

31st & 32nd COMBINED CONVOCATION CEREMONY

UNIVERSITY OF UYO

Citations

OF

THE HONOURARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS
AND EMERITUS PROFESSORS
AT THE



31st & 32nd COMBINED CONVOCATION CEREMONY

AT THE
CONVOCATION ARENA
MAIN CAMPUS, NWANIBA ROAD, UYO

DATE: Saturday 14th November, 2026 **TIME:** 10:00am

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UYO, NIGERIA

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Citation of

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

AGBU KEFAS (RETIRED)

FSS, Psc, Bsc, Msc, MPA

His Excellency, Dr. Agbu Kefas, a distinguished gentleman of many parts, is a retired Nigerian Army Officer with more than two decades of impeccable service with bias for counter-terrorism, threat and risk assessment, conflict resolution, national and maritime security, hostage negotiation, and human capital development.

The Peoples' Servant, as he is popularly known, was born one month to Christmas five decades plus ago in the traditional heartland of the Jukun people, and seat of the Aku Uka and Supreme Monarch of Kwararafa Kingdom in present day Taraba State. As a true Ukari; a bona fide Uka man and descendant of "the Great Man," Dr. Kefas holds a Ph.D in Security and Strategic Studies from Nasarawa State University, Keffi (2022), a Master's degree in Public Administration from Delta State University, Abraka (2008), a Master's degree in Legal Criminology and Security Psychology from the University of Ibadan (2005), and a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and Defence Studies from the Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna (1999).

Being of the school of thought that learning stops when life ceases, and preparing himself for greater service, this great man of Jukun

completed multiple executive education programmes at Harvard Kennedy School including Leading Successful Programs, 2024; Executive Certificate in Public Leadership, 2018; and Senior Executive in National and International Security, 2009 as well as programmes at Cranfield University, the University of Oxford's Saïd Business School, Aga Khan University, and the Institute for National Security Studies, Tel Aviv. Making Dr. Kefas an alumnus of Harvard, Oxford, and Aga Khan University.

Deliverable key professional roles held by Dr. Kefas include Member, Presidential Committee on the North-East Initiative (2016–2019), Chairman, Governing Board of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA, 2013–2015), and extensive operational experience in the Joint Task Force in the Niger Delta, including intelligence coordination and successful engagement of a huge number of ex-militants under the Presidential Amnesty Programme.

No man would have developed himself as our Awardee has and selflessly served his nation without being appropriately recognised. Little wonder he is a recipient of several awards such as Forces Service Star (FSS), Passed Staff Course (Psc), Passed Junior Staff Course (Pjsc) among other military and professional recognitions; the Distinguished Service Award from Shaw University, Raleigh, North Carolina, and maintains membership in the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS), Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) and the International Institute of Professional Security (IIPS)

He voluntarily retired from the Nigerian Army sixteen (16) years ago after twenty-one (21) eventful and meritorious years of service moving on to further service to God and humanity, and in response to Aristotle's claim that, “man is by nature a political animal,” first as the Taraba State PDP Chairman in 2020 and then winning the March 2023 Taraba State Gubernatorial election, assuming office on May 29, 2023. His Excellency, Dr. Kefas served the good people of Taraba State under 'the Umbrella' until 2026 when for realignment purposes, he transitioned to the All Progressives' Congress, APC because for him, the people of Taraba would do more with the help of “the Broom.”

Being a man with deep faith in God and armed with the mandate to

promote a more secure society devoid of fear, our Awardee since 2015 under the AGBUKEFASINITIATIVE has been involved in fostering peace in the region between Muslims and Christians, equipping healthcare services, providing access roads and scholarships to university students including those of Maritime University UK after sponsorship for WAEC, NECO and NABTEB among other 'humanitarian and philanthropic acts.

I present to you, Ladies and Gentlemen, the man who in collaboration with the NNPC engaged and managed over 5000 ex-militants and youth in the protection of oil facilities in Delta State; the brain behind the mechanism that reinforced cooperation amongst security agencies with the Joint Task Force (JTF) Operation in restoring hope in the Niger Delta; one of those responsible for the successful arrest of the perpetrators of the murder of the American workers in Olero and above all, the one known to have negotiated with top militant leaders into accepting the Government's Presidential Amnesty Programme bringing to an end militant activities in the Niger Delta. In the light of the above, the Senate of the University of Uyo found no reservations in approving the conferment of Doctor of Humane Letters (D.H.L) Honoris Causa on:

Lieutenant Colonel Agbu Kefas (Rtd),
FSS, Psc, Bsc, Msc, MPA

The Peoples' Servant
A Christian to the core, and Believer in Christ
The Husband of one wife,
HE the Governor of Taraba State.



Citation of

HIGH CHIEF GOVERNMENT OWEIZIDE EKPEMUPOLO (Tompolo)

From a humble beginning in Warri South West Local Government Area of Delta State, High Chief Government Oweizide Ekpemupolo, popularly known as 'Tompolo', has risen to become a household name across Nigeria and even beyond. Tompolo is a man of many parts who has showcased his amiable qualities as a successful businessman, an extraordinary philanthropist, and an unseen political force and kingmaker whose influence stretches across Ijawland, and into the wider Nigerian political space, though he has never sought elective office himself. As a foremost Niger-Delta human rights activist, he is known to have negotiated the Federal Government of Nigeria into a peace deal in 2007.

Born in Gbaramatu Kingdom, High Chief Ekpemupolo received his early education at Ikpokpo Primary School and later attended the National Comprehensive College, Warri. After secondary school, he traversed the business terrain as a contractor providing support services to multinational oil companies operating around Warri. This was not a strange territory as he had displayed political awareness at a young age. Recognising that economic empowerment was essential in

harnessing the voice of his people, he built financial capacity while coordinating efforts first from his Gbaramatu homestead and later across the Niger Delta to challenge poverty, marginalisation and underdevelopment that defined his people. Till date, he remains a consistent advocate of justice, peace, equity, fairness, preserved environment and good governance in the region and far beyond.

The youth uprising in the Niger Delta from the late 1990s to 2007, in which he played an active role, produced lasting institutional gains, including the establishment of the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and the Presidential Amnesty Programme- structures that continue to benefit the region and the nation at large. As a renowned philanthropist, he formally launched the Tompolo Foundation in 2012 which provides educational support to the less privileged and healthcare services to rural communities across the Niger Delta irrespective of ethnicity.

Other interventions which point to the efforts of High Chief Government Ekpemupolo include relief materials for 2022 flood victims and the donation of classroom desks worth over Fifty Million Naira only (₦50,000,000.00) together with the renovation of four classrooms and offices at the Faculty of Environmental Management, Nigeria Maritime University (NMU), Okerenkoko.

High Chief Tompolo's contribution to the establishment and take-off of the Nigeria Maritime University was topnotch, tangible, and undenied. Facilities of his multi-billion-naira Mieka Diving Institute in Kurutie Town were made available as the initial take-off site for the University in May 2015. When plans later emerged to scrap the institution, he intervened successfully to ensure its survival.

In recognition of his educational philanthropy, he was named South-South Man of the Year 2023 by the Daily Independent, and on 25 November, 2023 the Nigeria Maritime University conferred on him an Honorary Doctorate Degree (Honoris Causa) in Education. Again, in November 2025, he received a further Honorary Doctorate Degree (Honoris Causa) in Law from Edward Clark University, Kiagbodo. Not restricted in his call to humanity, his contributions have stretched to security and development of the Niger Delta with multiple awards as Security Man of the Year by several national newspapers including Vanguard, New Telegraph, The Sun, Leadership and Blueprint.

As a businessman, Tompolo chairs Tantita Security Services Nigeria Limited, a company widely credited with effective surveillance and

protection of federal oil assets in the Niger Delta. Its operations have helped increase crude-oil production, curb theft and generate higher revenue for the Federal Government. President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and senior security and legislative figures have publicly praised Tantita and its promoter for various achievements, including the interception of vessels such as MT Kali. He is also the Managing Director of Tompolo Nigeria Limited (from which his popular moniker originates) and has served as a technical partner to Global West Vessels Specialise Limited.

High Chief Ekpemupolo remains unwavering in his commitment to free the people of the Niger Delta from underdevelopment, poverty and marginalisation. He lives among his people, and his Oporoza home has become a gathering point for youths and political stakeholders from across the country. Though he holds a Nigerian passport, he does not use it for foreign travels regarding Nigeria as his only home, and choosing to remain in the creeks working for national progress.

For his service to the Ijaw nation and the Niger Delta, the Council of Traditional Rulers of Ijaw Nation conferred on him the prestigious title of Ibe-Ebidouwei of Ijawland, and holds other such traditional titles from various kingdoms.

He is married to Chief (Mrs)Victoria Ekpemupolo and the union is blessed with a daughter and foster children.

Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you an accomplished businessman, an astute strategist, philanthropist, crime fighter, unifying leader of the Ijaw nation and the Niger Delta struggle, and a steadfast partner in the effort to secure Nigeria's oil assets and advance the common good: High Chief Government Oweizide Ekpemupolo, alias Tompolo for the conferment of the Award of Doctor of Humainties *Honoris Causa*.



Citation of

CHIEF DR. SAMUEL OGBUKU, Ph.D

MD/CEO, NIGERIA DELTA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NDDC)

Chief Dr. Samuel Ogbuku, an indigene of Ayakoro Town in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, was born in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. He obtained the First School Leaving Certificate from the well-known Christ the King School, Oromineke in 1987, and the West African School Certificate from the Government Secondary School, Borikiri, Port Harcourt, still in Rivers State in 1993. From the Government Secondary School, Borikiri, our Distinguished honoree proceeded to the University of Port Harcourt, where he bagged the Bachelor of Science degree in Political and Administrative Studies in the year 2000. Chief Dr. Ogbuku elected to garnish his first degree with a Postgraduate Diploma in Industrial Relations and Personnel Management, a feat which he still accomplished at the same University of Port Harcourt in 2002.

Our Distinguished awardee is not a man of half measures, and this he demonstrated even in his quest for knowledge by returning to the same University of Port Harcourt for the Master of Science in Political and Administrative Studies, a degree programme which he rounded off in 2013. Still not done with formal education, Dr. Samuel Ogbuku was back again in the classroom of the University of Port Harcourt, this time to pursue the Doctor of Science in Political and Administrative Studies, specializing in Development Studies. He secured this coveted qualification in the year 2021.

The totality of our Distinguished Awardee's training has culminated into the following

core competences: He is versed in strategic leadership and public sector reform; in regional development and policy implementation; in conflict resolution and peace building; in stakeholder engagement and youth empowerment; in political communication and governance advisor; in entrepreneurship and investment management; in motivational speaking and team building; and in digital proficiency, particularly in Microsoft Office Suite and Internet research.

Chief Dr Samuel Ogbuku has been a productive scholar and intellectual, who has done robust research and published very many of the outcomes of his studies in reputable learned journals and two books, which are: *Strategies and Imperative for Developing the Niger Delta* and *Rethinking the Niger Delta thoughts and writings of Dr. Samuel Ogbuku*.

The journey of our honoree in public service has been long and impactful. He had been a Deputy Paramount Ruler, Ayakoro Town, Ogbia LGA, Bayelsa State, a position he holds till date. Between 2012 and 20119 he was the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Fulfilled Farms, Nigeria Limited. He had also served as Chief of Staff at Government House, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State from 2007 to 2012, and had served in the Bayelsa Transport Company as a National Youth Corps member in 2002. In the same manner that our Distinguished Honorary graduand has served in official circles meritoriously, he has also extended his leadership skills to the political and social spheres where he had been the National President, National Union of Bayelsa State Students from 1999 through 2000; the Publicity Secretary, Ijaw Youth Council (IYC), Central Zone for two years stretching from 2003 through 2005; a member of both the All Progressive Congress (APC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) at different times; a candidate to the House of Representatives for the Ogbia Federal Constituency; Chairman, Bayelsa State APC Governorship Inauguration Committee in 2020; Secretary, Imo North APC Senatorial Primaries Committee (2020); Member, Lagos APC Senatorial Screening Committee (2020); and Member, Edo State APC Governorship National Campaign Council (2020).

At the moment, our Distinguished Honorary Doctoral awardee is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC). He was appointed to this position by the former President and Commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, General Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, in 2022, and the incumbent President and Commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria, His Excellency, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, re-appointed him to the same position for a fresh four-year tenure, a continuity of trust in him which has reinforced his resolve to lead the Commission with integrity, vision and impact, and to transform the Niger Delta into a region that genuinely fulfills the hopes and aspirations of its people. In keeping with this resolve, the NDDC Chief Executive has moved beyond traditional intervention to deliver systemic reforms and flagship projects that promote sustainable growth, institutional renewal, and

community empowerment. In concrete terms, he has thus far recorded the following landmark achievements:

- Led a strategic paradigm shift—adopting new approaches focused on transparency, accountability, and stakeholder collaboration—to reposition NDDC as a development catalyst rather than a bureaucratic entity.

- Reorganised the administrative structure back to 13 statutory directorates; introduced robust corporate governance protocols, including KPIs and SOPs, through collaboration with KPMG. This formalised a values-driven institutional culture anchored on ethics and performance.

- Commissioned 5 flagship projects across 5 states within 10 days in May 2024, which include roads, bridges, and power infrastructure.

Under healthcare and social welfare interventions, our Honoree has seen to the construction of modern primary healthcare centres; revived free medical programmes, delivered 20,000 surgeries, treating 45,000 patients, and distributed essential supplies to rural areas.

In the areas of educational and skills development boosting, Chief Dr Ogbuku has revitalised the Foreign Post-Graduate Scholarship Programme; rehabilitated schools and distributed educational materials. He has also aligned with youth empowerment by transforming the Youth Volunteer Programme into a 10,000-trainee Internship Programme (₦50,000/month) and launched the HOPE Skills Initiative.

In addition to the foregoing, the NDDC under his watch has ensured sustainable energy and security enhancement through the Operation Light Up the Niger Delta, deployed solar-powered street-lights across all nine states—enhancing security, public safety, and clean energy adoption—potentially generating carbon-credit opportunities. And in agricultural and livelihoods support, the Commission has collaborated with cassava farmers and the ITF Skill-Up Artisan Scheme to boost productivity and equip youths with trade and entrepreneurship skills. Equally important has been the attention the Chief Executive of the NDDC has placed on enhancing engagement with the Presidency, Federal and State Governments, IOCs (3% of budgets), SPDC, World Bank, KPMG, Civil Society, and Traditional Institutions to co-fund sustainable, community-focused projects.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is heartwarming to note that these massive impacts of our Distinguished Honorary Doctoral awardee of today have not gone unappreciated and unrecognized. He has been generously honoured by institutions, periodicals and the Presidency. Just a few of these honours and recognitions are the following:

- **African Public Service Award – Heritage Times (2024):** in recognition of his transformative leadership and service to the Niger Delta region.

- **The Sun Public Service Award – The Sun Awards (2024):** for his contributions in the repositioning of the interventionist agency and implementation of policies and projects that have improved the well-being of the people of the Niger Delta region.

- **Interventionist Agency of the Year – Daily Independent (2024):** in recognition of NDDC's achievements and transformative impact on the Niger Delta region.

- **Police Support Recognition Award – Nigeria Police Force (2024):** Awarded at the inaugural Nigeria Police Award and Commendation Ceremony in recognition of ongoing support to the Police Force and their partnership in strengthening the country's security infrastructure.

- **Presidential Award (2025**): Distinguished Award for Excellence in Infrastructure Delivery and Sustainable Regional Growth.

- **The New Telegraph Public Servant of the Year Award (2026):** in recognition of the Institutional Reforms and Commitment to sustainable in the Niger Delta Region.

- **BusinessDay Excellence in Public Service Award (2025):** for providing outstanding public service which reflects our exceptional dedication and commitment to excellence, setting high standard in public service delivery.

Our Chancellor and Chairman of Convocation, Distinguished invitees, ladies and gentlemen, it is in tandem with this spirit of honoring and appreciating noble deeds and contributions to humanity, as lavishly presented here, that the Senate of the University of Uyo, cheerfully approved that at this 31st and 32nd convocation ceremony of the University, the Doctor of Humane Letters (D.H.L.) *Honoris Causa* be conferred on this cerebral political scientist, seasoned administrator, technocrat, academic, great achiever, royal father, a man with demonstrable blend of intellectual depth, dedication to service, and social awareness, Chief Dr. Samuel Ogbuku.



Citation of

ELDER UBONG BASSEY OBOT,

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & MANAGING DIRECTOR,
UBOTEX LIMITED, UYO

Elder Ubong Bassey Obot, fondly called Ubotex, was born in the sleepy and serene village of Ikot Akpabin, Asutan Ekpe, Ibesikpo Asutan Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State five decades plus ago with royal blood running through his veins.

By act of providence, Ubong was introduced into Building Materials trading by his late mentor and in-law, Mr. Aniedi Akpan of Aniedi Trading Stores whom he meritoriously served for over a decade armed with the academic foundation he gained from Government Primary School, Ikot Akpabin and various correspondences and tutorials acquired higher qualifications and certificates. Thereafter, he ventured into his business, Ubotex Enterprise later incorporated into a Limited Liability Company known as Ubotex Limited where he serves as the Chief Executive Officer/Managing Director.

A shrewd businessman of no mean repute, Elder Obot has in recent years expanded his business to an enviable status, opening branches

all over Nigeria, with bias for the South South and South East zones respectively for which he now gainfully employs over three thousand (3,000) Nigerians, directly and indirectly, including Corps members and Students on Industrial Attachment who enjoy special packages through his expansive branches' network. A seasoned and enterprising business executive, Ubotex has diversified into the distribution of exquisite wines and spirits through XO Wine Stores Limited, Uyo, growing by leaps and bounds; and civil works, with some asphalt paved roads to his credit in Akwa Ibom State.

Elder Ubong Obot's hallmark of consistency, diligence, doggedness, zeal, zest, vigour and forthrightness have made him outstanding with tangible proofs to show. In recognition of his sterling performance, Elder Obot has received many awards including; Overall Best Distributor-Lafarge Africa Plc, Award of Excellence, Nigeria Society of Engineers, Uyo, Business Integrity for Human Capital Development Award, Rotary Club of Uyo Capital City, Golden Honours Award-St. Luke's Hospital, Anua, Entrepreneurship Award-Mboho Mkparawa Ibibio, Humanitarian Award – Nigerian Red Cross Society, Ibesikpo Asutan Division, Visionary Change Maker Award, Rotary Club of Uyo Capital City, National Volume Champion and Customer / Transport Award - 2025 [HBM Nigeria Plc]

Also, in recognition of his Meritorious Service to Humanity and the Akwa Ibom State Polytechnic, Ikot Osurua, he was given a Fellowship Award by the institution in 2019. Seven years later, in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments, distinguished career and immense contribution to knowledge advancement, mentorship and national development, the Akwa Ibom State University (AKSU) awarded him a Doctorate Degree in Business Administration [D.B.A].

Presently, the President of Uyo Building Materials Association, a true patriot, a man who has benefitted from God's GRACES and that not lost on him has raised and mentored numerous successful business

persons in the State and beyond. Understanding that a man's gift makes way for him, Elder Obot has built and donated to the Apostolic Church, Nigeria, a 40-Bed Cottage Hospital in Ikot Akpabin to cater for the health needs of his people, and also graciously undertook the running costs of the hospital for the first five (5) years of its existence. At different times and places, Elder Obot has either wholly constructed or immensely contributed to the construction of worship centres both within The Apostolic Church, Nigeria and other churches too numerous to mention.

Before us, Mr. Chairman, is Elder Ubong Bassey Obot, Ph.D, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Ubotex Limited, the husband of Ekaette Obot, a devout Christian, a philanthropist, the helper of widows, and father to the fatherless, and builder of men in the mold of His Master and God for the conferment of the Award of Doctor of Humane Letters (D.H.L) *Honoris Causa*, as cheerfully approved by the Senate of the University of Uyo.



Citation of

PROF. (MRS.) COMFORT M. EKPO

BLS, Ed.; MEd. (Zaria); Ph.D. (Wales)
Professor of Educational Technology
Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Uyo

Prof. (Mrs.) Comfort M. Ekpo, a stellar pioneer in her very many fields of academic endeavour, was the sixth substantive Vice Chancellor, the first female head of the University of Uyo and the second female Vice Chancellor of a Federal University in Nigeria. She is a fellow, Nigeria Association of Educational Media and Technology (NAEMT), Fellow of the Institute of Management Consultants (FIMC), fellow Nigeria Academy of Education (NAE), former Director, Institute of Education and Professional Teacher Development Centre. Professor Comfort Ekpo attended several prestigious institutions in Nigeria and in the United Kingdom.

Prof. Comfort Ekpo was an alternate board member of the Association of African Universities (AAU) (West African Region), the first female to serve on that board. She has served the nation as Member of the Governing Council of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; Member of Council, University of Uyo, Member of the Interim Management Board, Akwa Ibom State Institute of Technology; Council member RITMAN University, Ikot Ekpene, Member, Commonwealth Scholarship Interview Panel, Member Akwa Ibom State Think Tank on Education, Chairman, Board of Governors, Redeemer International Schools among

others. Currently, she is the Chair, Board of Trustees, Women in Total Girl Development (WIT-Girl) and also the Director of Life-Long Development Academy (LDA).

Prof. Comfort Ekpo has served the education industry in various capacities as researcher, and editor of four professional journals, author of over 78 articles in national and international journal. She has been a team leader for National Universities Commission (NUC) in regulating accreditation and as a panel member for drawing up Basic Minimum Academic Standards (BMAS) in Education for Nigerian Universities. A member of the NUC Committee on the Nigerian Research and Education Network (NgREN); A member of the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) Committee on Internationalization of Admissions into Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria, a member of the Peace Monitors Group for JAMBs screening exercise. She has served as Resource Persons presenting Keynote papers at conferences, workshops, webinar and symposia across Nigeria and outside. She has been an examiner to two (2) Colleges of Education and seven (7) Universities in Nigeria. Her research interest is in Instructional Media Development and Resource Management for Continuous Professional Development of Teachers.

She has been an active participant in a number of collaborative and grants winning researches. As the Director, Institute of Education, she observed that the cause of the decay of the Nigerian education system was partly from the foundation. Graduates of primary schools were unable to read and write, the teachers were also not competently trained; parents and pupils were therefore frustrated. Professor Comfort pioneered the state wide research on alternative fast-track reading strategy, code named “Read and Write Now (RAWN)” using a synthetic phonics, the Jolly Phonics. This project which started in the University of Uyo in 2006 has been replicated nationwide and adopted for inclusion in the Universal Basic Education Curriculum (UBEC) for the entire country. Prof. Comfort Ekpo is also a certified trainer for Jolly Phonics; her Research Team anchors most of the teacher trainings for the project in Nigeria and other African countries that adopted the strategy. This significant professional role played by Prof. Comfort Ekpo made her research partners in United Kingdom (UK) to award her a title of “Ambassador of RAWN” in Nigeria.

Quite apart from academic achievements and laurels, Prof. Comfort Ekpo has a passion for mentoring a girl child and being involved in women empowerment initiatives. She was the pioneer coordinator of Women in Nigeria (WIN) activities in Akwa Ibom State, Virtuous Women Services Foundation; thereby sensitizing many women and men on women and children rights issues. Her works with women and youths

have earned her over 45 awards, honours and distinction. Her commitment to women's advancement is further reflected in her service as First Vice President of the University Women Association, University of Uyo, and as a member of the Blue Print Drafting Committee on the empowerment of Akwa Ibom women. She also edited "Women and Leadership," a publication of Virtuous Women Services Foundation, and has written and spoken extensively on positioning the girl child, women's leadership, gender equality, and women's participation in science and technology.

The administration of Prof. Comfort Ekpo brought University of Uyo into great prominence academically with the establishment of Quality Assurance Unit, Center for Gender Studies and Center for Research and Development Studies (CeRADS), many patents were recorded. The university during her tenure witnessed the movement of the Central Administration from the temporary site to the permanent campus after twenty-four (24) years of the establishment of the University; the positioning of Pharmacy programme for the first time to receive full accreditation both from National Universities Commission (NUC) and Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) and others.

Prof. Comfort Memfin Ekpo has several awards and honours in recognition of her high administrative sagacity, discipline, honesty, sincerity and dependability.

Prof. Comfort Ekpo did not only serve as an academia but she also served in the Vineyard of God as an Evangelist of the Gospel. She is a strong advocate of women empowerment and youth development, maintaining that these are some of the essentials for building a strong, united and prosperous nation. Through these efforts, she has consistently championed education as a means of empowering girls and women to lead, participate, and contribute to national development.

She has worked with women and children for the past 31years. In recognition of her contributions to the development of women and girl-children, specifically she has earned various distinguished/Awards of Excellence in women development.

Prof. Comfort Ekpo is married to Prof. Memfin Ekpo, a Medical Consultant and a Professor of Pathology. They are blessed with children. And today, I present her to be conferred with the Emeritus Professorship of the University of Uyo.



Citation of

PROFESSOR SAMUEL GBADEBO ODEWUMI,

EXPERT IN LOGISTICS STATISTICS, PLANNING AND POLICY,
ICT: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND CYBER SECURITY

Samuel Gbadebo Odewumi hails from Ogbomosho, Oyo State, South West Nigeria. For a real son of the soil, he made the most of his enlightened background and environment to earn his first degree – Bachelor of Transport Geography from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife in 1982. He then went on to bag a Post-graduate Diploma in Education to confirm him in the teaching profession from the University of Ibadan. Having decided on pursuing a career in academia, he left the traditional cities of Ogbomosho, Ill-Ife, and Ibadan for the metropolitan centre of Lagos where the University of Lagos opened its doors to the ambitious Odewumi for the acquisition of a Postgraduate Diploma in Surveying, Masters Degree in Environmental Resource, and Doctor of Philosophy in Transport Geography in quick succession.

Having obtained a PhD in 2004, he spent only a decade and one year to be crowned with the coveted position of Professor announced by the authorities of Lagos State University. This meritorious appointment was in recognition of his insightful publications including 30 journal

articles and 26 book chapters, in addition to his supervision, mentoring and evaluation of over 20 Ph.D theses, scores of Masters dissertations and hundreds of first degree research works. With pronounced expertise in logistics, statistics, planning and policy, ICT, artificial intelligence and cyber security, Professor Samuel Odewumi has visited renowned universities, institutes, and research centres in Nigeria and around the globe as a resource person, consultant, or examiner in Kigali, Rwanda, Harvard, USA, Stellenbosch, Cape Town South Africa, France, San Diego, USA, among others.

Professor Samuel Odewumi showed early signs as a manager of men, money and 'monuments' (MMM) in his chairmanship of Corona School, Agbara, Ogun State, Road Sector Development Committee of the Chartered Institute of Transport Administration, Implementation Committee of the Eko University of Medicine, etc.

As an astute practitioner of his profession, he has been a Lead Consultant to critical projects and programmes for Lagos and 6 Member at the Lagos State University such as the time table, field trip, conference organization and most sympathetically, the committee on Academic staff who had spent 10 years without a Ph.D. Most significantly, he served on the committee for the appointment of Emeritus Professor at the Lagos State University. Today, the tide has turned full circle for the same honour he facilitated for others to be bestowed on him at the University of Uyo.

Enmeshed in the hustle and bustle of Lagos, the Eko City brimming with people traffic and flow of resources, Professor Odewumi carries out consultancy services for the World Bank, National Universities Commission (NUC), UNESCO, NDDC, coordinating African centres of excellence for international partners such as the Volvo Research and International Foundation, Sweden and the Kuehne Foundation of Germany, thus proving the power of intellect over distance, colour and personalities in today's digital world.

Like the Bible character, Samuel, whose relevance lasted a lifetime and was consulted even in his grave by the fallen King Saul and others, this Professor of Logistics and celebrated native of Ogbomosho, the Solomon of the Odewumi dynasty, was appointed Acting Vice-

Chancellor of the University of Uyo by the Federal Government of Nigeria in December, 2025. That singular act afforded the University an opportunity to tap from his wealth of experience and wisdom. By the same token, what seemed to be missing from his long and studded curriculum vitae was providentially added even in retirement.
Remarkably, in the tradition of the 'Samuels' of this world, who are gifted with choosing leaders despite the motley of giants in the house of Jessie, he delivered for UNIUYO her 9th Vice Chancellor and despite the befuddling tussles made a way for the manifestation of the choice of God in Professor Christopher Nyong Ekong.

Prior to the expiration of his brief tenure, he had released unbelievably large sums of money hitherto thought to be 'non-existent' (to cover staff welfare matters) and so earned for himself the sobriquet of Paymaster among staff of the university. The monarch of Uyo could not allow this man go unheralded, but fetched him to his kingdom and palace for crowning with the title of Obong Mbufiok Uyo, meaning, the King of Knowledge in special recognition of his service at the University of Uyo.

Mr Vice Chancellor Sir, behold Professor Samuel Gbadebo Odewuni who has been found worthy of sterling honour and academic stardom for his service to the University system and humanity at large. Retired, but not tired of supporting and working for this great University even after completing his 'brief' but impactful tenure, I present to you Professor Samuel Gbadebo Odewumi, a man with the truest heart for service for conferment as an Emeritus Professor of the University of Uyo.