JAN 2024

**UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN  
@ 75:  
DISTINGUISHED  
ALUMNI**

**SPECIAL REPORT  
ON INSPIRING  
PROFESSIONALS**

**Mbeledede: If Not Engineering,  
I Won't Go For Any Course**

DOCUMENTING ACHIEVEMENTS FOR POSTERITY

**SYNOCHURE**  
INTERNATIONAL  
VOL. 23 ISSUE 8 AUGUST 2024

Nigeria's  
Chief sector?  
When will real  
Growth come?

Global Fight  
against  
"Killer  
Practice"

Fake Doctors  
on the prowl!  
Nigerian Media  
seek to cope with  
Boko Haram threat

**DR. IBE  
KACHIKWU**  
When Doctors, Politicians and CEOs Meet

DOCUMENTING ACHIEVEMENTS FOR POSTERITY

**SYNOCHURE**  
INTERNATIONAL  
VOL. 23 ISSUE 7 NOVEMBER 2024

**CELEBRATE  
AT FOURTY**

**40  
YEARS OF  
CELEBRATING  
DEVELOPMENT**

**Human Development Association:  
A CHILD OF CIRCUMSTANCE**

DOCUMENTING ACHIEVEMENTS FOR POSTERITY

**SYNOCHURE**  
INTERNATIONAL  
VOL. 23 ISSUE 7 MARCH 2024

**OGUN at 40**  
FULFILLING THE  
DREAMS  
OF THE  
FOUNDING  
FATHERS.

**OLUMO AND ASO**  
Parallels of Rabi Ogun and Oso

**SPECIAL FOCUS ON  
OUTSTANDING OGUN INDIGENES**

DOCUMENTING ACHIEVEMENTS FOR POSTERITY

**SYNOCHURE**  
INTERNATIONAL  
VOL. 23 ISSUE 11 MARCH 2024

**The Most Intelligent  
President in  
U.S. History**

**EDUCATION**  
For GIRLS ought  
to be a Right in  
countries like  
Nigeria

**RECENT  
POLICIES  
OF NUC AND  
EDUCATION  
MINISTRY**

**WHY  
DO  
WOMEN  
CHEAT**

**BON Hotels** host official  
launch in Nigeria. Showcase  
rise hotels across five cities

DOCUMENTING ACHIEVEMENTS FOR POSTERITY

**SYNOCHURE**  
INTERNATIONAL  
VOL. 23 ISSUE 11 MARCH 2024

**ENHANCE THE HERITAGE  
Lagos  
1967 - 2017  
ADVANCE THE FUTURE**

**MY LAGOS...  
YOUR LAGOS...  
OUR LAGOS...**

DOCUMENTING ACHIEVEMENTS FOR POSTERITY

**SYNOCHURE**  
INTERNATIONAL  
VOL. 23 ISSUE 12 APRIL 2024

**BRINGING SMILES TO  
IVF: HOMES**

**IF YOU LISTEN TO THE CRY OF A MOURNING  
BIRD, YOU WILL NEVER DO ANYTHING**

DOCUMENTING ACHIEVEMENTS FOR POSTERITY

**SYNOCHURE**  
INTERNATIONAL  
VOL. 23 ISSUE 12 APRIL 2024

**West African Countries  
choose 'ECO' as new  
Single Trade Currency**

**Nigerian Boxer beats  
Ghanaman, 16 others  
to win N'Im at  
60th Boxing Night 19**

**MNPC, First Agency  
to Imbibe FD's  
Anti-Corruption  
drive, says Bawa**

**The  
Chronicle of the  
LEGENDARY  
Dr. Fassy  
Adetokunbe  
Fusuf**

**Ghassim Singsar,  
Mamad, Saniya  
Ghana President  
Akwaf Adde**

**DR. BASSY ENYA BASSY**  
President, NPPC

**DR. UCHIE OLOWU**  
President, NPPC

**MR. IKEMEFUNSA SOE**  
President, NPPC

DOCUMENTING ACHIEVEMENTS FOR POSTERITY

**SYNOCHURE**  
INTERNATIONAL  
VOL. 27 ISSUE 5 JULY 2023

**Chief (Dr.)  
Obiora Anthony  
Chukwuka:  
SUCCESS NURTURED  
BY POSITIVE VALUES**

DOCUMENTING ACHIEVEMENTS FOR POSTERITY

**SYNOCHURE**  
INTERNATIONAL  
VOL. 3 ISSUE 8 FEBRUARY 2024

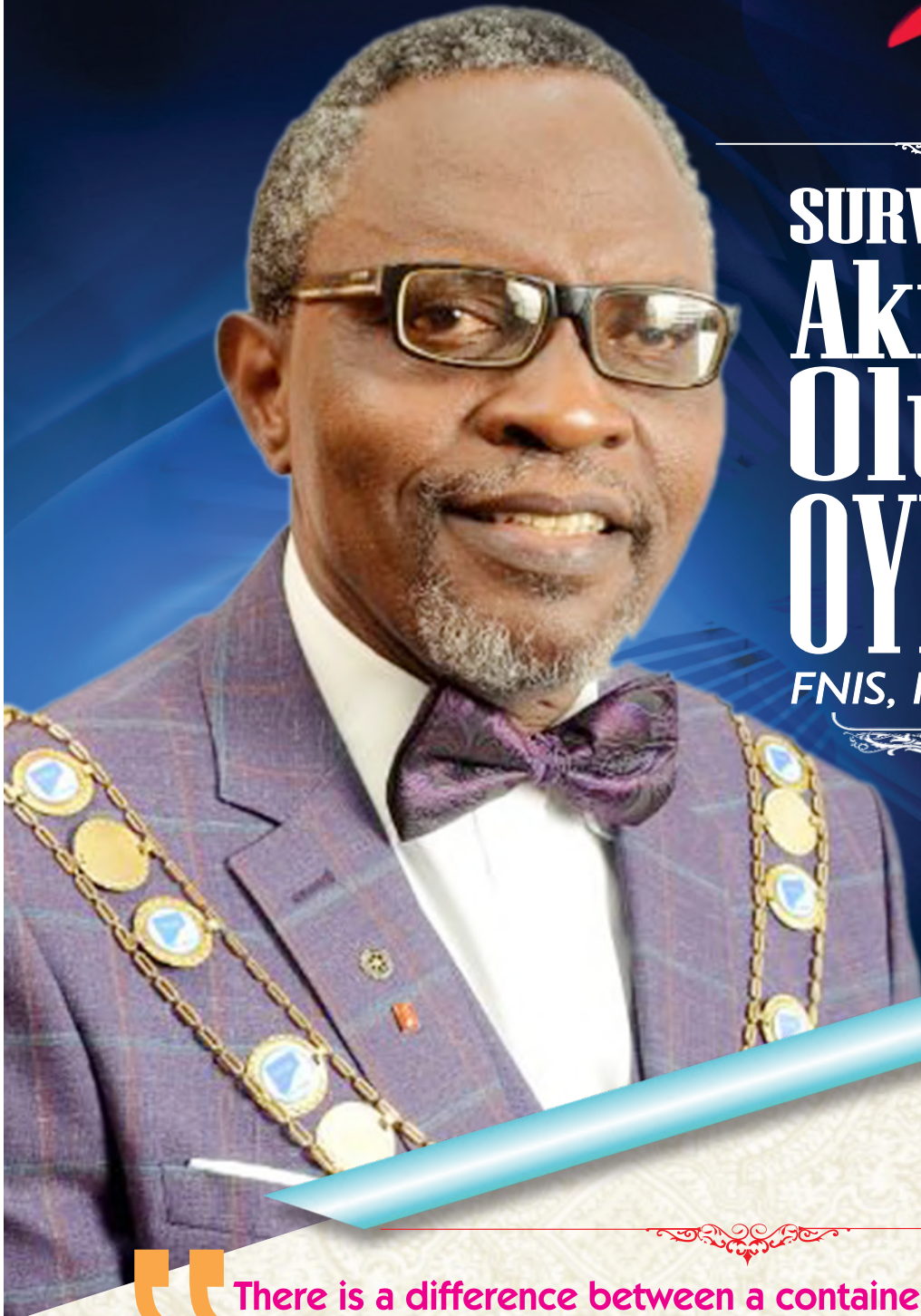
**OTUNBA BOLA  
ONABADEJO  
BORN TO SERVE**

...Documenting Achievements for Posterity



**“MAN MADE  
MONEY FOR  
CONVENIENCE,  
WHY WORSHIP IT”**

**- Surv. Oyegbola**



SURVEYOR  
**Akinloye  
Olufemi  
OYEGBOLA**  
FNIS, FNIA, PPNIS

“ There is a difference between a container and the content. The container is fabricated to keep the content safe and healthy, and it can be changed to different forms and features at any time but if the content is tampered with, the quality may be watered down. Surveyor Akin Oyegbola is a container that Almighty Creator fabricated to carry a special content of His Spirit to the world. The Container has been remodelled all the time and the Maker never found any fault each time He showcases this masterpiece called Akinloye Oyegbola to the world. ”

## COVER STORY

**F**rom cradle, Akin focused his attention on getting to the peak. He had none to compete with but he kept challenging himself to be the best. He was born in 1955 as the first child of Deacon Joshua Oyewole Oyegbola (a Management Consultant) and Deaconess (Mrs.) Victoria Ibadunni Oyegbola (a Renowned Teacher). Akin attended Federal School of Science, Victoria Island, Lagos State and the School of Surveying in Oyo before gaining a Federal Government Scholarship to study Surveying Engineering at the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy in Sofia, Bulgaria in Jan. 1977, returning home with a Master's Degree in Surveying Engineering in 1983. He became Registered as a Surveyor by the Surveyors' Council of Nigeria (SURCON) in 1989. Surveyor Akin Oyegbola began his journey on the executive board of Nigerian Institution of Surveyors (NIS) as the Secretary General in the year 2000 – 2002, serving also as National Vice President, Member of the Governing Council of Federal School of Surveying, Oyo and an examiner for the Surveyors' Council of Nigeria, Deputy President of NIS and

President between 2016 and 2018. He has also represented NIS in the Council of Association of Professional Bodies of Nigeria (APBN) where he was also the Financial Secretary in 2008. He became the Chairman of the Lagos State Branch of Association of Private Practising Surveyors of Nigeria in 2003. In this masterpiece session with the Synochure International Magazine's correspondents, Lanre Olusunmade and Theresa Obhade, Surv. Akin Oyegbola took them on the journey of his life.

Excerpts below:

**Sir,  
congratulations on**

**the recent completion of your tenure as the Chairman Board of Governors of the Baptist College of Theology, Oyo. Was it a nurtured ambition or divine orchestration?**

It couldn't have been a personal ambition may be



because it had nothing to do with my profession. So, it was divinely arranged.

**What was the experience like?**

Oh! It was a wonderful experience for the mere fact that it was never my aspiration to go for it and it was exceedingly fulfilling to be on the board with many men of God – reverends and pastors, Bible scholars and church leaders. If you really know their expected way of thinking, you will wonder why someone like me but I am sure the Baptist community has taken it upon itself to ensure that we have a thorough blend of these ideas and that's why there has always been somebody from the secular persuasion to actually chair the board. It was a medley that was very productive for both the chairman and the Baptist community at large.

**Sir, you've had the opportune time to hold sensitive positions as the President of NIS and APBN. Now looking at both positions, which one would you say is more tasking, and what were the experiences like?**

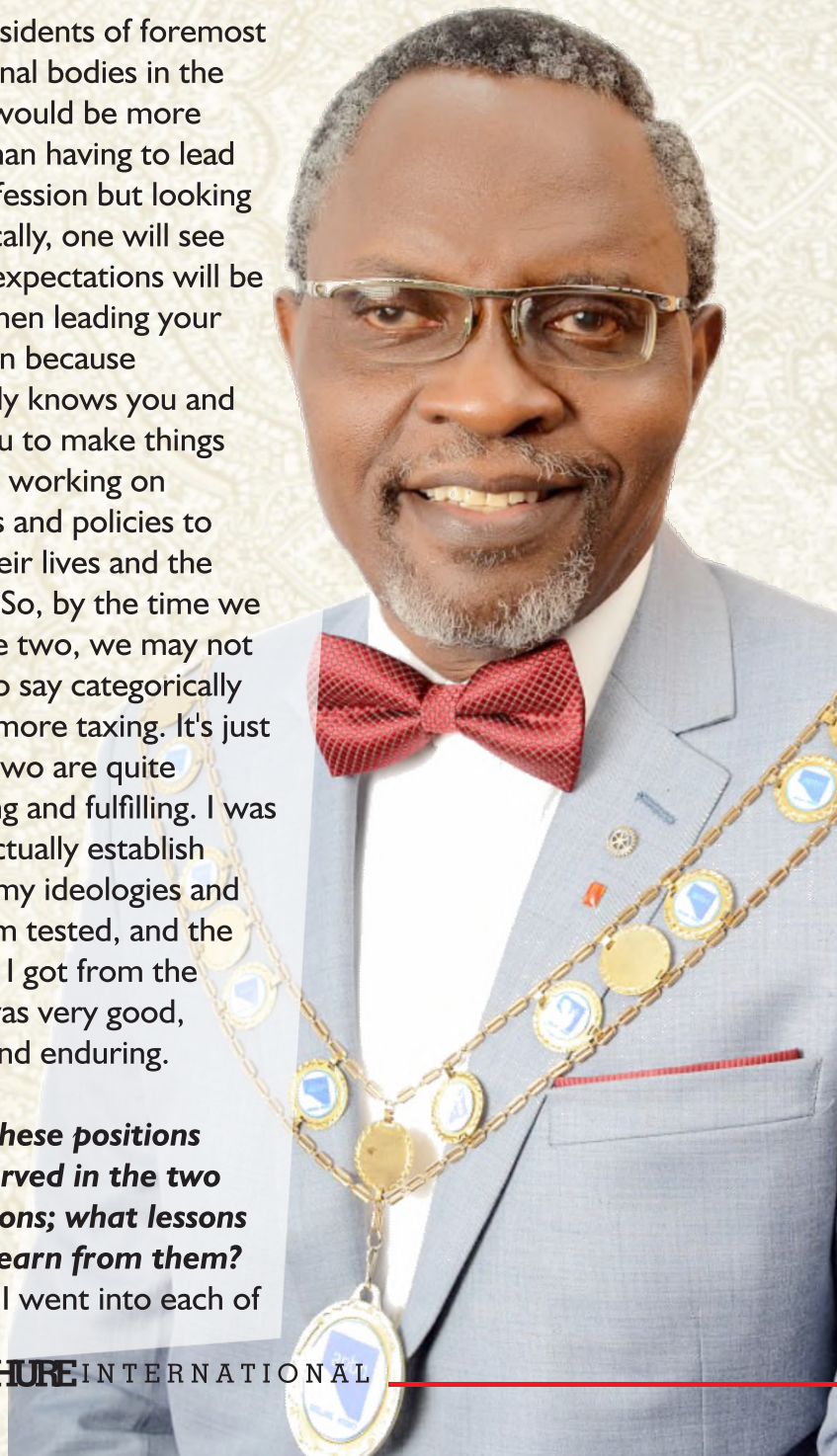
Well, it depends on the perspective at a time. Naturally speaking, it will be easy to say chairing a board

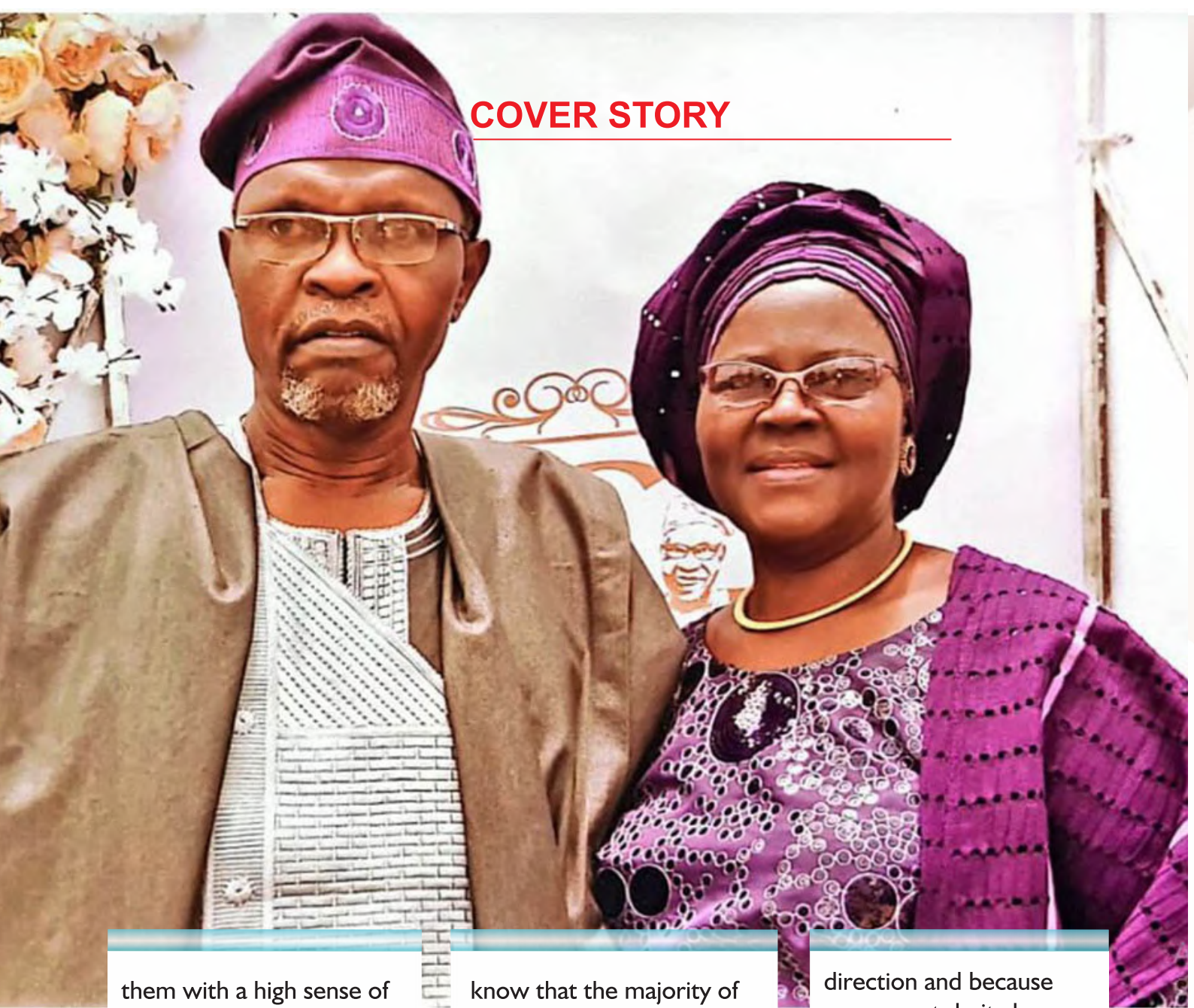
**“You also have to be sure that you cannot satisfy everybody and you should know that the majority of people nodding their heads about whatever you are trying to do are sometimes clueless.”**

of 32 presidents of foremost professional bodies in the country would be more tasking than having to lead your profession but looking at it critically, one will see that the expectations will be higher when leading your profession because everybody knows you and wants you to make things happen – working on standards and policies to better their lives and the practice. So, by the time we weigh the two, we may not be able to say categorically which is more taxing. It's just that the two are quite interesting and fulfilling. I was able to actually establish some of my ideologies and have them tested, and the feedback I got from the boards was very good, worthy and enduring.

**Now in these positions you've served in the two associations; what lessons did you learn from them?**

Basically, I went into each of





them with a high sense of responsibility, integrity and most importantly humility because I believe that when you are in a leadership position, you're already leading. So, you don't look up, you look down. You look at what is carrying you and keeping you there and not up there. So while you are looking at what's keeping you there, then you keep your thoughts on the people you are leading. You also have to be sure that you cannot satisfy everybody and you should

know that the majority of people nodding their heads about whatever you are trying to do are sometimes clueless. So, to be able to do that effectively, you need a high sense of humility so that they don't get easily perplexed or pressured with whatever stern policies you come up with. Though it may be to instil discipline or due diligence, there is always a degree of required dedication from the followership to really steer the ship of that organisation in the right

direction and because you cannot do it alone, you need the followers and the people's supports.

***Are you satisfied with the situation of things in your association after your tenure?***

I believe that leadership is an opportunity. Whether you like it or not, you have to do your best and leave the rest. I thank God for what I was able to do. I can tell you that each tenure comes with its own challenges,



## COVER STORY

responsibilities and they are rewarded with their own achievements. So, I want you to know that things have been going relatively well since I left office.

***When you joined the Institution as a young surveyor, did it ever cross your mind that one day you would be sitting as the President of the Institution?***

To be honest, my answer is no. Although I studied in Bulgaria and saw how things were done over there but when I returned, started lecturing at Yaba Tech and joined the institution as a pupil surveyor, I remember very well that each time there was

a letter from the association, my institution then, I had my misgivings on the way the letters were written and addressed. They were not formal enough to be coming from an institution by my own

assessment. That was when I told myself, *'If you don't like the way things are being done, go there and effect a change.'* It wasn't

easy to get into the politics of my profession at the time because I was a lecturer. We have had a lecturer as a president but that was the only one in the history of the institution. It's not easy for lecturers to combine the two.

I told myself I may have to go into private practice for the opportunity of getting into the politics of the profession as that's the only way I could get into the position to effect the changes I desired from the secretariat. It took me about five years to prepare for it and as God would have it, by year 2000 I became the secretary general of the NIS and I decided to review the whole constitution. I took my time to put words together when I have to write to members – and by the time I was done as the secretary general, that was when they got to know me at the centre. I was just in a local chapter in Lagos State but by the time I became the

**I was just in a local chapter in Lagos State but by the time I became the secretary general, I became a national figure and I can now say in retrospect, I may not know then but I believe a lot of people would have imagined I would have to be a president – because I didn't see it coming, I was just doing my thing.**

## COVER STORY

secretary general, I became a national figure and I can now say in retrospect, *I may not know then* but I believe a lot of people would have imagined I would have to be a president – because I didn't see it coming, I was just doing my thing. My motto is *"If you want to get it rightly done, go there and make it right."* Lend your hands on the deck – and that was all I did as secretary general. I want to say that the way people allowed me to move was marvellous because every election I contested nationally, after the position of Secretary General I have won the first time I contested each time and that means a lot to me.

### **Let's get to know you. Who is Surv. Akin Oyegbola?**

I was born in Fiditi in 1955 and raised in Lagos, where I did my primary school at Surulere Baptist School and Birch Freeman High School, Surulere – and maybe because of my flair for mathematics, I knew I had to study an engineering course but I didn't know which. So in the course of it, I knew of a Surveyor who was living well, not doing badly via his son who was my classmate but I didn't know what Surveying was all about. I asked my parents what Surveying was, and by the time



I got the answer, I concluded, *"If all that's required is Mathematics, it's okay by me."* My dad believed that *the oldest institution is always the best institution.* And you know, School of Surveying in Oyo happened to be the oldest School of Surveying in West Africa. As soon as I said I was going to study Survey, my dad concluded, "You have to go to School of Survey." As we were planning how to

enter the School, I discovered nobody could enter the School of Survey without a sponsor ... meaning you should be working in a Surveying company – which might be government or

**“ My dad believed that the oldest institution is always the best institution.” And you know, School of Surveying in Oyo happened to be the oldest School of Surveying in West Africa. As soon as I said I was going to study Survey, my dad concluded... ”**

## COVER STORY

private, and the company must assure the institution that your practicals would be ascertained by them. You won't have to go out looking for where to practise the teachings. So, we looked for a private company, actually the man that inspired me without knowing. Despite being a family friend, he was reluctant to sponsor me. Therefore, I had to look for a government establishment for sponsorship. So, I left the Federal School of Science, took up an employment with Federal Surveys so that I could go to School of Survey by September. I started work around April. I wrote an exam in order to start work in the department where they could send me to Oyo. You could take any other appointment in Federal Service but its only survey department that will take you to Oyo. We did a Maths exam and I passed well. I later got a federal government scholarship that took me to Bulgaria to study Engineering. I returned with a second degree in Surveying Engineering in 1983, did my



youth service with a construction company.

***Tell us what really happened during your youth service that made you ask your employer to post you to a more challenging area after five months?***

My wife also has a Master's in Engineering, and both of us were posted to the National

Open University to be writing lectures. I was to be writing Maths lectures. I felt it was not why I went to the university to study Surveying, I did the course to get busy. I needed money to take care of my family as I returned also with my daughter. I was already a married man as a youth-

corper. I needed somewhere I could be paid extra over my youth service due. So, I considered my posting to NOUN as underutilization. I preferred a construction company – and that was what I eventually got. I later became a part-time Lecturer at Yaba College of Technology, Civil Engineering Department, after I left the construction firm a couple of months after my youth service. I was later upgraded to full-time and stayed on till I obtained my professional registration in 1989. By 1991, I decided to start my private office; I thank God it worked out. I left the service of Yabatech but because of my relationship with the HND students, I continued to teach Engineering Surveying, free of charge, for another 23 years and that afforded me the opportunity to impart them academically and orientate them about life. I chose not to take a penny so that I could do it for as long as I wanted. I resigned from teaching when I became the Deputy President of my institution.

***If you had not studied Surveying; what would you have studied – considering your background in Mathematics?***

Maybe any other branch of engineering.

***Did you ever feel like leaving***

***the profession for any other?***

My love for the profession grows by the day.

***How was the academic experience at your Alma Mata?***

It was basic, original and vast. It exposed us to all aspects we have to develop in the profession. I enjoyed the lectures because it opened me up to new things. What they gave us was basic enough to build upon for exploits and expansion.

***How about the social life there? Were you involved in any activity in your school?***

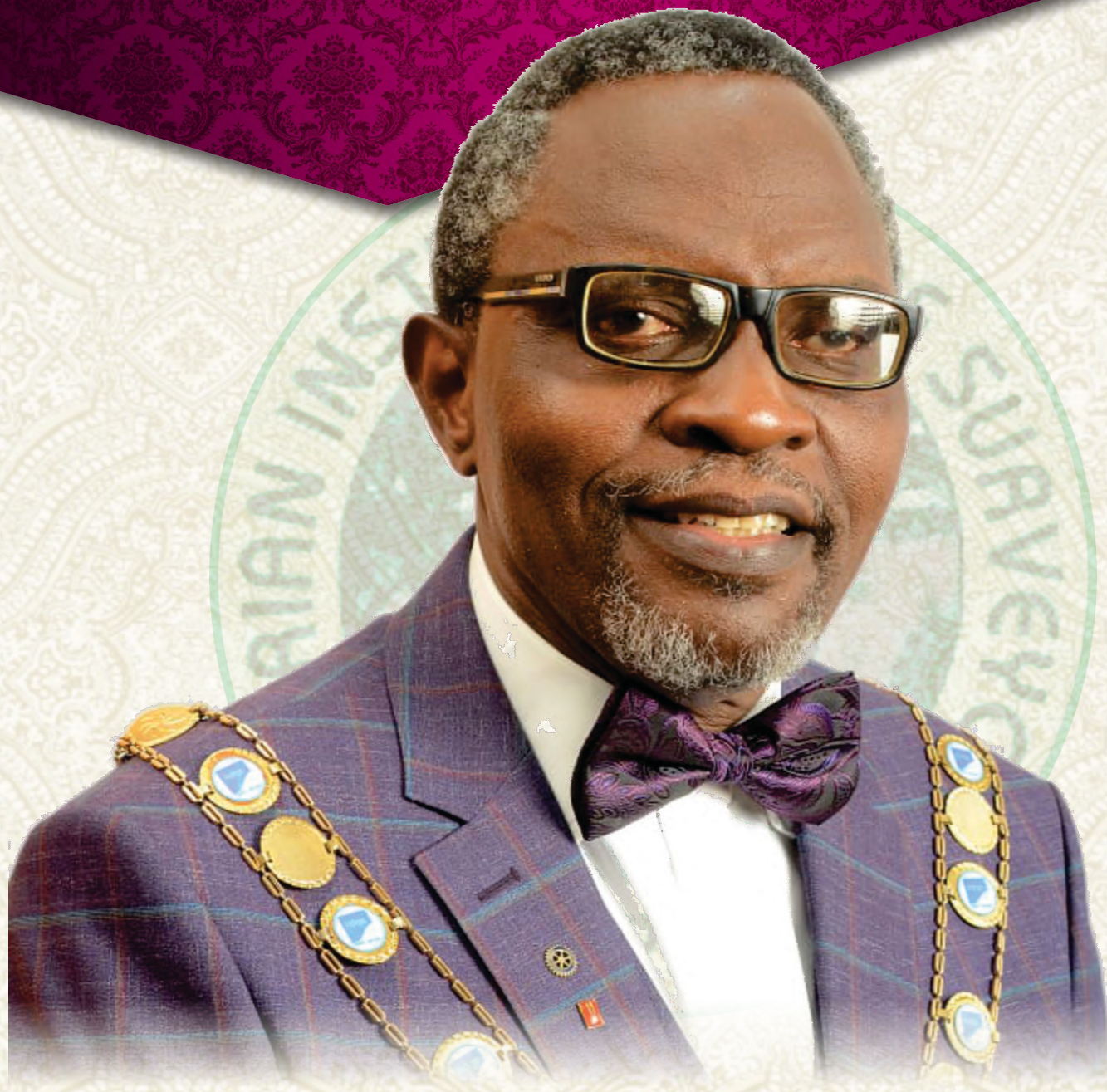
I was a very playful student. Maybe that was why Maths happened to be one of my best subjects. What Maths needs is not just being studious but additional inclinations like accuracy and details. I may need to spend more time studying other subjects but not with maths, whatever I was taught in class stuck forever – even when I'm playing, I could solve mathematics problems.

***Can you recollect an experience you had at the college that remains indelible in your heart ... an experience you can't forget in a hurry?***

The fact that I chose and was doing a course I loved gave me a high degree of fulfilment in school. Although my spirit was down when I knew how long it would take me to be licensed, being the first time I was away

ER STORY





from home, and did whatever I liked with myself made me enjoy my school days. I was tempted in all angles but I didn't mess-up. I enjoyed my leisure playing lawn tennis and soccer, and I had a wonderful time gallivanting around in that country and on campus. It is a nostalgic experience.

***In what ways did your going to that college in Bulgaria rub-off on your profession?***

It actually set a very good stage for me. It gave me a good and solid start I needed to reach

any height in life. It gave me that head start that anyone could have desired because it was vast and deep for a curious mind like mine. The college prepared me to confront whatever challenges I encounter as I move-on in life. What was imparted in me, courses like astronomy and the rest of them provoked me to think ahead and be proactive – and afterwards, it becomes more and more interesting as I move on.

***Let me take you back to the Nigerian Institution of Surveyors during your tenure as president; what impact did you make that took the institution to a better place – and still relevant after your tenure till date?***

There are some particular areas that were handled strategically. One was the relationship between the NIS and our regulatory body (SURCON). I tried as much

## COVER STORY

as possible to establish a cordial relationship and all pending disagreements and issues before I became the president were religiously managed and resolved as much as possible. I tried to establish the fact that whether we like it or not, both parties are still surveyors and we are supposed to have the same aspirations for the profession and because of that, I was able to, *at least*, manage the cordiality. What I upheld as the right position, is now what we eventually have, and it didn't take much for us to really blend and come together. That was not really an easy task but because I happened to be the President of both the members-in-council and members in NIS. I consciously ensured that cordiality was maintained, and it worked for us. The issue led me into preparing by-laws for the association to give us the opportunity to discover the areas responsible for the misunderstanding – and that was the first time by-laws was put

together for the association. I prepared the 35-page by-laws so that we could use it as reference document, not the constitution. I also tried to enhance the publicity drive for us so that people would know more about surveying. For instance, if you remember the bombing of the IDP camp, as soon as that happened, I called a press

conference and told them that if they had been updating their maps as they should, bombing an IDP camp inadvertently wouldn't have happened. I use such incidents to let people know what the surveyor does and how relevant surveying is to the daily life of individuals in the society.

I made sure I used such opportunities for publicity, enlightenment and sensitization. The relationship between APBN and the NIS was enhanced when I was the president because once you are the president of your body and your body is a member of APBN, you are automatically a member of the board – that means many others had gone as members of its board. I believe that the way I managed the relationship between those two organizations could have been part of what was responsible for the opportunity that I eventually had to become the president of APBN. I tried to enhance the sense of responsibility, not just calling a meeting, I always ensured that we started meetings promptly, which wasn't the case before I took over. I was always there waiting before the stipulated time.

If I called a meeting for



## COVER STORY

12:00 hours, I would be there at quarter to 12 waiting, because I would start at 12.00 hours and that changed a lot of things. I want to believe that by virtue of the way I handled issues, they will even still relate with me on that basis now. Some will say, 'President Emeritus', it shows how you had led and their assessment of your leadership style. So, I think I have a reason to thank God for the little I was able to do.

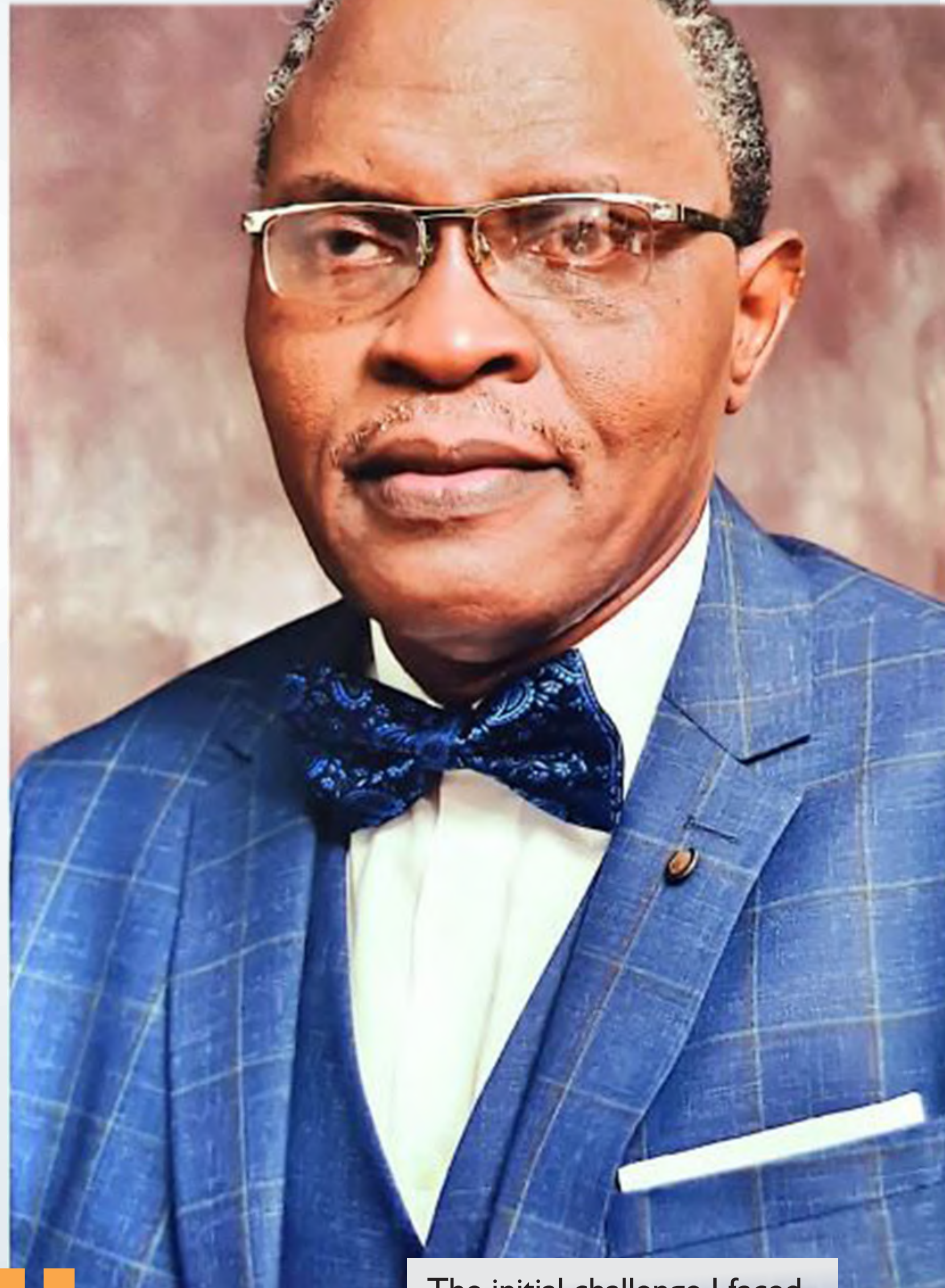
***Now, looking back at your profession. You left Yabatech to go into private practice after about five years.***

***Thereafter, you gave them your service free of charge.***

***Did you leave because the pay was not enough or you just decided to start on your own?***

There were two major reasons – I will put the pay first. Then, immediately after, I'll put the fact that it was going to give me the opportunity to venture into the politics of my profession because I had seen that it needed time and you needed to be in private practice where you can have your office working on auto drive. The salary I was earning was taking care of not more than 40% of the requirement at the home front while the remaining 60% was from the private practice. I thank God that I was able to do what was expedient.

***Now, when you started your practice, what were the initial challenges you faced?***



“ **Most of my practice at the beginning was around 'omo-oniles' – and I thank God for making it easy for me. By the time you know one family; they would introduce you to another and you keep acquiring land you may not be able to sell ... but you'll have enough** ”

The initial challenge I faced was not as grave as it should have been for someone who was setting up for the first time because I had a place I could use as an office, which was a flat in my parents' house. I only needed to ask someone to vacate an apartment for me to take over. That means I won't have to pay any rent – and maybe it was one of the reasons everything seemed so easy for me. For the equipment, I had an



uncle, (Surv. 'Segun Ogunbona) may his soul rest in peace who was a surveyor in the civil service in Lagos State. He always put his personal equipment at my disposal for my use when I needed it. It was even his equipment I was using for my PP before I started fully.

### **Who was your role model when growing up?**

My daddy. I can say that categorically and

emphatically because there is so much of him that I can see in myself ... traits I must have imbibed from him unconsciously. But as I advance in age and life when I became a professional, I could say Surv. Adekunle Kukoyi. He was someone I greatly admire. I would like to stand, speak and dress like him Yeah, Surv. Adekunle Kukoyi, fnis, ppnis. in the profession and my dad as a youngster.

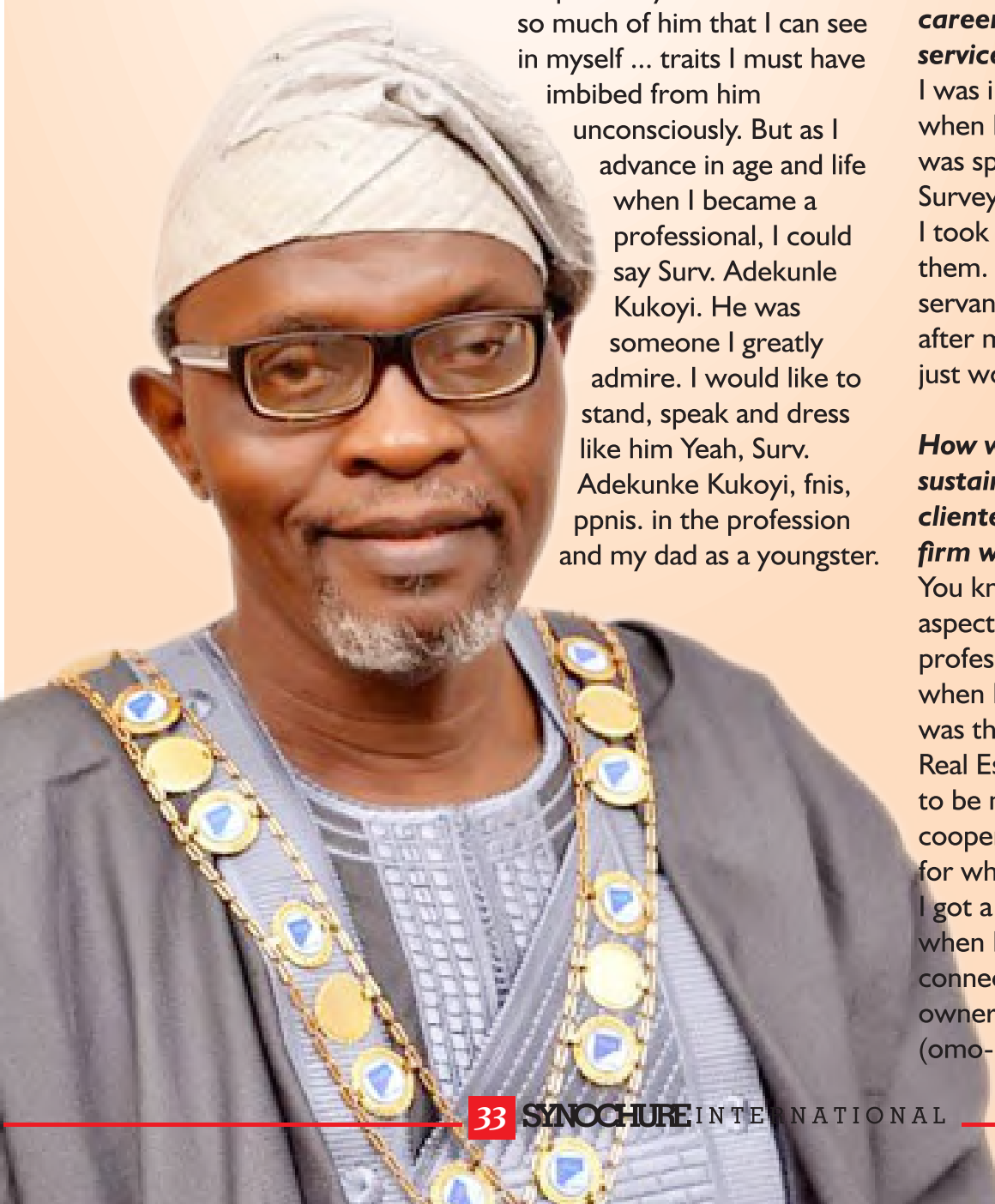
“ It is how people perceive me and my practice that may be responsible for that I believe that sound-minds will always go to where they can learn something and once they appreciate you, they want you to be their mentor. ”

### **Why didn't you start your career in the public service?**

I was in the civil service when I was in Oyo – and I was sponsored by Federal Survey Service to go to Oyo. I took employment with them. I started as a civil servant and when I returned after my training, it didn't just workout.

### **How were you able to sustain your clients or clientele base as a young firm when you started?**

You know there are different aspects of practice in any profession. I remember that when I was pulling out, there was this lady who was into Real Estate who happened to be negotiating for the cooperative of the company for which my father worked. I got a few jobs through her when I pulled out. She was connected to some land owners and land speculators (omo-onile). There was also



“  
I told myself I may have to go into private practice for the opportunity of getting into the politics of the profession as that's the only way I could get into the position to effect the changes I desired from the secretariat.”



this man, Mr. O. A. Solabi a family friend of ours, *an old draughtsman* who had a lot of survey jobs that sustained me when I was at Yabatech. Most of my practice at the beginning was around 'omoni-omoni' – and I thank God for making it easy for me. By the time you know one family; they would introduce you to another and you keep acquiring land you may not be able to sell ... but you'll have enough money to sustain yourself. It was later I ventured into Corporate Organisations.

**Over the years your firm is being reported as one of the vibrant and important surveying firms in Nigeria. What magical wand are you using?**

I can only thank God if it is seen in that light. It may be part of what is responsible for the pressure of the number of Pupil Surveyors that would want to work with me. A lot of firms are doing very well. And there may be many pupil surveyors that choose to work with me. It is how people perceive me and my practice that may be responsible for that. I believe that sound-minds will always go to where they can learn something and once they appreciate you, they want you to be their mentor, they want to work here for you – and when you have good friends working for you, you are good to go.

**What would you say basically distinguishes your firm from others?**

Well, I can say because it's the firm of a past president because there is nothing we are doing here that is not done in other firms or that we have not done in the past. I can only thank God for the extent he has brought us, and I've never looked at what others are doing to know whether it is different from ours but when I see how many people who want to work in my firm, for their pupillage, then if that criterion is applied, I could

say that is what distinguishes our firm from others. We have many trainees all the time.

***Can you recollect any landmark job you've done over the years?***

As soon as I set up, I worked on the Port-Harcourt airport and its run way; it was given to me by a construction firm. Surveying is a service job. So, there was this engineering firm that was going to rehabilitate the airport's runway and they needed to know the state of the facility in order to come up with a design that would help them estimate what it will cost to rehabilitate it. Another one was the Sakamori water pipeline project. I was one of those that worked with them. We also worked for Ogun State on their water supply, from Yemoji pumping station to Ijebu-Ode. I also worked for MTN among others.

***Reflecting on your life as a professional, family man, a community leader and Christian; what do you think you could have done differently?***

There is nothing I could have done differently. Absolute nothing. For this, I have to thank God.

***Why didn't you take a chieftaincy title or have you***



**“ I can only thank God for the extent he has brought us, and I've never looked at what others are doing to know whether it is different from ours but when I see how many people who want to work in my firm, for their pupilage, then if that criterion is applied, I could say that is what distinguishes our firm from others. ”**

### ***not been offered?***

I was offered before my uncle died in my place at Fiditi but I rejected it. I didn't see it as anything I needed to have.

### ***How fulfilled are you as a professional?***

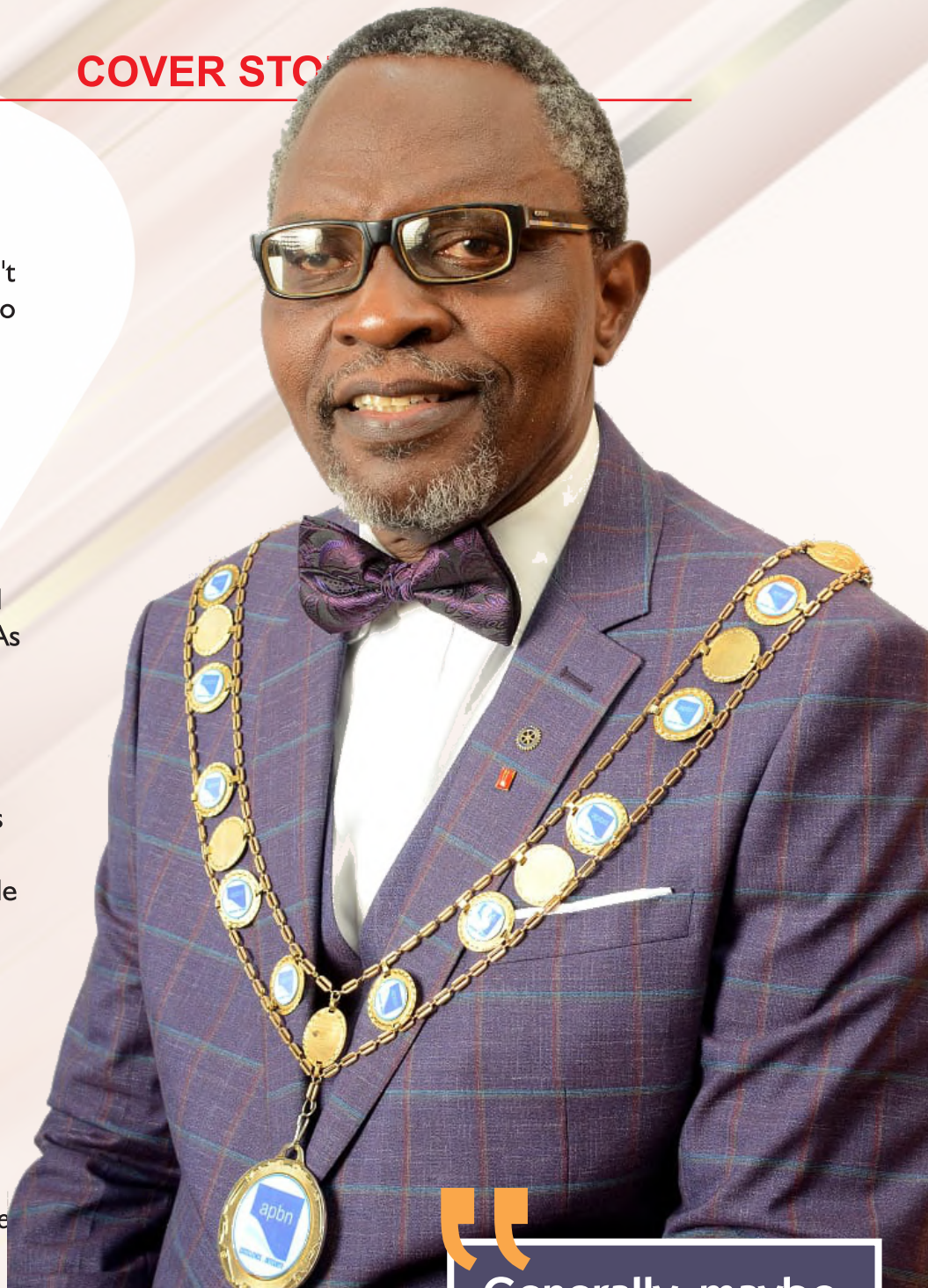
I am exceeding fulfilled. I believe the professional practice is in two major parts: service to society and the remuneration you get. As for me, I believe that once I render a quality service to the society, whatever remuneration I get, no matter how big or small it is blessed. I have reasons to believe that not many people were given the opportunity of the attainment

### ***What do you think you could have done differently?***

Generally, maybe the time would have been different. As they say, 'God's time is the best.' It could have been earlier or later – but I am quite fulfilled.

### ***What advice do you have for the younger ones?***

I believe that life is what you make of it through God. There is so much one can do through God. I believe I came to this world to worship and serve Him through humanity and I am alive to serve Him. This is why I am not particularly



looking for money. I always remind myself that I'm not on earth to make money but to make a difference. I only need money to be there to fulfill it. If you can understand why you are here, I can assure you that, if at times, you don't have a penny in your pocket, you will feel good. In all one does, moderation is key and always keep your eyes on the ball.

i. Rome was not built in a

Generally, maybe the time would have been different. As they say, 'God's time is the best.' It could have been earlier or later – but I am quite fulfilled.



- day
- ii. You stop being good the day you stop being better.
  - iii. There is always a better way of doing anything for those who can seek it.
  - iv. Man made money for convenience, why worship it.

**What do you want to be remembered for?**

That I have come just like any other person, I have tried my best to affect positively my

immediate environment. Make as much impact I believe I could make in all spheres of life.

It is noteworthy to intimate our readers that Surv. Akin Oyegbola is a Rotarian, a President of a Club in 1998, obtaining his Paul Harris Fellowship in 1996, and Member of the Lagos Country Club, Ikeja. He was also the Chairman of the Governing Board of Baptist College of Theology, Oyo between 2018 and June 2024 and a member of the Board of Trustees of Association of Indigenous Contractors of Nigeria. Surv. Akin Oyegbola is a

Member, Guild of Awardees of Excellence of Birch Freeman High School and the Board of Trustees of Nigerian Institution of Surveyors (NIS) since 2023 to date. He was awarded Honorary Fellowship of the Nigerian Institute of Architects in 2021. A Justice of Peace (JP) of Oyo State, Akin Oyegbola has been married to his heartthrob, Folayemi since 1981 and their marriage is blessed with three wonderful children.



# BAPTIST COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY OYO, NIGERIA

(IN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, OGBOMOSO  
AND BOWEN UNIVERSITY, IWO)

ACCREDITED BY BAPTIST ACCREDITING COUNCIL OF THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS IN NIGERIA (BACTSIN) AND  
AN AFFILIATE OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR CHRISTIAN THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN AFRICA (ACTEA)

**BCTOY/REG. 2.1/130**

**May 25, 2024**

**Surv. Akin O. Oyegbola, FNIS, FNIA**

Outgoing Chairman,  
Board of Governors,  
Baptist College of Theology,  
Oyo.

**Dear Sir,**

## **CONGRATULATIONS ON THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF YOUR TENURE AS BOARD CHAIRMAN**

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you and your household in the name of the Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. May His sure abiding presence be your daily experience in the land of the living, Amen.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, Management, Rector, Staff and Students of Baptist College of Theology, Oyo, I write to congratulate you on the successful completion of your tenure as Chairman, Board of Governors, Baptist College of Theology, Oyo.

The entire College family acknowledge your indefatigable contributions to the growth and development of the College during your leadership. The College is immensely blessed to receive your stewardship as the Chairman of the Board of Governors from 2018 to 2024. We cannot but place on record the objectivity, assertiveness, sound judgement and profound wisdom you deployed in piloting the affairs of the College, especially in crisis situations.

As an institution and community of faith, we heartily appreciate God for His grace upon your life for accepting to be used of the Lord in His service at our College. Our heartfelt prayer is that the Lord will keep you steadfast and preserve your relevance to the glory of His name alone in Jesus' name, Amen.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

**Olusegun A. Okunlola, CPM**  
Registrar & Secretary to the Board

*Training for Christian Service*

**P. M. B. 1088, ISOKUN-OYO, OYO STATE, NIGERIA.**

Website: [www.bct.org.ng](http://www.bct.org.ng)

E-mail(s): [registrarbctoyo@gmail.com](mailto:registrarbctoyo@gmail.com)/[registrar@bctoyo.org.ng](mailto:registrar@bctoyo.org.ng)/[registrarbctoyo@yahoo.com](mailto:registrarbctoyo@yahoo.com)



# Celebrating A *Relentless* SURVEYOR

On behalf of the Nigerian Institution of Surveyors (NIS), I heartily felicitate with our dear amiable past president, **SURV. AKIN OYEBOLA**, FNIS, FNIA on his selection as Role model of the year by **Synochure international magazine**. This is a well - deserved award going by your antecedents as an outstanding surveyor.

You have been a source of pride and a worthy Role Model to the younger ones. Your contributions towards the development of the profession can not be underestimated. When posterity renders its final verdict, your name and record of service will indeed be a reference point in our contemporary history.

Your noble efforts in the service of the profession can never go unnoticed. We pray for more wisdom in good health and sound mind.

## Congratulations!

*Signed*

**SURV. (DR.)  
MATTHEW O. IBITOYE, FNIS**  
Nigerian Institution of Surveyors



# My husband is a guy most ladies would readily go out with

— Mrs Folayemi Oyegbola



*Behind every successful man, there is a great woman who supports and pushes him to the top. Great men are married to women who are made of steel and these women eventually become the backbone that give their men a perfect feature and the fluid that lubricate the men to function well. If not, what use is an expensive vehicle without fuel to power the engine? How strong is a pack of lions without a lioness to nurture the cubs? What would have become of Surveyor Akin Oyegbola without the unwavering support of his dear wife of many years?*







The woman of virtue, Mrs. Folayemi Oyegbola, (Nee Akinbebje) was born in Ile – Oluji Town, in Ondo State about sixty plus years ago. She attended Ibadan City Council Primary School, Oke – Bola. She had her secondary education at Our Lady of Apostles, Secondary School, Maryway. She attended Federal School of Forestry, Jericho, all in Ibadan, Oyo State.

She obtained the Ordinary National Diploma (OND) in Forestry in 1977. That same year, she obtained the Federal Government Scholarship to study Forestry Engineering in Sofia, Bulgaria, East Europe. She returned to Nigeria in 1983 with a M.Sc. in Forestry Engineering. Her National Youth Service Corps was done at the National Open University, Lagos. In 1984, she resumed duty at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Forestry Lagos, where she progressed to the Directorate level and retired after 35 years of service to the nation at the Federal Ministry of Environment, as Head of Department of Forestry, Lagos office.

In this interview, the Iya-Afin Folayemi Oyegbola fielded questions from our correspondents, Lanre Olusunmade and Theresa Obhade on the man she married, Surv. Akin Oyegbola. Excerpts below:

**How and when did you meet Surv. Oyegbola and what led to your meeting?**

Okay, we actually met in Sofia, Bulgaria as students. I think we landed there in January 1978. We met in April 1978 – and we started dating later in the year.

**What was the first attraction?**

Well, I would say, as at that time, he was tall and handsome. He was a guy ladies would readily go out with. I don't believe in "Love at first sight", although, it took me some time (months) before I actually said 'Yes,' to our courtship He was

**“The younger ones can learn from his kind attitude, passion for his work, integrity and honesty. In anything he does, he does not prioritise money. He would always say, “Money is not an end, it is just a means to an end ....and you don't have to kill yourself or do anything illegal or unholy to make money.”**”

really persistent.

**How can you describe Him?**

I discovered he was quite an intelligent person – and that was the reason we started courting. His intelligence was what I fell for. He was very practical, articulate and down-to-earth. Those qualities endeared him to me.

**What was the initial stage of your marriage like?**

Okay! We got married in Sofia, Bulgaria in October 1981. We came to Nigeria for our engagement in October, 1980. Initially, we thought of coming back home the following year for our wedding, but our parents gave their blessings for the wedding to take place in Bulgaria. They said we had done the most important part (the engagement) by involving them, in it the previous year.

**Now, what was the early stage of the marriage like?**

It was okay – quite interesting. We were supportive of each other. We worked hard to keep the home going and looking after our first child, who was just nine months old when we came back to Nigeria.

**How can you describe him as a father, husband, and friend?**

As a husband, he's been quite supportive. He gave me the chance to become the best I could in my career, he allowed me to spread my wings and fly to wherever I wanted and whatever height I desired. In fact, there were issues I would bring home whenever I was troubled that he would advise me on how to resolve it peacefully without raising dust or creating rancour. He's a good husband; so responsible to his duties at home – towards me and the children.

**In the course of the marriage that has lasted so many years; can you recollect one or two experiences that remain indelible in your heart?**

First, having children I was one

that was often troubled during pregnancy with early morning sickness and all other associated reactions. So, I was advised by the doctors to have persistent bed rest whenever I was pregnant. It wasn't that easy when we returned to Nigeria, because I was working. I do not like depending on people, I was always engrossed in my domestic chores in order to balance the home front and otherwise. Due to that, I had miscarriages. It was then I understood that bed rest was more than just laying down for five minutes, but no stress at all. At that point in time, he came through, and assisted me when he wasn't at work. He helped prepare meals, washed clothes and cleaned the house to keep me away from stressful activities. That was something quite remarkable, because not all men would do that.

Second, another thing my husband did, though not to my knowledge initially, was his decision and determination from the onset not to welcome any of our family members to live with us. He used to say "anyone I need to help, I will do it from my home without the person living with me". He later told me he did that to protect our home and marriage. For that, I am forever grateful to him.

**How were you able to juggle the home front any time your husband was away on official and professional assignments – especially during his tenure as the President of NIS and APBN?** Many people have asked me the same question, and others have commended me for doing the necessary. Some even wondered why I didn't follow him around and all that. My answer was, "I couldn't, because the home-front would suffer." Our children were more or less out of university at the time, but it was not that easy to leave the



house and gallivant everywhere, all around with him. I have been used to it since the mid-nineties when he was the Secretary-General of the Nigerian Institution of Surveyors. That time our children were in the secondary school. When he became the President of the Institution he was more or less living in Abuja. He would come home every two or three weeks, and whenever he was going back, I would cook and package different food items in a giant box for him to store them in his freezer. In all, God was with us; we were able to manage ourselves.

**What do you think the younger ones can learn from his life?** The younger ones can learn from his kind attitude, passion for his work, integrity and honesty. In anything he does, he does not prioritise money. He would always say, "Money is not an end, it is just a means to an end ...and you don't have to kill yourself or

do anything illegal or unholy to make money." My husband believes in hard work. I encourage the youths too, to work hard in order to achieve and attain their goals in life.

**What do you think he could have done differently?**

For me, I am a kind of person that love to have my quiet moments, my peace, and privacy, but my husband is a public person. I cannot go everywhere with him but I have to obey his wishes at other times. I am sure if he has his way, he too could have shied away from public glare or something like that.

**What is your advice to young couples having gone through many phases of marriage?**

Well, for young couples, I would say they should both sit down and agree on what their lives should be from courtship stage. They should discuss everything and not hold back. Discuss your finances, work, likes and

dislikes, be truthful with yourselves, and trust each other. Honesty is key. Whatever my husband says, I believe, and whatever I say, he believes. We don't secretly investigate or try to know why and what. That's what we call trust. Marriage stands strong on mutual trust and respect for each other. We do argue a lot, but shift grounds or compromise in order to arrive at a win-win situation on any issue we have.

**What is your felicitation message to him on this honour?**

I will say, I am very proud of him. There must have been something people saw and still see in him, either directly or indirectly, that prompted this honour and I wish him well and pray for more accomplishments in his life, in peace and good health in Jesus name. Amen.

# Surv. Oyegbola lives a very simple life

*-Rev. Joel Alabi*



**J**oel Olakunle Alabi was born in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. He read Accountancy at Osun State College of Technology. He also attended the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary for his Master's of Divinity in Theology, Master's in Theology and PhD. Rev. Dr. Joel Alabi is an oracle of God, bringing good news of Jesus Christ to weary souls and refreshing the broken-hearted. He speaks on his meeting with and knowledge of Surv. Akin Oyegbola, "We were launched here by the New Estate Baptist Church, Surulere and when he also moved into this estate, the Church neighbourhood, he was searching for an affiliate parish of Mother Church – and here we are, he located the church, came with his

family and they felt comfortable – and they have been worshipping here since Year 2000 and we move together as a spiritual family. Describing Surv. Oyegbola, Rev'd Alabi said, "Surv. Akin Oyegbola is a man of integrity; honest and easy-going. He solidly commits to any particular cause he believes in. He is not a troublemaker – and has never been part of anything called trouble. He loves peaceful and quiet life. In fact, he just wanted to be in the church quietly, be blessed and go. Based on the church structure, after his membership class, he joined Building Ministry and his wife joined the Beautification Ministry. From there, I discovered he is a surveyor, President of Lagos State NIS at the time." "Surv. Oyegbola lives a very simple

life; when you see or meet him, you won't know that he's somebody of high status in the society. When he clocked 60, he said they don't believe in party, he just wanted to appreciate God for what He has done. No big party whatsoever and during my first visit to the family, I discovered how intelligent and philosophical he is – and whenever you engage him in talk, you will see high level of thoughtfulness proceeding from him." Rev'd Dr. Joel Olakunle Alabi prayed long life, sound health and more strength for his parishioner and his family.

**T**he Principal Partner of Segun Oyegbola & Co. is the third in line to Surv. Akin Oyegbola. He studied Accountancy at the Yaba College of Technology, Lagos. Adeola Oyegbola's story is a glaring fact that there is neither leanness nor smallness in the family of elephant. They are all born to be big and mighty. While speaking to our correspondent on growing up in the same household with Surv. Akin Oyegbola, Adeola leaked a secret unknown to many and said: "Brother Agba is the first male and first born of our parents. He is about eight years older than me. He was already in school when we were kids. We can't say much about his childhood saved that we used to play football together in the house. I remember sending a letter to him when I was at Mayflower School, Ikenne and he was at Federal Survey School, Oyo requesting for Fifty Kobo (50K) but my brother upon receiving the letter a month

## Brother Agba made me a big boy for a whole term at Mayflower because of his generosity

*-Mr. Adeola Oyegbola*

later sent me One Naira (1 NGN) instead – and with that one naira, I painted Mayflower red. I was a big boy for the whole term because of his generosity. That was quite an experience for me." "Brother Agba is largely strategic; he takes his time in making decisions and his counsel does not always align with everybody scope of thought but his convictions are always ideal and deeper than you can imagine. I remember he taught me how to play chess when he came back from Bulgaria in 1983 and he used to take us to the National Stadium to play lawn tennis."

Adeola Oyegbola believed his elder brother is a positive influence on their family and society. "He taught most people how to positively conduct themselves. He can be analytical in his approach to issues and that is why anyone who wants to engage him in any discussion or needs his help must be ready for proper scrutiny." Concluding, Adeola wants the world to emulate and commend Brother Agba for his selflessness, future based thinking, simplicity, spirit of excellence and integrity.

# Surv. Akinloye Oyegbola is unassuming, clear headed and dynamic

Ven. (Surv.) Francis Fajemirokun,  
OON, Emeritus Professor



Once upon a time, there lived a king who was considered the wisest man to have lived until Jesus Christ. In one of the monarch's preachings, he emphasised on the stretches and values of times, and at the concluding verse of his satire, he said, 'So I saw that the best thing people can do is to enjoy their work because that is all they have. No one can help another person see what will happen in future,'— and speaking with Ven. Francis Fajemirokun is a discovery of a man that understood and utilised the tool of time to his advantage. Ven. Surv. Francis Fajemirokun OON is a son of missionaries. He studied Surveying at the University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus graduating with 1st Class honours. He also holds MSc and PhD in Geodetic Science. He lectured at

OAU, Ife, UNILAG and retired as Deputy VC in 2006. He is also a Registered Surveyor, an ordained Priest in the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion and an Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON). What are the connecting points of Ven. Fajemirokun and Surv. Oyegbola – professionally and beyond? He replied, "I'm not really certain of how we met but it was during the annual conference of NIS in the 1990s but I will never forget his resilience in fighting for what he believes in – especially when he was contesting for the post of NIS Deputy President in 2014."

Surv. Francis Fajemirokun also spoke to us on some qualities that stand out Oyegbola among many professionals, "Surv. Akinloye Oyegbola is unassuming and dynamic. He is conscientious, hard-working, inspiring, amiable, pleasant

and jovial. He can work with people of diverse outlook as a team player and he has contributed immensely to the professional development of upcoming professionals at Yabatech and other states of the federation." Rounding up, Ven. Francis Fajemirokun congratulated Surv. Oyegbola on his landmark achievements, implored him to keep up the good works as he prayed for God's continuous blessing upon him.

Pastor Darlington Amadi Chidi, a native of Obinzuwuri in Imo State is an alumnus of University of Calabar and Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary – and just like a seed planted deep in a fertile ground will germinate into a big tree, producing crops every season, so is Pastor Darlington's life in the vineyard of God.

Pastor Darlington was asked, how and when did you meet Surv Oyegbola? He replied, "We first met briefly when he spoke at our church National Independence Day Lecture in 2022. I noticed that he was loaded upstairs. We started meeting regularly for discussions on politics and church and I can say, when it comes to church contributions and supports, he is an ardent giver. I have also noticed his sincerity, integrity, passion and commitment. He and his wife have given themselves to

## Baba Oyégbolà is a cerebral man, very intelligent, honest, astute and thorough

-Pastor Darlington

the church and God."

"Baba Oyégbolà is a cerebral man, very intelligent, honest, astute and thorough. He's a perfectionist. Give him something to do, it will be thoroughly and perfectly done that even his thoroughness will help you in your final analysis. He's very committed to his wife. They are both front-seat personalities in church, not just by position but also in terms of participation. What his former pastor told me corroborated with what I have already seen in him." He said about Surv. Akin Oyegbola's personality.

Pastor Darlington admonished the youths to emulate Baba Oyegbola for his integrity. "Baba is a man that says what he does, believes he may be wrong but needs to be proved wrong. He is open, hardworking, intelligent, generous, friendly and lovely."

Pastor Darlington later blessed his parishioner from the bottom of his heart, asking the Lord to grant him long, healthy and fulfilling life in the mighty name of Jesus Christ.



## Surv. Akin Oyegbola is a very brilliant man with great ideas

**Surv. Olajumoke V. Joseph, MNIS**  
Coordinator, Women-in-Surveying, Lagos State

**T**here are several cash crops like cocoa, kolanuts and rubber trees in the forest and in different plantations – but there is a particular tree that stands out. It is called palm tree ... it doesn't look like a money magnet but everything on it – from fronds to root – is money ... and the most surprising thing about this plant is its ability to survive in storms.

Surveyor Olajumoke Joseph is both an achiever and a survivor. She is a woman who treads the path most men

dread. Speaking to our correspondent on her relationship and knowledge of Akin Oyégbolà, she said. "I have known him since 2005 when I was Admin. Manager with NIS, Lagos. He is a very brilliant man with great ideas. He is meticulous, precise, easy-going and classy. When he contested against my candidate and won the post of Deputy President of Nigerian Institution of Surveyors in 2013, in spite of his knowledge of my support for his opponent, Surv. Oyegbola still acknowledged my support for the opponent as a sign of loyalty and loved me for that." She also spoke on the many

contributions of Surv. Akin Oyegbola to survey profession and the country, "He loves enlightening professionals, especially the young ones and advocating for the profession. His ideologies and resilience to make things right are great values to be emulated. His dedication and contributions to surveying are truly commendable and his brilliance and meticulous approach will forever inspire us all."

Olajumoke implored Oyegbola to keep up the outstanding work and his efforts are making significant impacts on the profession.

## My brother is both jovial and strict

*Emmanuel Olubunmi Oyégbolà*

**A** retiree of African Reinsurance Corporation is the immediate younger brother of Surv. Akin Oyégbolà. He is in the best position to describe what growing up with Surv. Akin Oyégbolà was like, and in this manner he opened up, "Surv. Akin Oyégbolà can be described as a highly intelligent and upright person both in his profession and personal life. He is a

good and loving brother who shares his wealth of experiences with his younger ones. He is both jovial and strict ... not sentimental but straightforward."

On Surveyor Oyegbola's contribution to his profession and national development, Emmanuel chipped in, "I will say he has developed the socio-economy of Nigeria through his sincerity as the former President of Nigerian Institute of

Surveyors and as President of All Professionals Association of Nigeria."

"He deserves the award and as his brother I shall continue to emulate his ways of life." He added.

In conclusion, Emmanuel Oyegbola congratulated his brother, implored him to continue the good work and prayed that God should grant him a long and healthy life.

# Surv. Akin Oyegbola, is a professional to the core; objective and straightforward

## Prof. Ayandokun

Rector, Baptist College of Theology, Oyo State, Nigeria



**W**e only read about Queen Esther, the game-changer in the Bible but in our days and time we have a combination of Esther and Deborah (the mother-in-Israel) in Professor Ayandokun who is bent on rescuing teenagers and youths from the destructive camp of the devil. Professor Esther Ayandokun is a seasoned Christian educationist with over three decades experience. This well-travelled theologian had a Post-PhD exposure at SWBTS, Forth-Worth, Texas and Dallas Baptist University, USA and has authored books and published journals. How and when did she meet Surv.

Oyégbolà and what led to their meeting? She replied, "I met Surv. Akin Oyegbola on the Board of Baptist College of Theology, Oyo as Chairman when I became the College Rector. He was at my Welcome Service on July 1, 2020 and presided over my induction as the Rector. He is a professional to the core; objective and straightforward. He is also very strict but considerate and friendly. He does not believe in judgment or decisions by sentiments but in facts that can be established." "There was a time one of our officers had issues with the College, and unknown to me the officer had an indirect interaction with the Chairman without my knowledge but Chairman

insisted on having a formal report on the matter before saying anything. When eventually the matter got to him, he listened to our presentations and to my amazement, he noted that he had heard about the matter but chose not to act on an unofficial report." She mentioned of an experience that left an indelible mark on her heart till today. On Surv. Oyegbola's contribution to the development of the College, she mentioned some salient points viz, "He led the Board objectively and productively, bringing stability to the College through wisdom and professional guidance."

# Egbon has never for once ignored new ideas

## Surv. Olumide Vincent Adewebi, FNIS

**A**n alumnus of Yaba College of Technology and the Federal School of Surveying, Oyo, Olumide Vincent Adewebi is not just a surveyor but he is like an ancient cock that crows for the entire village to buckle-up and face the day. When speaking to our correspondent on when and how he met Surv. Oyegbola, and what their relationship had birthed, he replied, "We met in an interesting manner after I was elected the Publicity Secretary for the NIS, Lagos State Branch, we got a letter from Surv. Akin Oyegbola, questioning our eligibility because our membership wasn't regularized with the national body. He sent us forms instead of

cancelling the election and regularized our membership with the national body. I got to meet him later through Kunle Oyegbola, his younger brother." "He did something that struck me when he was Chairman of APPSM. His vice who presided over a meeting when he was not around made an unethical decision – but upon his return, he reversed it. That took a lot of courage because he could have lost his position by moving against the majority – and over the years, he has proved himself to be a well-grounded professional who is not afraid of losing relevance. He corrects any wrong with love – and opens your eyes to reality and if your idea is superior to his, he buys into it and

leans towards you." He said of an experience with Surv. Akin Oyegbola. He said further of the man he believes young professionals can emulate his patience, professionalism and heart of service. "We've done great things together professionally, Egbon has never for once ignored new ideas, especially when he knows that it's going to bring progress. He's like the life of any party. He's both a gentleman and sociable; always the first to dance at any event. He shakes hand with you and hugs you as his way of expressing love if he really likes you."



## Any day I need guidance and counselling in this profession, Surveyor Oyegbola's name readily comes to mind

*-Surv. Olufemi Odewale Odetunmibi*

**S**urv. Odetunmibi is like a rain without signal that drenches the host and his guest. His emergence was a surprise but through discipline, diligence and dedication, he conquered territories. He attended the Federal School of Survey in Oyo and University of Lagos. He is a Fellow of the Nigerian Institution of Surveyors. How and when did he meet Surv. Oyégbolà and what can he say about our Role Model? Odetunmibi replied, "He is an icon in the profession. He grew to become the President of the institution after many years of meritorious service to survey profession. I have the singular privilege of having him as one of the panellists that interviewed me for my SOCOM defense. He is so

logical because of the manner he takes you through different levels on any issue for you to understand his perspective, and I respect the way he points one in the right channel in case you are deviating from main point. Any day I need guidance and counselling in this profession, his name readily comes to mind."

"Young professionals can emulate his spirit of endurance, patience, focus and perseverance. He didn't just have a good practice; he has also made himself available to serve the profession and the institution. When someone like him speaks, he speaks from a higher pedestal of understanding – what he has seen, heard or practised as a professional. He sees farther and sees bigger. He listens keenly too and allows you to express your opinion, your perception about whatever issue at stake. If he thinks you are derailing, he nudges you and points you in the right direction but if you are correct, he

dives in fully. He always brings his wealth of experience to bear on any pressing issue, except you are not listening and following his sequence of presentation, you can't fault it." He said about his unique traits and abilities.

Furthermore, he spoke highly of Surv. Akin Oyegbola, "His contributions to the development and progress of survey profession in Nigeria cannot be overemphasised. He gave his time, resources, character and wisdom. He lent and still lends supports to whoever needs it. He is not miserly with ideas ... he shares what he knows with everybody without hiding anything and if you call him for any meeting, he'll be there before the scheduled time, unless he's told you he couldn't make it – he is always prompt."

## My brother is a selfless person, down-to-earth and always willing to assist

*- Surv. Kunle Oyegbola*



**O**yekunle Adedolapo Adegbola is the fourth male child of the parents that birthed Surv. Akin Oyegbola ... and it is glaring why all lions roar – blood is thicker than water, success is in the lineage of the Oyegbolas. Kunle is a Survey Engineering graduate of University of Lagos, a registered surveyor since 1995 and a church Pastor.

While speaking with our correspondent, he spoke about his brother's indelible marks in his heart. "When I finished my OND at Yabatech, I was supposed to go for a year IT but I was seeking a direct entry admission into Unilag. The

result hasn't been released but for my brother's singular effort of going all the way to ensure my transcript was ready for presentation in the examination hall – and his moral support and guidance were the accelerators that kept me going when I hit roadblocks at Survey Engineering Department, and his efforts keep me going in this profession, not only as his partner but also as a professional."

"My brother is a selfless person, down-to-earth and always willing to assist. He is honesty, hard working and full of integrity – and that's our parents legacy. He is also a wonderful and godly person – and sincerely speaking, I have not seen him maltreat anyone .... he treats everybody equally and lovely. He

partnered with me not because he nurtured an ulterior motive. He's the first child of our parents and the head of our family whilst I'm the secretary. So, we discuss, not only the profession or spiritual information but even deeply as family. He is so open about his dealings – how we disburse and for what and who. There's not one time we have argued on any matter." In conclusion, Surv. Kunle believes that his brother can go the extra mile, forget his own needs in meeting the needs of others around him. "When people around him are happy and smiling, he is at peace."

# I boast about him to people all the time

*Ms. Adebimpe Oyebola Oyegbola*

**A** passionate teacher, counsellor and evangelist, Ms. Adebimpe Oyebola Oyégbolà attended Yaba College of Technology where she studied Electrical/Electronics Engineering, and Federal College of Education, Akoka, Lagos.

This life coach that has headed various nursery and primary schools is a different gender of the specie that produced Surv. Akin Oyegbola. She is the fifth, the last and only female child of Joshua Oyewole and Victoria Ibidunni Oyegbola.

Tell us about your relationship with Surv. Akin Oyegbola and his personality. She replied, "He is the first child of our parents five children. I've known him for more than 50 years. He's never been in any situation where I can say I'm not proud of him. I boast about

him to people all the time. I often use his degree of integrity as example when I minister to people. When he came back from Bulgaria where he studied for his Master's in Survey Engineering on government scholarship, and there was no job for years, he kept striving and managing – but he's never failed in his duty as the first born; when he didn't have the cash, he offered good counsels."

"My brother is a good listener, easy-going, detailed and calm. Whatever he's disappointed about, he strikes it, hammers on it and it ends there. The relationship with him has always been that of, 'sweet brother – and his kid sister.' He is a brother you can go to for advice, or to get the confidence you need to face the world – and I have learnt a lot from him." She

added.

Speaking about unforgettable acts of her brother towards her, Adebimpe travelled down the memory lane to open a book of remembrance, "He was the first person that bought food we don't always stock in our house for me ... food like custard, and cereals. He also helped me in correcting my standing posture through his persistence and he was always assisting in loosening my braids."

She implored the younger generation to learn the skill of excellence, innovations, judicious work ethics, wisdom, tenacity and patience from her brother as she congratulated and prayed that he will live longer in good health and sound mind.

**Despite Akin's small stature, he was very strong, tough and active. He can not be easily pushed away**

*-Olusesan Bankole Ogun*

**C**oming from the popular Ogun family is not an easy task. The name might open doors but the bearer knows how much pressure she/he needs to exert to meet up with the family standard or else she/he becomes a castaway. Olusesan Bankole is a worthy ambassador of Ogun family who stayed through to the quality of their name.

In this interview, Olusesan Ogun spoke to our correspondent on his journey of life with Surv. Akin Oyegbola, "Both of us were friends from secondary school. Despite Akin's small stature, he was very strong, tough and active. He can not be easily pushed away. We played ball together but we all had a lot of respect for him and very proud of his achievements."

"As they say that the patient dog eats the fattest bone; any youngster who intends to reach Akin's height in life must be patient as him. Akin is also reserved, so, be reserved too. Don't be in a hurry, allow God to be in control of everything ... slow and steady win the race; everything is not about money. Be hard working and prayerful and don't forget that good name is better than silver and gold." He counselled the youth on qualities to imbibe from the life of Surv. Akin Oyegbola.

"Surv. Akin Oyegbola is a cool and calm person who understands that his own time will come – and it did. As a surveyor, he propagated and formulate policies and advised the government on the right way to go – even with the new technology, new

way of doing survey. He is a man of immeasurable experience and importance to Nigeria. He is a very good friend; we chat and talk regularly. We meet and pray together. He is a perfect gentleman and I have a lot of respect for him. He was one of the good guys in my school, not one of those rascals that smoked hemp. He was never involved in thuggery or truancy ... his lifestyle is, 'Go to school, close, and return. So, Akin Oyegbola is a perfect role model to our youths." Olusesan Ogun added.





# We call him President of all Presidents

## Rotn. (Engr.) Onyebuchi Obiora

Cats and tigers look identical because they belong to the same lineage but they are different animals before God and man. Tiger will crush cat any day. Who will dare call Rotn. Onyebuchi Obiora a small fry considering his feat at home and everywhere. Engineer Obiora Onyebuchi is a strong Rotarian. He had his First Degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering at Madonna University and his postgraduate studies in Control Engineering at Michael Okpara University. He studied further at different companies such as Siemens AG in Frankfurt and Mannheim in Germany. He returned to Nigeria to establish Benkei Foam Nigerian Limited. Our correspondent asked Rotn. Obiora, how and when did he meet Surv. Oyegbola, what can he say about our Role Model? He replied, "I

met him during my Rotary year when he was President. We call him President of all presidents at the time because he was also the president of All Professional Bodies of Nigeria." "Every member in the club is very good but Surv. Oyegbola is exceptional; he sees me as a son and friend. I talk to him about virtually everything, I seek his advice on many issues – and he has this special way he dissects everything and turns a mountain into a molehill. Whenever I speak with him, I get the wisdom to excel as a young entrepreneur." "He's straightforward, always on points. I cannot afford missing him at meetings and he has been more of a family than friends to me. He's a wonderful person; an angel in human form. He can sacrifice for anybody – even those he doesn't know and I can say that he's more than a human



being." Added Rotn. Obiora who will never forget the goodness of this gentleman who encouraged him to push on, or he would have missed his induction at Rotary. In the end, Obiora congratulated his friend and advised every youth to live a simple life just as Rotn. Akin Oyegbola lives his by staying righteous, straightforward, upright and selfless.



## Daddy is a Surveyor that understands the economics and mathematics of how things are done

-Mrs. Tokunbo Abiose Bankole-Williams

When Yorubas name a child Tokunbo, it means she/he was born abroad and brought to fatherland. Tokunbo Abiose Bankole-Williams was born in the then East Germany. She attended the College of Journalism, London and University of Buckingham, England. She returned to Nigeria for her B.L. at the Nigerian Law School, Lagos. She rose to become the Chief Magistrate before she left to work in other establishments outside Law Court – but she is now the President of Customary Court. When and how did she meet Surv. Oyegbola? The Learned Fellow

replied, "My daughter, Jadesola and his son, Kunle were mates at Top Bridge Secondary School, Surulere and now husband and wife. So, Surv. Oyegbola is my in-law. I call him Daddy because he's a man of good and godly character. He is full of life. Any minute I see him ... every time I spend with him is always lively and lovely. I'm always learning something. Most times, I call to testify that what we discussed or what he said has come to pass. He knows how to dissect phenomenon, he sees through difficult issues and predicts accurately what could happen in the future. I enjoy talking to him for hours without getting tired – and every minute with him is always interesting." "He's a very good man. He is fully loaded with wisdom and knowledge. I love his view about life. He's a

Surveyor that understands the economics and mathematics of how things are done. He talks convincingly about the Bible, economy, politics and social life." Mrs. Bankole-Williams spoke on what the youths can learn from the life and style of Surv. Akin Oyegbola, "The youths can learn a lot from him if they are able to reason along with him because only a great mind can relate with another great mind. They should understand how to appreciate their immediate environment and understand our own people and calm down." President Tokunbo Bankole-Williams said Akin Oyegbola is using his profession and position to better the society and wished him all the best that life has to offer in the mighty

# Surv. Akin Oyegbola is very objective... He will never bend the rules and regulations to pacify anybody

*-Surv. (Hon.) Chief Bode Adeaga*



**W**ho will dare compare Oak tree with cherry tree. Oak was not just a mother of all trees but it has the capacity to withstand the tension of boisterous winds to survive in a dry and desert because its root tuck deeper in the soil. Fellow and past president, Nigeria Institution of Surveyors, Hon. Chief Bode Adeaga is a strong force to be reckoned with in the society.

The CEO of Bode Adeaga & Company, Chief Adeaga was a Majority Leader in Ogun State House of Assembly from 1999 to 2003 and now he is a member of the Elders Advisory Council to Governor Dapo Abiodun of Ogun State. Speaking on his relationship with

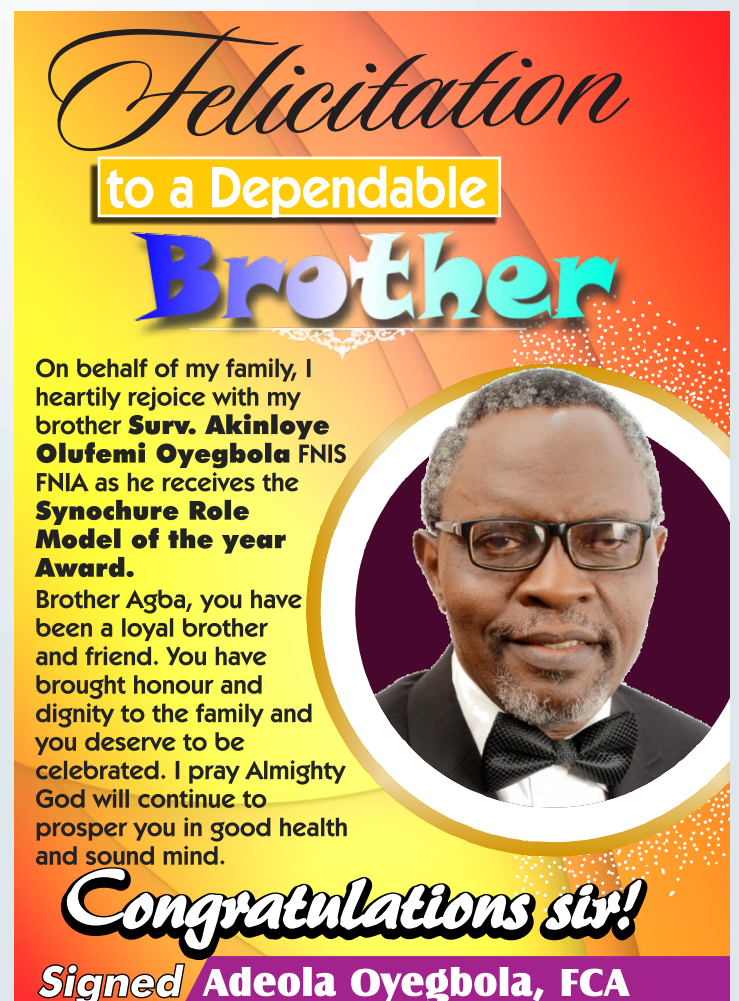
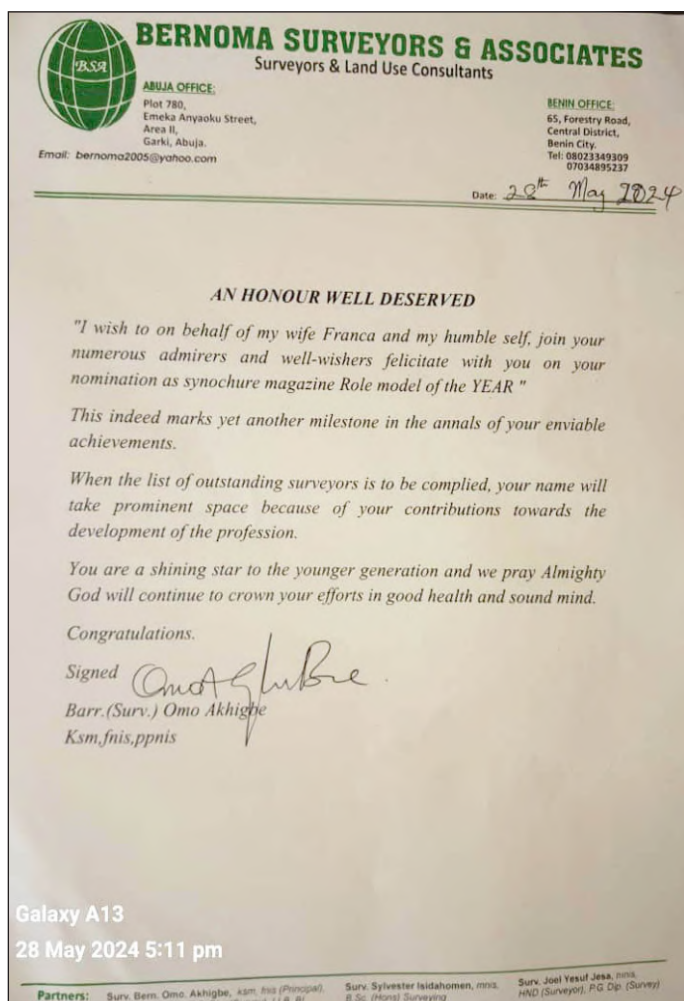
Surv. Akin Oyegbola, Chief Adeaga said, "We both nursed the same interest and ambition as members of the Nigerian Institution of Surveyors. So, we related freely."

"Surv. Akin Oyegbola is very objective; never compromising and not rigid. He will never bend the rules and regulations to pacify anybody. Rather, he will try to convince you along his line of thought. He is very sociable and mixes freely despite being a great achiever with good ideas."

On unforgettable moments with Surv. Oyegbola, Hon. Adeaga said, "I cannot forget when he was contesting for the post of the Vice President of the institution in 2010. There were two candidates from the South-west and none was ready to

step down for the other. Surv. Oyegbola conducted his campaign in such a way that won the hearts of most surveyors. The way he conducted himself was very commendable and worthy of emulation – and it's one of the reasons I respect him."

Surv. (Hon.) Chief Bode Adeaga congratulated and prayed for Surv. Akin Oyegbola to grow old and grey without losing his memory whilst he admonished the younger ones to aspire gradually, gently and be focused if their goal is to make it like Surv. Akin Oyegbola.





## **Akin is a stickler of time; very honest, worthy, amiable, worthy and dependable**

*Barr. Omo Akhigbe*

**V**ersatile Omo Akhigbe is a legend – a multiple of twenty icons we called a man. He is like a lion in the reserve full of tall giraffes and hefty elephants, not just ferocious but also fierce. He is a trained surveyor, member of NIS, and Barrister of Law. He has served as Vice President, Deputy President and President of Nigerian Institution of Surveyors. While fielding questions from our correspondent on his meeting, relationship with and qualities that made Surv. Akin Oyegbola out, Barr. Omo Akhigbe said, "We met while serving as officers of NIS, first when I was publicity secretary and more

closely when Akin Served as Secretary of the Institution. Akin is a stickler of time; very honest, worthy, amiable, worthy and dependable. He has a good command of speaking and writing English – hence detailed and precise in taking minutes of meetings." "Our friendship blossomed when I became President and he was my Deputy – the best pair to ever run the affairs of the Institution. I once requested he go through all the minutes for both Exco and Council meetings, as I could not tolerate minutes that were not thoroughly written – and he did a great job." Barr. Akhigbe said further, "Akin is one of the pillars of Surveying

Profession in Nigeria, and the younger ones can learn from his tenacity to have things done properly. Although I'm not quite pleased with him initiating the withdrawal of the matter we instituted in the High court to have proper interpretation of the Laws regulating the practice of the Profession of which the Regulatory body (SURCON) was acting in Breach." Omo Akhigbe believed that Surv. Akin Oyegbola pursues the goals of NIS with great zeal and passion, and opined that he will be remembered for his love and commitment to the growth of the Survey Institution which he holds

**W**hen it looks like there is no hope, speak to a high rising fellow like Surv. Dr. Olatunbosun Ayinde and he will tell you that God has a plan – and that plan, if it works for someone like him, it can work for everyone.

Pa Olatunbosun attended the Federal Survey School, Okene and Southwest Essex Technical College and School of Arts (now known as the University of East London. He gained experience by working in London and Nigeria oil fields in Warri and Port Harcourt . He is an active member of the Agency of Surveyors and held several executive posts before settling for a life of ministering the Gospel, attending various Theological Seminaries in Nigeria and the USA. In 2016, he was appointed Chairman of the Board of Fellows for NIS.

Our correspondent asked him how and when he met Surv. Oyegbola and what can he say about him. Surv. Ayinde replied "My first

## **Akin Oyegbola is a very good chap, respectful and forthcoming**

*Surv. ( Dr.) Olatunbosun Taiwo Ayinde*

encounter with him wasn't that pleasant. There was a rancour concerning an event in honour of our departed colleague that almost resulted in chaos but we became close when he won an election. I was convinced to vote for him and I did. We clicked immediately and he has proved himself to be a very good chap to me – very respectful and forthcoming. I see Akin as somebody who wants to serve. He is detailed about his services. He works hard and relates well with people. Akin served and still serving, and developed himself in that process. Therefore, any youth who wants to be like him must

submit to authority and serve his way to the top because service moulds character, humbles and positions you."

"Akin is so successful in all organisations and posts he held because of integrity, his honest way of doing things paved way for him. Integrity is the number one character in surveying. He has done extremely well for his age ... he is now in the category of those that can be called elder statesman. I wish him well in his undertakings." He concluded by praying for him to finish well and strong.



# BAPTIST COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY OYO, NIGERIA

(IN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, OGBOMOSO  
AND BOWEN UNIVERSITY, IWO  
ACCREDITED BY BAPTIST ACCREDITING COUNCIL OF THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS IN NIGERIA (BACTSIN) AND  
AN AFFILIATE OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR CHRISTIAN THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN AFRICA (ACTEA)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AMIABLE CHAIRMAN. SURVEYOR AKINLOYE OLUFEMI OYEBOLA, FNIS, FNIA

The Baptist College of Theology, Oyo known earlier as Joint Baptist Pastors' School was founded on September 30, 1977, to cater for local churches springing up in the then-western states of Nigeria. The School started with Certificate in Pastoral Studies. Later, it started Certificate in Theology/Religious Studies and the Diploma in Theology/Religious Education. In the year 2000, it metamorphosed into a degree-awarding institution and was renamed the Baptist College of Theology, Oyo, Nigeria. The College celebrated its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary on September 30, 2022. The College has been led by several leaders in the past 47 years of existence. The current Rector is Prof Esther O. Ayandokun while the Registrar is Revd Segun Okunlola. This is the College that our Board Chairman led for six years successfully. We are proud of you Sir for your contributions to its continuous growth and expansion.

On this note and on behalf of the Board of Governors, Management, Staff, Alumni and Students of the Baptist College of Theology, Oyo, Nigeria, we wish to congratulate our indefatigable Chairman on the occasion of the conferment of the **Role Model Award of the year 2024** on you by *Synochure International Limited*. This is in recognition of your consummate professional achievement as a Surveyor of note, who had brought honour to his profession, family and the Baptist people in Nigeria and beyond. You have been a great and enviable leader, who has inspired many youths and budding professionals across the globe. Big Congratulations Sir.

Your time as the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Baptist College of Theology, Oyo had been a time of objectivity, professionalism and technocratic infusion of ideas and insights that had led to decisions and policies that had brought growth and development to the College during your stewardship. Our earnest prayer for you is that the Lord will continue to guide your paths as you strive to serve Him and humanity more in Jesus' name. Congratulations to our astute Chairman, Board of Governors, Baptist College of Theology, Oyo (2018-2024) on this deserved award.

**Olusegun A. Okunlola, CPM**  
Registrar & Secretary to the Board

**Prof Esther O. Ayandokun, CMC, FIMC**  
Rector

# THIS CAP TRULY FITS

On behalf of the entire APBN family, I heartily felicitate with our amiable former president, **Surv. Akinloye Olufemi Oyegbola** FNIS, FNIA as he receives the **Synochure Role Model of the Year Award**.

As a valued leader and former president of the Association of Professional Bodies of Nigeria (APBN), your remarkable contributions and unwavering dedication to our organisation have not only shaped its success but have also inspired many within our professional community.

Your tenure was marked by visionary leadership, exceptional commitment and a profound sense of duty all of which have left an indelible mark on APBN. Your initiatives

fostered growth, collaboration and excellence across various professional bodies, setting a standard that continues to guide us today.

As we continue to build on the solid foundation you helped establish, please know that your legacy of integrity, professionalism and visionary thinking remains at the heart of our endeavours. We are deeply grateful for your contributions and are honoured to carry forward the mission and values you so passionately upheld.

May you continue to achieve success and fulfilment in all your pursuits.

*Congratulations*  
Signed

**Manason Garkuwa**

**Rubainu,** FWAPCMLS, FAMLNS

**President,**

Association of Professional Bodies of Nigeria (APBN)



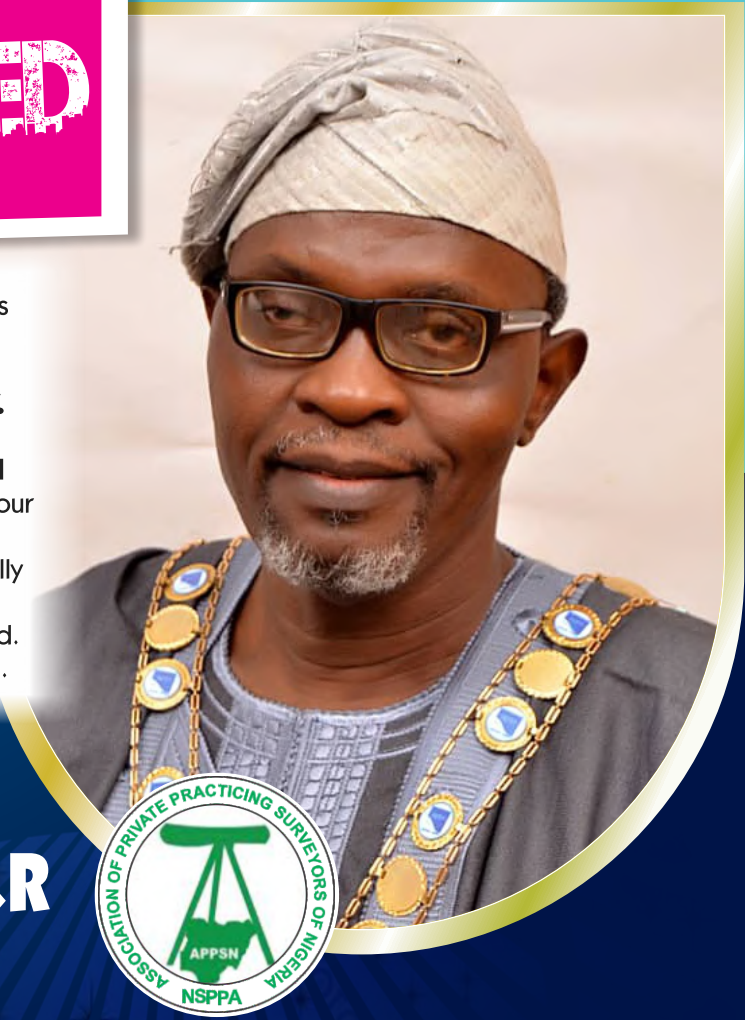
# FELICITATION TO A THOROUGHBREED SURVEYOR

On behalf of the Association of Private Practising Surveyors of Nigeria ( APPSN), I heartily felicitate with our dear outstanding past president Nigeria Institution of Surveyors (NIS), Association of Professional Bodies of Nigeria **SURV. AKIN OYEBOLA**, FNIS on his selection as the **Role Model of the year by Synochure international magazine**. Sir, this is a well deserved award going by your antecedents as an outstanding surveyor. You have been a source of inspiration and pride to many surveyors especially the younger ones. Your contribution towards the development of the profession can not be underestimated. We pray for more wisdom in good health and sound mind.

*Congratulations sir!*

Signed

**Surv. Adaranijo, I.G.R**  
Chairman,  
APPSN. Lagos State

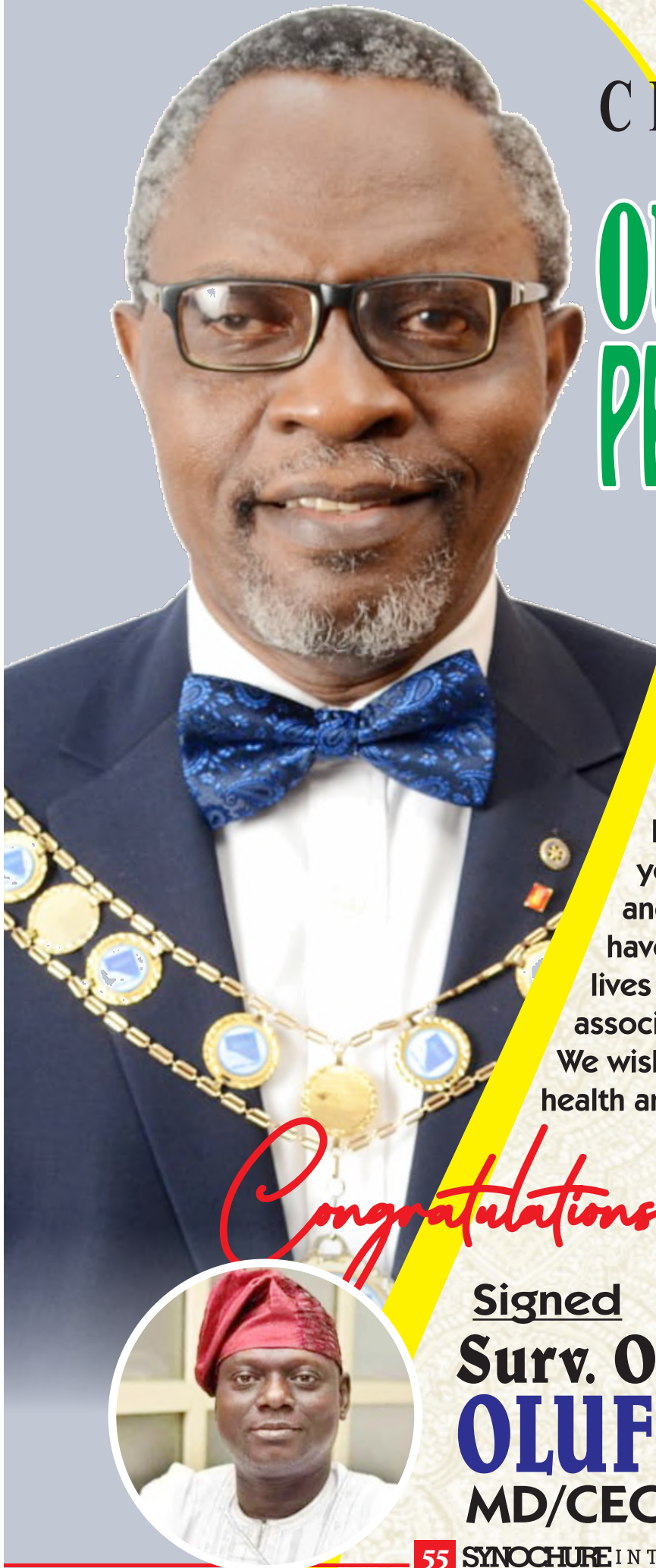


# Felicitation to a DEPENDABLE BROTHER

On behalf of my family, I heartily rejoice with my brother, **Surv. Akinloye Olufemi Oyegbola**, FNIS FNIA as he receives the **Synochure Role Model of the year Award**. Brother, you have been a loyal brother and friend. You have brought honour and dignity to your family and you deserve to be celebrated. I pray Almighty God will continue to prosper you in good health and sound mind.

*Congratulations sir!*

**Signed Oyekunle and Olufunmilayo Oyegbola FNIS**



CELEBRATING  
AN  
**OUTSTANDING  
PROFESSIONAL**

The management and staff of **GEOSYS NIGERIA LIMITED** heartily felicitate with an amazing professional **Surv. Akin Oyegbola, FNIS, FNIA** as he receives the **Synochure international magazine Role model of the year Award**. Sir, you are a peerless professional and an inspiring humanist. You have brought hope and joy to many lives and we are happy to be associated with you. We wish you more accolades in good health and sound mind.

*Congratulations Sir!*



Signed  
**Surv. ODETUNMIBI  
OLUFEMI O. FNIS**  
**MD/CEO**

CELEBRATING

AN

# OUTSTANDING ROTARIAN

On behalf of myself and family, we heartily rejoice with an outstanding Rotarian **Surv. Akin Oyegbola, FNIS, FNIA** as he receives the **Synochure international magazine Role Model of the year.**

*Sir, we 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.*

*We pray for more good tidings in good health and sound mind.*

*Congratulations sir!*

*Signed*

**Rotn. (Engr.) Obiora Onyebuchi**





# ANOTHER FEATHER TO YOUR CAP!

On behalf of my family, I heartily rejoice with my friend and brother, **Surv. Akinloye Olufemi Oyegbola** FNIS, FNIA as he receives the **Synochure Role Model of the year**.

Akin, 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 Ore*  
Signed

**Mr. Sesan Ogun**



# Congratulations to an

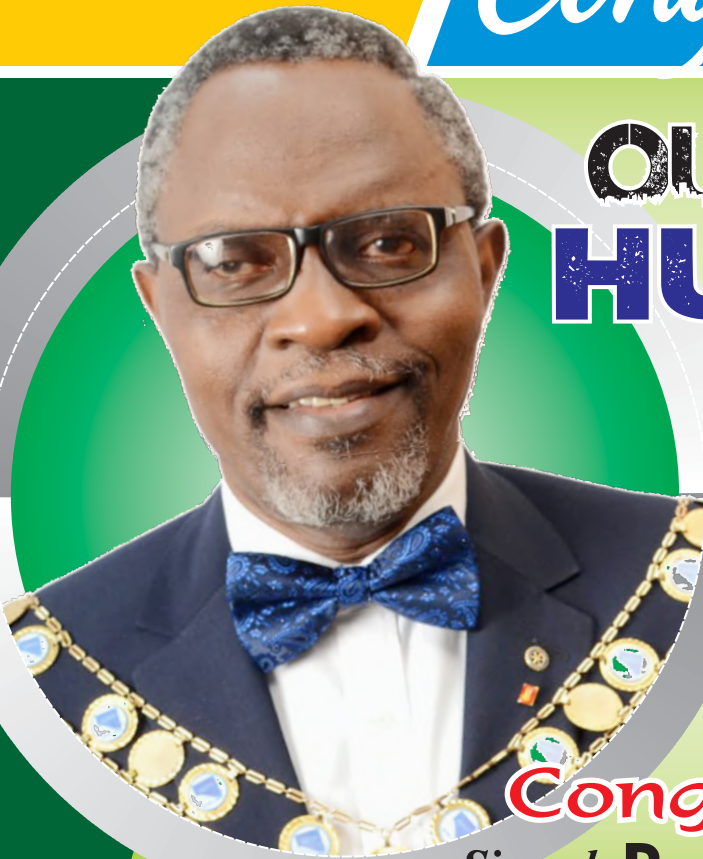
## OUTSTANDING HUMANIST

On behalf of my family, we heartily felicitate with an outstanding Humanist, **Surv. Akin Oyegbola**, FNIS FNIA as he receives the Synochure Role Model of the year Award.

Sir, beyond any reasonable doubt, excellence has always been your target and this uncommon virtue had reflected in all your endeavours.

### Congratulations!

*Signed* **Rotn. Tayo Adekoya**



## This cap truly Fits!

On behalf of my family, I heartily felicitate with a distinguished professional, **Surv. Akinloye Olufemi Oyegbola**, FNIS FNIA as he receives the Synochure **Role Model** of the year Award.

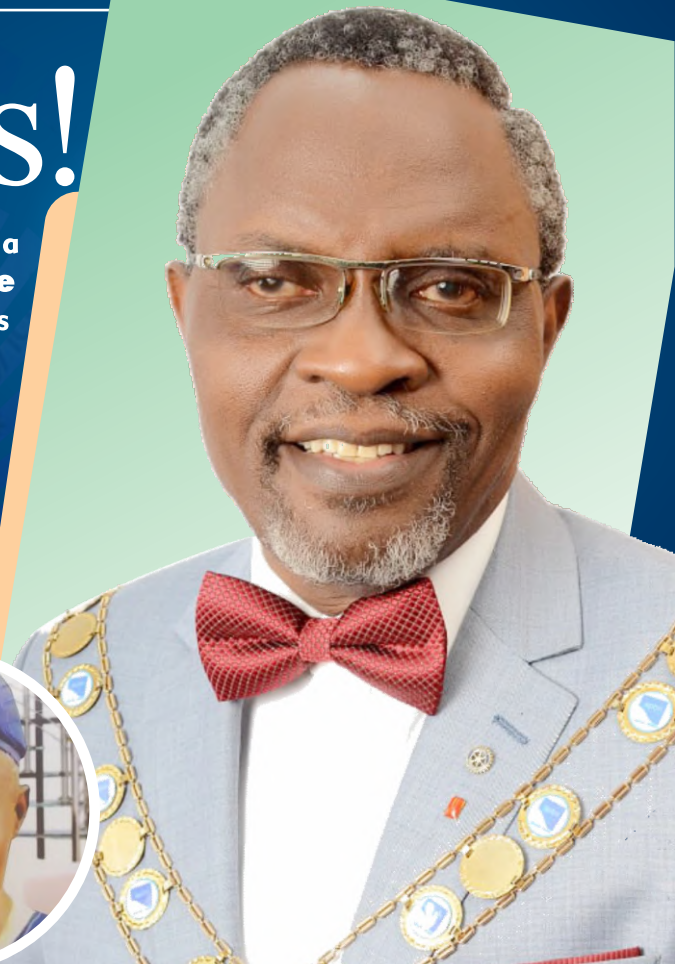
Akin, your humility and simplicity distinguished you from others. You have contributed immensely to the development of our profession and humanity as a whole.

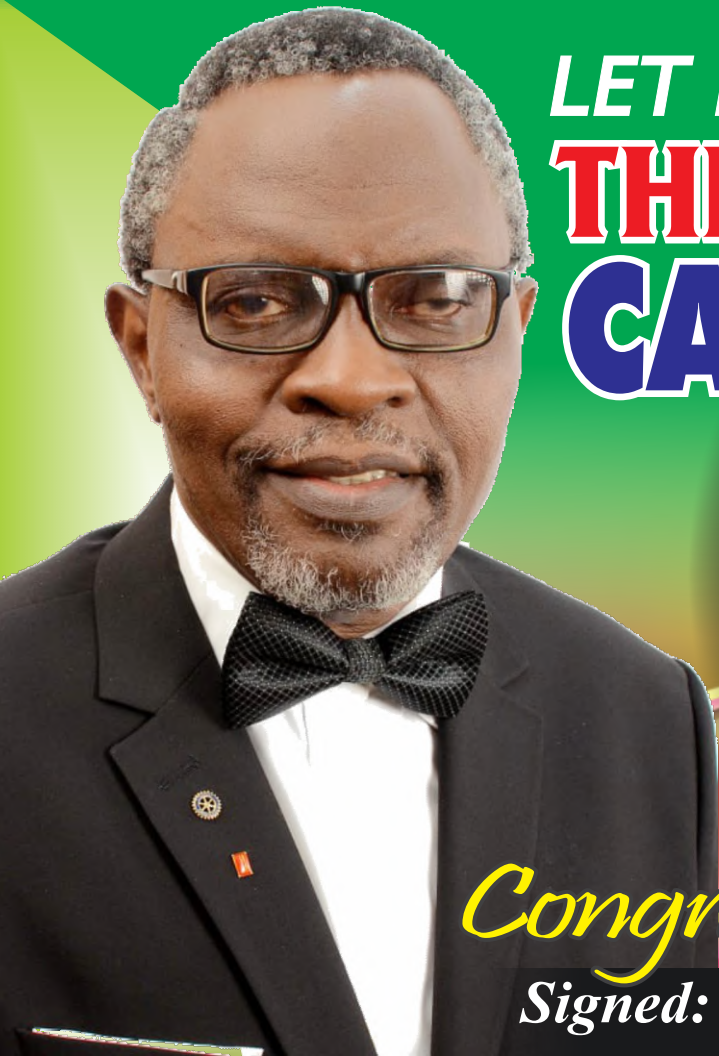
I pray Almighty God will continue to prosper you in wisdom, good health and sound mind.

### Congratulations

*Signed*

**Surv. (Hon.) Chief  
Bode Adeaga**





# LET HIM WEAR **THE BEFITTING CAP!**

On behalf of myself and family, I heartily rejoice with my wonderful brother, **Surv. Akinloye Olufemi Oyegbola**, FNIS FNIA as he receives the Synochure **Role Model** of the year Award.

Sir, this award is richly deserved because of your numerous contributions to the country and humanity as a whole.

This indeed marks yet another milestone in the annals of your enviable achievements.

*Congratulations sir!*

**Signed: Mr. Biyi Olagbami**

## Celebrating

# A Lover OF GOD

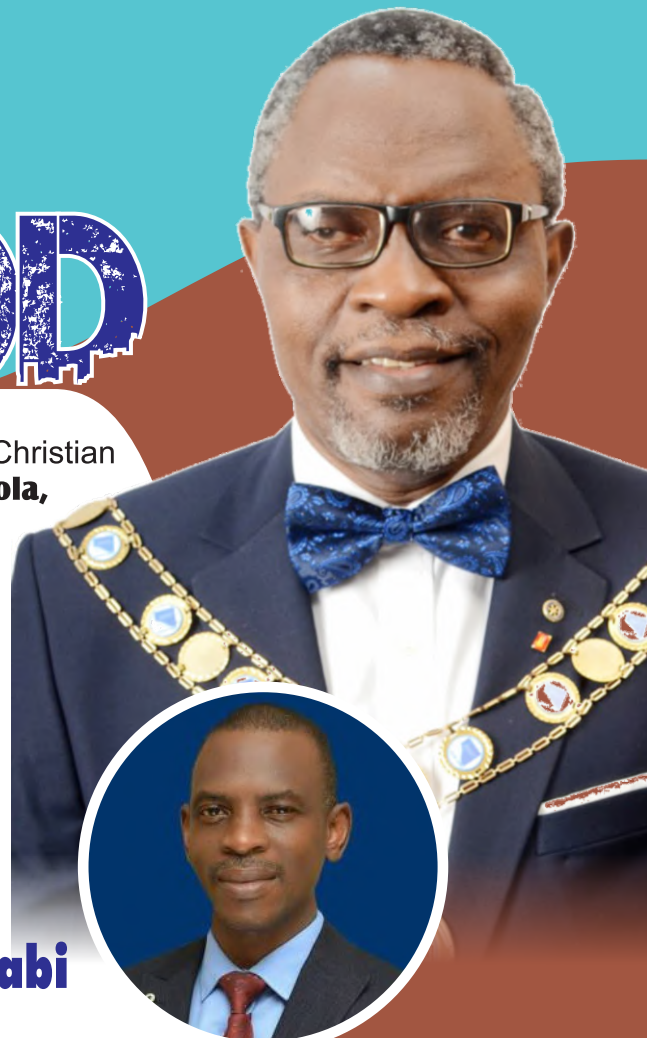
On behalf of New fountain Baptist church, Gowon Estate, Ipaja, I heartily rejoice with an outstanding Christian and a lover of God, **Surv. Akinloye Olufemi Oyegbola**, FNIS FNIA as he receives the **Synochure Role Model of the year Award**.

Sir, your sojourn on this planet earth has been tremendous blessings to the current and future generations. Your commitment to the work of God is unparallel and your contributions to the work of God will forever be appreciated.

You are indeed a shining star to other children of God and we pray Almighty God will reward you abundantly.

*Congratulations*

**Signed Rev. ( Dr.) Joel Olakunle Alabi**



**A GREAT**  
**► Achiever ◀**  
**Of No Mean**  
**Status**

On behalf of women in surveying (WIS) Lagos state branch, we heartily rejoice with a great professional achiever **Surv. Akinloye Olufemi Oyegbola**, FNIS FNIA as he receives the Synochure **Role Model** of the year Award. Sir, in every aspect of your professional life, you have always been outstanding and the reward is this recognition among others. You are indeed indeed a Role Model to the younger generation and your professional achievements cannot be erased in the sand of time.

***Congratulations sir!***

*Signed*

**Surv. Olajumoke V. Joseph**, MNIS  
Coordinator, women in surveying, Lagos state



**WHAT A GREAT**  
**HONOUR!**

On behalf of my family, I heartily felicitate with **Surv. Akinloye Olufemi Oyegbola** FNIS, FNIA as he receives the **Synochure Role Model of the year Award**.

Your humility, openness and commitment to anything that benefits humanity distinguish you from others.

We pray Almighty God will continue to endow you with wisdom.

***Congratulations!***

***Signed: Rotn. Kazeem***

