



LASU-INFO MAG

...Setting a new standard in information dissemination

A Publication of Centre for Information and Public Relations, Lagos State University



SPECIAL
EDITION

**I PLACE VALUE ON
CAPABILITIES; I WILL NEVER
RUN LASU ON SENTIMENTS
- PROF. OLATUNJI-BELLO**

**PROF. OLATUNJI-BELLO'S
TWO YEAR SCORECARD: THE
BUILDING BLOCKS OF WEST
AFRICA'S BEST UNIVERSITY**

**Meet LASU newest member
of management
- Prof Omobitan**

**We have significantly
Increased the university's
I.G.R
- Bursar, Mr Olayinka**

**Her model of leadership
is summed up in
transparency, integrity
- DVC, Admin, Prof. Boyo**

**She came prepared for the
Job - UL, Prof. Adebayo**

**Her welfare policies have
stimulated workers'
productivity
- Registrar Mr. Fanu**

**Tunde Akanni Writes On
"Olatunji-Bello as a human
Dynamo at work**

We are LASU, We are Great!



LASU Anthem

There's a citadel founded with great vision,
Where character and learning's the mission.
It's a fountain for all who thirst for knowledge
The human race so to fledge

Refrain:

Shine with your light, our great citadel,
In truth and service; in truth and service
Lagos State University
Blaze forth, shine for humanity
Together, lift high our banner ;
Joining hands, every thought to garner
In radiance, surmised in our gait
We are LASU and we are great!
We are LASU and we are great!

We are blessed with culture, art, tradition,
Displayed in the Eyo Masquerade
With compelling and great aquatic splendour,
For total life and learning.

Refrain:

Words & Music By OLUDAISI AINA DAVID. MAY, 2018
(REVISED 2021).

Vision of the Olatunji-Bello Administration

*To make LASU the Best University in West Africa
with the highest and finest level of academic
and research standard.*

Core Values

*Leadership, Diligence, Integrity,
Excellence and Capacity Building.*



Editorial

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

2ND ANNIVERSARY: VICE CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

My dear colleagues, world-class students, I am excited to welcome you to LASU INFO Magazine Special Edition, a publication wholly dedicated to celebrate our modest wins in the last two years of our administration.

The journey of the last two years has been one of the most remarkable for me and my team. It has been a journey of great expectations and hope, propelled by God and the support of every member of the LASU Community. I must acknowledge that we have encountered many challenges in the quest to achieve our shared vision of making LASU the best university in West Africa. But your support, commitment, and hard work have been instrumental in turning those challenges into our stepping stones.

Our modest gains would not have been possible if your hands had not been on deck. Today, we can look back and say with all sense of modesty that we have made progress; we have taken a step closer to where we want to be. And I am convinced beyond doubt that what my team and I have done is a reflection of your unwavering support.

So, I once again say THANK YOU for making the last two years an incredible one.

But I have a simple request:

As we begin the third lap, I like to remind you that we still have a long way to go in the quest to build a world-class university; a research and innovation hub. So, I once again covet your cooperation and commitment to this project. I ask that you not only support us but trust us, knowing that your welfare will always be our priority. By the grace of God, we shall not fail.

God bless you.

We are LASU, We are Great.



Chairman/Publisher

Prof. Ibiyemi Ibilola
Olatunji-Bello, mni, NPOM

Project Coordinator

Dr. Lateef Sekoni (DR,VCO)

Editor-in-Chief

Oluwayemisi
Thomas-Onashile

Editors

Olaniyi Jeariogbe
Oluwaseun Gbanja

Sub-Editors

Daud Gbadegesin
Pedetin Ogun

Correspondents

Opeyemi Dada
Rehanat Mogaji
Grace Marcu
Quadri Tiodunmos
Samuel Alagbe
Yetunde Abayomi-Jimoh
Folashade Ibidapo

Secretariat

Ayodele Adekunle
Karimot Alimi

Photographers

Kunle Adekoya
Olatunbosun Tijani
Akanbi Emmanuel

Graphics

Tokunbo Onafadeji
Seyi Durojaiye
Taiwo Salami
Isreal Abeng

Press Crew

Eruku Ebenezer
Kayode Adedapo
Abayomi Jimoh
Yayah Waliu
Pafenoh Monday

Visit our website: www.lasu.edu.ng

And follow us on social media

Facebook:

Lagos State University Info.official page

X (Twitter): @LASUOfficial

Instagram: @lasuofficialpage

Thread: @lasuofficialpage

All Correspondences to CIPR Office
@ 3rd Floor, Senate Building
Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos.

Prof. Olatunji-Bello's Two-Year SCORECARD

The Building Blocks of West Africa's Best University

On Friday, 17th September, 2021, the Governor of Lagos State and Visitor to Lagos State University, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwoolu, appointed Professor Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji-Bello, mni, NPOM, a professor of Physiology, as the second female and ninth substantive Vice Chancellor of the University for a single term of five years. The appointment followed a rigorous and painstaking appointment exercise that lasted nearly eight months. Professor Olatunji-Bello assumed leadership of the institution on Monday 20th September, 2021, with a clear vision to make Lagos State University not only the best in Nigeria, but the very best in the West African sub-region; an ambitious task which she relied on her vast administrative experience, expansive network and the support of all stakeholders to achieve. She also laid out six strategic goals as fulcrum for this vision. They are:

- ✓ To ensure that Academic and Professional Programmes are and remain accredited by the relevant bodies;
- ✓ To make the University a research, innovation and development hub for Lagos State and National development;
- ✓ To ensure that infrastructural facilities are improved and readily available for seamless performance of Administrative and academic duties;
- ✓ To improve Internal Generation of Revenue with the aim of achieving financial sustainability of the university;
- ✓ To promote the welfare of all Staff and Students in the University;
- ✓ To promote participation in Sports and Recreational Activities.



As her administration clocks two years in office in September, 2023, the modest achievements that have been recorded under her leadership are strong evidences to suggest that Lagos State University is on course to fulfil that vision of becoming the best university in West Africa.

The following are highlights of the achievements recorded in the last two years under her administration using the six strategic goals:

GOAL 1: ACCREDITATION OF ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMMES BY RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL BODIES

- Within the first three months of her Administration, the National Universities



Commission (NUC) and relevant Professional Bodies conducted an accreditation exercise on 37 Programmes. When the results were released, 31 of the 37 programmes received full accreditation, translating to 96% full accreditation of programmes, an unprecedented pass rate for any sitting Vice Chancellor in Nigeria, in the first year in office. All Professional Programmes also received full accreditation translating to a 100% success rate, in the same exercise.

- At its inception, the administration, in a bid



to expand existing undergraduate academic programmes and to provide more opportunities for admission seekers in the University, proposed the establishment of three new faculties and one school, including:

- Faculty of Allied Health Sciences;
- Faculty of Pharmacy;
- Faculty of Environmental Sciences
- School of Library, Archival and Information Sciences

which is the first in West Africa and Second in Africa.

✓ Within one year in office, the administration secured the approval of the Governing Council and Senate for the establishment of the Faculties and School and subsequently submitted eighteen new programmes domiciled in the faculties and School for Resource Verification by the National Universities Commission.

✓ In April, 2023, the NUC conducted a resource Verification Exercise of the 20 new programmes including:

1. B.Sc. Architecture
2. B.Sc. Building
3. B.Sc. Estate Management
4. B.Sc. Environmental Management
5. B.Sc. Industrial Design
6. B.Sc. Survey and Geo-Informatics
7. B.Sc. Quantity Surveying
8. B.Sc. Urban and Regional Planning
9. B.A. Fine Arts
10. B.LIS. Library and Information Science
11. B.Ed. Special Education
12. B.Eng. Industrial Engineering & Production
13. Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D)
14. Doctor of Physiotherapy (DPT)
15. B. Radiography and Radiation Science
16. BMLS. Medical Laboratory Science
17. B.A. Linguistics
18. B.Eng. Civil Engineering
19. B.Sc. Science Laboratory Technology and
20. B.Sc. Taxation

✓ By July, 2023, all the 20 new courses were cleared by the NUC for admission. The University has commenced the admission of new students into the new courses in the 2023/2024 academic session admission exercise.

✓ In similar vein, the Administration secured approval to mount Nine (9) additional courses for the Africa Centre of Excellence for Innovative and Transformative STEM Education (ACEITSE) under B.Sc Degree Programme viz

- B.Sc (Ed) Educational Management;
- B.Sc (Ed) Computer Science Education;
- B.Ed (Business Education);
- B.A. (Ed) English Education;
- Mass Communication;
- Transport and Logistics;
- B.Sc History and International Relations;
- B.Sc Music; and
- B.Sc Nursing.

- The Africa Centre of Excellence for Innovative and Transformative STEM Education (ACEITSE) also recorded a 100% graduation of Ph.D students in record time (3 years) in the first year of the administration.
- Within the same period, the administration revamped the LASU Foundation JUPEB programme and expanded its scope to offer more academic services. Against that background, the University Senate approved the renaming of the programme LASU School of Basic and Advanced Studies (LASUSBAS) even as the University continues to expand her facilities and manpower to sustain the development.
- In a bid to encourage healthy competition among our it's students, the Vice Chancellor instituted a scholarship policy to give 50% rebate on tuition fee to all students on CGPA of 4.5 and above. The policy has continued to be implemented by the administration.
- The Sandwich Degree Programme is also growing in leaps with the University signing partnership agreements with several top institutions in Nigeria to expand the programmes across several states of the nation.
- In the two Convocation Ceremonies held so far under the Olatunji-Bello administration, the University has recorded the highest number of first-class graduates in her history back-to-back. During the 25th and 26th Convocation



Prof. Olatunji-Bello displays accreditation report

Ceremonies, the University graduated 112 and 282 first class graduands, respectively.

- Also, during the two Convocation Ceremonies supervised by Prof. Olatunji-Bello, the University produced her Best Graduating Students with the highest ever CGPA back-to-back. In the 25th Convocation Ceremonies, Benjamin Olowu of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering graduated with a record CGPA of 4.97 while in the 26th Convocation Ceremonies, YUSUF Aminat Imoitesemeh, from the Faculty of Law, graduated with a perfect CGPA of 5.0, which underscores the conducive and competitive academic environment that has been fostered under the administration of Prof. Olatunji-Bello.
- Her administration in two years has conducted two Convocation Ceremonies- the 25th (for 2020/2021 academic session) and 26th (for 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 academic sessions). The administration has also conducted nine (10) inaugural lectures, public lecture, distinguished alumni lecture amongst others within the period to strengthen academic culture.
- **COLLABORATIONS: The administration** maintained and secured collaborations with top Institutions within and outside Nigeria, including Cornell University, USA; Delta State University, Nigeria; Gombe State University, Nigeria; Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science, India; the Nigerian Navy School of Music, Sango-Otta, Ogun State, Nigeria and the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), Lagos State, Nigeria.

GOAL 2: TO MAKE THE UNIVERSITY A RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT HUB FOR LAGOS STATE AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- The Administration took great strides to achieve this goal by encouraging Academic Staff members to pursue researches in their fields of specialization with a view to making the outcomes of such researches available to the Industries and Governments for national economic growth. The Administration has also been making efforts to make research and innovation culture, skills and management a priority by providing modern facilities and state of the art research equipment in specialised research centres for cutting edge scientific and technological researches. In the pursuit of this strategic goal and as a result of the efforts of the VC, the following have been achieved:
 - ✓ Through the University Senate, the administration instituted a Five Million Naira (N5m) Research Grant for academic staff in the University;
 - ✓ Two Research Teams in the University won TETFund 2020 National Research Fund (NRF) Grant to the tune



Dr. Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN was the Keynote Address Speaker at the 5th LASU Research and Innovation Fair

- of Sixty-Six Million, Eight Hundred Thousand Naira (N66,800,000.00);
- ✓ Three senior academic staff members of the University won a cumulative research grant in the sum of Nine Million Naira (N9m) awarded by the Lagos State Science and Research Innovation Council (LASRIC);
- ✓ Two researchers from the University won the sum of Five Million Naira (N5m) LASRIC Sargassum research grant
- ✓ The LASU Centre of Excellence for Sargassum Research emerged the overall winner in the tertiary institutions category of the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology and Innovation Expo in Abuja in January, this year; 2023
- ✓ The University successfully organized two Research & Innovation Fairs, the 4th and 5th in the series.
- ✓ The administration also facilitated the commencement of construction of Technology Hub for staff and students of the University by the Lagos State Government
- **ICT Development:** As a 21st Century University driven by vision to become the best University in West Africa, the administration has made massive investment in technological infrastructural development in the last two years. These investments are already yielding results as follows:
 - ✓ Majority of the general courses in the University are now done in hybrid mode, thereby expanding learning opportunities for knowledge seekers through the Open and Distance Learning and Research Institute.
 - ✓ Practically all processes and procedures in LASU are now digitalized to reduce human contact to the barest minimum. Processes



from the point of admission screening to the point of certificate collection upon graduation, are fully digitalized for all programmes in the University.

- ✓ Her administration's drive for digitalization also received a major boost as LASU secured the intervention of the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy for the deployment of broadband connectivity throughout the main campus to strengthen teaching and learning, as well as research efforts in the University.
- ✓ Her administration also upgraded the campus radio – the LASURadio 95.7fm for improved performance with the purchase of new transmitters and other equipment.

GOAL 3: TO ENSURE THAT INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES ARE IMPROVED AND READILY AVAILABLE FOR SEAMLESS PERFORMANCE OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND ACADEMIC DUTIES

➤ The Administration has also recorded modest achievements in the area of infrastructural development with massive investment in infrastructural facilities of the University. Currently, there are about 40 projects (inherited and newly commenced) being funded by the Federal or State Governments, private individuals and via Internally Generated Revenue.

\Some of the projects embarked upon under the Olatunji-Bello administration include:

- ✓ The construction of 8,000 bed space hostel by the Lagos State Government;
- ✓ Completion and handover of three blocks of LAGOS HOMS flats by the Lagos State Government to serve as staff quarters;
- ✓ Construction and completion of 800-seat Lecture Hall sponsored by Rt. Honourable Femi Gbajabamila, Former Speaker of the House of Representative and current Chief of Staff to the president;
- ✓ University-funded construction of a twin cafeteria for students of the LASU School of Basic and Advanced Studies (LASUSBAS) in Badagry, Lagos;
- ✓ Construction and furnishing a one-storey staff club



building for staff of the university;

- ✓ Construction of a Centre for Lagos Studies building by HRM, Oba Saheed Elegushi;
- ✓ Completion of Students' Arcade, one of the largest in West Africa by Lagos State Government;
- ✓ Completion of LASU Technology Hub;
- ✓ Completion of LASU International School;
- ✓ Construction of LASU Gate House;
- ✓ Construction of toilet facilities across Ojo and Epe Campuses;
- ✓ Completion of School of Communication TETfund Building in Ojo;
- ✓ Completion of School of Arts TETfund Building in Ojo;
- ✓ Completion of LASU Innovation Centre in Ojo;
- ✓ Construction of 2nos. Skill Acquisition Workshop in Ojo;
- ✓ Construction of LASU Boundary Fence in Ojo and Epe Campuses;
- ✓ Renovation of LASU Central Store in Ojo Campus;
- ✓ Construction of 2 Nos. Dining Hall in LASU JUPEB Badagry Campus;
- ✓ Construction of LASU Central Store in Epe;
- ✓ Construction of LASU Iraye Gate in Epe;
- ✓ LASU Bakery in Ojo Campus; and
- ✓ Installation of CCTV Cameras in strategic locations on the main and Badagry campuses, amongst others.
- The security of lives and property is not negotiable and has been identified as germane to the Administration's success. Consequently, the Administration embarked on the following projects to enhance security of lives and property in the various Campuses of the University:
 - ✓ strengthened the Security Committee for enhanced performance;
 - ✓ revamped the Security apparatus of the University with the appointment of a new Chief Security Officer, capacity development, logistics enhancement and engagement of the service of a private security outfit to boost logistic requirements;
 - ✓ procured and commissioned equipment and tools such as motorbikes, body scanners, amongst others towards effective enhancement of security on campuses;
 - ✓ approved the training of operatives on Fire Fighting and Civility/Social Behaviour for effective discharge of Security duties.

BABATUNDE RAJI FASHOLA SENATE BUILDING



When the University Management parleyed with heads of Police, DSS Divisions to enhance security of staff and students

GOAL 4: TO IMPROVE INTERNAL GENERATION OF REVENUE WITH THE AIM OF ACHIEVING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF THE UNIVERSITY

Determined to enhance the financial capability of the University, to enable it effectively carry out its mandates of teaching, research and Community service, the Professor OLATUNJI-BELLO's led Administration promptly took decisive steps to improve the Internally Generated Revenue by:

- ✓ resuscitating and standardizing of the Part-Time Degree Programmes as well as reinvigoration of the Open and Distant Learning and Research Institute (ODLRI);
- ✓ repositioning the LASU Consult and LASU Ventures for optimal and effective performances to improve the Internally Generated Revenue of the University;
- ✓ created opportunities for yet-to-graduate Part-Time Students from the closed external Campuses to write mop-up examinations and get cleared for graduation after satisfying necessary conditions;
- ✓ automating all processes of the University to avoid leakages and improve revenue collection; and
- ✓ commenced new academic programmes and established new frontiers of knowledge.

GOAL 5: TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF ALL STAFF AND STUDENTS IN THE UNIVERSITY

- The administration of Professor Ibiyemi OLATUNJI-BELLO has from Day 1 made the welfare of staff and students a priority. Driven by the passion to motivate and reward members of staff for optimal performance, the administration has:
 - ✓ created enabling environment for our Staff and Students of the University to win grants and scholarships worth thousands of dollars;
 - ✓ refurbished and furnished several Lecturer offices including provision of air-conditioners and standing fans where necessary;
 - ✓ created job opportunities and employed qualified people to boost personnel strength
 - ✓ ensured the promotion of staff as and when due without compromising qualities is hallmark to prevalent industrial harmony in the University and it entrenches commitment as well as loyalty to institutional development. The Administration restored the confidence of Staff in the system leading to stability and

unhindered academic activities in the University;

- ✓ facilitated the payment of all outstanding allowances and benefits which had hitherto resulted into agitations and restiveness. The differential adjustments in staff salaries, the Earned Allowances which had been outstanding for over ten (10) years, arrears on promotion of Staff were among the outstanding payments made;
- ✓ sponsored an unprecedented number of staff members on local and international trainings and conferences towards building their capacity for improved service delivery;
- ✓ organized in-house trainings for members of the University Management, other functionaries of the University and some categories of Staff members;
- ✓ has ensured consistent and prompt payment of salaries on or before 23rd of each month;
- ✓ introduced free medical check-up for every staff on their birthdays;
- ✓ activated the Lagos State Health Scheme in the University;
- ✓ ensured prompt payment of 30% of basic salary as end of year 2021 bonus; amongst others;
- ✓ ensured payment of all outstanding monthly check-off dues to Cooperative Societies in the University to enable them operate optimally; and
- ✓ obtained approval for Y2022 budget with increased subvention.

To promote the welfare of students, the Administration, amongst other things, embarked on the following:

- ✓ facilitated the completion, furnishing and inauguration of the Students' Union Arcade which, to date, is the largest in the continent.
- ✓ facilitated the donation of two (2) transit buses for the Students Union by the Lagos State Government; and
- ✓ facilitated the donations of buildings, vehicles, equipment and books by private individuals and organizations.

GOAL 6: TO PROMOTE PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Administration of Professor OLATUNJI-BELLO, *mni*, NPOM is being consistently applauded by Staff and Students of the University as a resounding blessing to sporting activities in the University. The Administration has raised the bar on provision of supports for sporting activities. Its efforts in this regard includes:

- ✓ Winning a bronze medal for Nigeria at the

Commonwealth Games held at Birmingham, England by a LASU student, Adebukola YUSUF;

- ✓ securing joint hosting rights of All-Africa University Games for 2024 with the University of Lagos;
- ✓ LASU teams also excelling in the last one year. Team LASU contingent of twelve (12) as the two Universities from Nigeria participated with sixty-seven (67) other African Universities at the 10th all Africa University Games (FASU) at Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya between 4th and 10th June, 2022. LASU won 1 Gold, 4 Silver and 5 Bronze medals; and
- ✓ the Sports Centre also experienced improvements in the area of sporting facilities and other structures which include:
 - i. six (6) Olympic size Courts for Handball, Basketball and Tennis.
 - ii. spacious Changing Rooms for both male and female athletes; and
 - iii. a new block of prototypes toilets for students and visitors with ten (10) Rooms each for male and female.

Other Notable Achievements

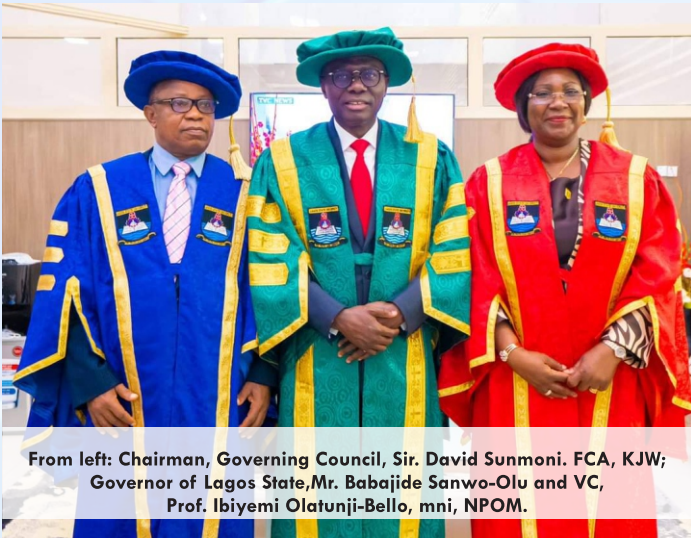
- ✓ LASU was ranked by University in West Africa by the U.I Greenmetrics Global Ranking making it the most eco-friendly university in the sub-region✓ T h e Administration facilitated the expansion of the Directorate System in the Registry and seeing to the creation of five (5) new Directorates
- ✓ The Administration established the Centre for Response and Prevention of Gender-Based Violence to institutionalize the Vice Chancellor's zero-tolerance policy for Sexual and Gender-based Violence.

Continues on pg. 32



VC with the Victorious Team LASU

PHOTO GALLERY



From left: Chairman, Governing Council, Sir. David Sunmoni. FCA, KJW; Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu and VC, Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, mni, NPOM.



From Left: VC, Prof. Olatunji-Bello, mni, NPOM; First Lady, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Senator Oluremi Tinubu and DVC, Admin, Prof. Adenike Boyo.



The VC joins the Consul-General of Brazil, H.E, Ambassador Francisco Soare Luz and other dignitaries at the 2021 LASUCAS Lecture



Inspection visit to the LASU Business School, Lagos Island, under construction



When Sir. Goodie Ibru delivered the Distinguished Personality Lecture Series of the University



Prof. Olatunji-Bello flanked by the First Lady of Lagos State, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu and wife of the Deputy Governor, Mrs. Oluremi Hamzat



Members of the Momentous of Men and Women in Lagos State Tertiary Institutions for Good Governance (MOWLAS and MOMLAS) at the inauguration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for a second term.



Members of the University Management cutting the first anniversary cake in 2022.



The Vice Chancellor, Professor Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, mni, NPOM, clocked two years in office on 20th September 2023. She spoke with the LASU-INFOR Magazine on her experiences in the last two years, and how she is providing the leadership that would make LASU the best in the country.

It's been two years since your appointment as VC, Congratulations Ma. What has the Journey been like?

So far, to the glory of God, it has been very worthwhile. It has been a journey filled with exciting discoveries and challenges, and by the grace of God, we have been able to overcome most of the challenges. To the glory of God and the cooperation of other members of management and our very reliable members of staff, we have been able to achieve all we have achieved even though we are just two years in office. In all, I thank God.

When you were announced as VC, some people were wondering how you as a woman would be able to thrive in a difficult terrain like LASU. However, you have been able to deflate and even win some skeptics to your side. How have you managed to do all of these?

Well, I don't think there were any doubts about my ability to and if there were, I didn't see them. Maybe what we had were people who were afraid of my

"I PLACE VALUE ON CAPABILITIES AND I WILL NEVER RUN THE UNIVERSITY BASED ON SENTIMENTS" - Prof. Ibiyemi Ibilola OLATUNJI-BELLO, mni, NPOM

becoming the Vice Chancellor. There had never been doubts about my competence because I was the Deputy Vice Chancellor and the Acting Vice Chancellor of this university at some points, and despite the crisis that the university faced at the time, I was able to hold my own. I don't think anyone would have gone through what I went through during the "Hussain Most-Go" era and come out unscathed. I was able to douse the tension in the University at the time and made all the staff and students comfortable.

Also, during the process of my appointment, I know that I did very well. So, it's not about competence, it's just about some fears in some quarters. However, God has been faithful. We have been able to do a lot because I came with experience and a clear vision of what I wanted for the University.

I came with that vision to work and to make LASU better than anyone would leave it, and my plans were very obvious to everybody. During the applications, people brought different ideas to me but I stuck to my vision. I knew what I wanted for LASU and I refused to change it because my vision was the best. I refused to copy anyone's vision but rather stuck with mine. I took time to develop my vision alongside a group of people to produce the document. So, I have worked with a great team and carried everyone along in my vision for the university.

You have been VC for two years. What are the fundamental changes that you have brought to bear in the university?

By the grace of God and the help of my lieutenants, we have done quite a lot. So, the glory goes to God and to the people who have worked with me and are very committed to the course and vision. That includes everybody who is in LASU. They have caught the vision and they're running it with me. One of the things we have done was to revolutionize the LASU Ventures; before now, it was as if people did not know what to do with the LASU Ventures and LASU Consult. I remember it was the former VC, the

late Professor Hussein, and myself who conceived the idea for both and I followed it up with the registration of both companies, Consult and Ventures.

The vision was there but some people just could not see it now that we are there, we had to reinvigorate it. We have the printing press that was not bringing in a lot of money then but now it does and we also have the bakery, both of which are under the LASU Ventures. A lot of people took things like this for granted but now they know they have to pay for their services for us to increase our IGR. For the Consult, there are so many diploma courses now that have fostered several collaborations for us both locally and internationally. The consultancy service is also top-notch there.

Apart from that, we have also prioritized the welfare of our staff to make them feel truly valued by giving them a sense of belonging. One of the first things I did was to make sure that our staff got a befitting Staff Club, a beautiful storey building, which we opened during my first anniversary. We also heard the yearnings of the students about the lack of conducive convenience facilities. We built blocks of toilets/conveniences across our campuses for our students and we are building more. We plan to bring two or more sets again before the end of the year.

Another major area of intervention is our Foundation programme at Topo, Badagry. We revamped the programme and changed the name from LASU JUPEB Programme to LASU School of Basic and Advanced Studies (LASUSBAS). If you find yourself visiting the campus now, you will discover that the place is entirely new. We are now on the verge of equipping the CBT Centre that we have built there for 150 students. The plan is to increase it to 250. It is cost-intensive, but hopefully, before the end of my tenure, we should be able to achieve that. And then, because of the students and staff, we have built and opened two restaurants there for them. This is run by our Ventures.

We are also turning around the



situation at our Epe Campus. If you go to the Campus now, you will see a remarkable difference compared to what we used to have. We have built a proper gatehouse that we can be proud of on the Iraye side of the Campus, and we are going to build the other gate very soon because there must be two; there must be entry and exit in every University Campus. Also, all the hostels there are being revamped and work is still ongoing. The Staff Club, the visiting transit lodge, the staff quarters, and the storehouse have all been revamped. We built another set of conveniences of 20 units each at a point and that is just for last year. This year, we have built a befitting facility for the Faculty of Environmental Sciences in Epe, which is housing some studios as well as the Faculty and Departmental offices. Still on the Epe Campus, we now have the boundary fence and that is a big achievement for us. With that, we have been able to secure our land on the Campus. And then, we have created new programmes at the campus, that is, our academic programme that recently got the approval of NUC.

Thank you very much ma and well done. Madam VC, you often refer to LASU Students as being "world-class students", What is the rationale behind this?

Well, when I say world-class, I am saying that we know our onions, we know what we produce; our products can stand shoulder to shoulder with those of any university in the world. We earn international standards; they are well taught; all around. At LASU, we don't just have academics, we have sports development and entrepreneurship; any area of endeavour. Yes, they are always ready and can compete internationally, that's why I call them world-class students.

The cooperation of the staff is germane to achieving all your stated goals. What roles have the LASU staff workers been playing in helping to achieve all that you have achieved in the last two years?

Oh, I said it earlier and I am going to repeat it: All our Staff at LASU have been very cooperative in the last two years. They have given me a very comfortable and peaceful environment to thrive in as their leader. All the Unions too have been very cooperative. So, no matter what others may be seeing outside, we have peace and it's not the peace of the graveyard; real peace. I mean, everyone goes above and beyond to deliver and they are happy. I feel good when I am on the move and see joy on the faces of the majority of people. To me, that means I am getting things right and it gives me joy. But imagine if the majority is frowning; that means something is wrong. I am grateful for the smiles.



Your administration enjoys a cordial relationship with major stakeholders in the university like regulatory bodies, staff, students unions, and even host communities. What is the secret?

Well, that has to do with my interpersonal relations. I believe it's important to be nice to everyone, be fair in dealing with them, open and transparent.

What are the biggest challenges you have had to face as a VC in the last two years?

Hmmm...Of course, there are challenges, several of them. One of my major challenges is to make sure that everybody gets their salary before the 23rd of each month. That's a challenge because the subvention is not enough so we have to look for

money. We add over N150 million every month to the monthly subvention just to pay salaries; that's the reason our Ventures and Consults need to generate IGR.

We also have to pay utility bills monthly. Paying utility bills is a huge challenge. We purchase diesel at huge costs. When I came in, we were paying N480 per litre of diesel, but now it's about N807 per litre. 10,000 liters of diesel is about N8 million which I have to pay for every month for the comfort of my staff and students in LASU. Our major challenge is funding.

Another challenge we have dealt with is keeping the peace in LASU to ensure a smooth academic calendar. Also, we have to ensure that the welfare of our staff and students is attended to despite the harsh economic realities. We must keep them happy. That is a challenge and I have to do it every day. The work itself is challenging, but I thank God.

Still in line with the challenges faced, Ma, we see you every day, you keep moving, wearing your beautiful smile, and cheering others. What keeps you going?

It's God. We thank God for being God.

What would you want your administration to be remembered for?

At the time I was writing my vision to create four additional faculties, it all seemed almost impossible; to be honest, I felt the vision was too high. So, I said if all I could do was get one of the faculties started, then, that would be something; and within two years I was able to get all four faculties approved. Soon, we will also be establishing the School of Optometry and the School of Computing. I'm still very positive that LASU will be the best in West Africa and with my vision, I believe we will get there very soon.

The vision to make LASU the best in West Africa, how is it panning out? Are you on course to achieve this Vision?

Oh yes, we are definitely on course. We improve every day and every time the ranking comes out, I say to myself, we are going to get there. My vision will get us there and that keeps us on. I chose to see positivity

where we fail and choose to work and improve every day. Besides, we still have three years ahead of us so we will surely get there.

You are a mother, an academic scholar, and also a lover of God, in fact, a Pastor. You have been doing all these together. How have you been able to put all these together and still find time to unwind?

It's been God all the way. Oh yes, I unwind when the need arises; I do it well and still try to manage all other areas well.

In all, how have you been able to manage everyone, the Staff, the Students, the Unions?

Well, It's all about understanding everyone and listening to them, and once you have listened to their plight and you can't do their bidding immediately, at least you calm them down. You put hope in them and all these boil down to how you talk to them. Your method of approach is very important. Make them know you feel their pains. Of course, Some people try to abuse the open-door policy, but then, that is why you are a leader; you should know when to draw the line and also when to cut someone off. Basically, even though I am a pastor, I have learnt to work with everyone, I am not a religious bigot, I place value on capabilities and I will never run the university based on sentiments.

Thank you very much.

"I came with the vision to work and make LASU better than I met it, and my plans were very obvious to everybody"



Prof. Olatunji-Bello flanked by Lagos State First Lady, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu and her husband, Mr. Tunji Bello when she won the AANI Award.



The VC on her first anniversary in office



Prof. Olatunji-Bello returning all glory to the Almighty God.

OLATUNJI-BELLO AS HUMAN DYNAMO AT WORK

by Tunde Akanni, PhD



For anyone who knows her well, the truth is that you can hardly afford to look elsewhere when Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, professor of physiology and Vice-Chancellor of the Lagos State University is within the same social or official space with you. She is as energetic as delectable. Sampler: Duty beckoned recently and my dutiful VC had to go to England for a programme that involved some other Nigerian VC's including University of Lagos' Prof Ogunshola and Federal University of Akure's Professor Oladiji ([OLADIJI AS THE FRESH FERVOUR FOR FUTA | The Nation Newspaper](#) ([thenationonlineng.net](#))).

What, however, has turned out to be earning the utmost mileage, till date, deriving from the London programme is a photograph of the three female academic icons. The image has remained the reference for prayer points on Facebook and several homes. You don't have to be a stakeholder in any of the three institutions to get glued to the photograph either for the reason of the aesthetics of the poise of the characters or for inspiration for some of us who have ambitious daughters.

Indomitable Ibiyemi was,

sometime in March 2023, again in Abuja at the instance of the then Ministry of Communication Technology and Digital Culture to formally take delivery of facilities for broadband internet for select universities in Nigeria. She was prompt and yet related with panache with her fellow VCs and others. The compere of the event and Head of Online Media for Nigeria Communication Commission, NCC, Dr Omoniyi Ibiyetan could not hold back her admiration for "the faithful and respectable VC. I'm sure she is doing well for your institution", he later mentioned to me in some exchange

VC Olatunji-Bello's accomplishments have taken LASU to great heights in what may be reckoned as the trendiest version and one fully supportive of the proclaimed preference of the owner-government. Prior to Olatunji-Bello's assumption of office, the Lagos State Government had announced that it was resorting to e-governance for a lot of transactions that citizens might want to do with it thus relieving citizens of avoidable travels and troubles of preponderant louts. Olatunji-Bello took charge in LASU and made conscious efforts to ensure LASU became the model LASG needed to properly run its e-governance system. How?

Even as she may be susceptible to the comfort of her towering duty post, VC Olatunji-Bello never leaves anyone in doubt about her dynamic disposition to both domestic and official matters which, incidentally attract a lot of benefits to the LASU she loves. Promptly, she inspired optimal functionality for Nigeria's first ever university online safety application called LASU Monitor. Globally

available online on Google Playstore, the app, once downloaded and activated, helps distressed device owners to alert LASU DICT centre to detect location and other details for possible rescue of the concerned. According to the Director of LASU DICT, effervescent Prof Enikuomelin, the motherly VC as a perfectionist inspired additional reporting tools for the app as, according to him, "VC is keen on making LASU West Africa's best university with zero record of tragedy of any form, let alone kidnapping plaguing the nation at the time of her assumption of office."

In what seemed like breathing life into the maxim that the ICT world is one endowed with infinite possibilities, there's no stopping the motherly VC's ingenious deployment of IT. Under her, the university went ahead to digitalize virtually all key operations and processes such that students may not have physical interaction with any officer from the point of admission to graduation. According to the information unit of the VC's office, "LASU, in an unprecedented stride in Nigeria, has upgraded its certificate to one embedded with an instant Verification Feature, with which individuals and organisations can verify the authenticity of a LASU certificate immediately, from anywhere in the world.

"In addition, we have also undertaken the installation of plagiarism detector in the University; installation of Remote Lecture room, lecture recording studios and smart classroom in the Postgraduate Schools; installation of thesis repository management centre in the Postgraduate School; commencement of automation of issuance of matriculation number in the Postgraduate School; commencement of online clearance and result uploading portal in the



Postgraduate School; introduction of digital forensic training with participants from multinationals and other sectors; introduction of a course in cyber policing; introduction of LASU Senate decision extracts management system; introduction of e-Senate and Senate file management with access for all members; automation of all diploma programmes with result portal in the University; digitalization of all University's records from 1985 – 2015". So much in the realm of ICT, you would probably say.

Alongside this level of digitech surefootedness has been physical development across all the campuses of the Great LASU. The main campus at Ojo is literally one vast construction site now even as this Olatunji-Bello administration is ensuring even distribution of the new facilities. Although Madam VC is of LASUCOM, beneficiaries range from the pioneering Arts Faculty to others, including Communication and Media Studies Faculty now ensconced in a new block befitting its planned commemoration of two decades of inception September 2023. For Olatunji-Bello however, the physical development of the campuses has been such a guided one smacking of environmental impact assessment as advocated by environmentalists. No wonder, LASU deservedly bagged the 2022 edition of Best Green/Environmentally Friendly University, not only in Nigeria but the entire West Africa. The parameters for the award according to the promoters included Setting and Infrastructure; Energy and Climate Change; Transportation and Education.

Such are the overlapping phases of development that LASU has emerged the toast of the chief executives of educational agencies of the Federal Government of Nigeria. After series of commendation from Tertiary Education Trust Fund, TETFund, for instance, as recently as June 2023, the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission, NUC, Prof Abdul Rasheed, offered to come and commission the new TETFund supported building of FCMS. The NUC boss was unsparing in his celebration of the efforts of LASU's

Amazon that has transformed to a Dynamo on account of her relentlessness and matching achievements. Earlier, the nation's integrity icon in the public service who is the registrar and chief executive of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board, JAMB, Prof Is-haq Oloyede, had paid VC Olatunji-Bello a courtesy call. On that occasion Oloyede commended the LASU leader on her commitment to development especially with her trajectory as a former Deputy Vice-Chancellor. No LASUITE, staff or student, however could forget Prof Olatunji-Bello's inimitable records as the Director of the Lagos State University's Directorate of Advancement, LASUDA. It is therefore not for nothing that the VC's averted expectation of a continually supportive LASUDA occasioned by the sudden death of its immediate past director, Prof Yinka Okubena, registered most impactfully on all. Beyond technological and physical developments is the primacy of psychological wellness of LASUITES even as the university unmistakably



subscribes to global values and best practices. The university today has well-resourced counselling centres on all the campuses complemented by well-orchestrated campaign against Gender Based Violence, GBV. Most commendably too, LASU's Centre for the Actualisation of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, LASU-SDG, is also in the forefront of the advocacy for Agenda 2030 component of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, SDG. Indeed, the Centre has just concluded a well-

FROM THE NEWS

WOMEN'S DAY: GOV. SANWO-OLU WRITES PROF. OLATUNJI-BELLO, CONGRATULATES HER ON BEING NAMED AMONG EKO 100 WOMEN

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji-Bello, mni, has been selected by the Lagos State Government among the top 100 women in Lagos State tagged EKO 100 WOMEN, in commemoration of the 2022 International Women's Day Celebration. Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, in a personally signed letter, celebrated the Professor of Physiology for her "unending commitment to a more equal and equitable world."

The letter states, in part: "It is heartwarming to see the progress being made in our state and our country, one glass ceiling at a time. But we would be the first to acknowledge that more can be done and faster too. That we are the acclaimed Centre of Excellence is due to the accomplishments of audacious and visionary people like you. Thank you for your unforgettable contributions towards building the Greater Lagos of our dreams."

"On this day and always, Lagos State celebrates you. We salute your boundary-breaking exploits and your bold and visible presence in the spaces and places that matter. We also honour the work you do to expand these spaces for more people, especially women, and girls."

"On behalf of the Lagos State Government, I am pledging our total and unequivocal support for every effort to achieve a Lagos where all women and girls can live their lives to the fullest and achieve their potential without limits."

Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello has also recently bagged several awards, including being named as one of ThisdayNewspaper's Top 50 Women of Ultimate Distinction in Nigeria and, the Feminine Award for Most Outstanding Woman in Tertiary Education, amongst others.



Profile of
Prof. Olufunsho
ABAYOMI OMOBITAN

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academics)

Prof. Olufunsho Omobitan was elected Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academics by the Senate of Lagos State University on Monday, 30th January 2023 for a 2 year tenure.

He was born on 5th, July 1956 at Ikorodu, Lagos State, Nigeria. He obtained his Master of Science in Economics and Ph.D in Economics (Development Economics and Public Sector Economics) from University of Vienna, Austria in 1984 and 1987 respectively.

He joined Lagos State University as Lecturer II in 1989 and rose through the ranks to the position of an Associate Professor in 2012 and a Professor of Economics in 2015.

He was appointed the Director Master of Business Administration (MBA) Programme, Lagos State University from 1998 to 2005. In October 2021, he was appointed as a member of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TetFund) National Research Fund Screening and Monitoring Committee (NRFS & MC). The Professor of Economics was appointed as member, Procurement Planning Committee for Lagos State University in February 2022, member, Lagos State University Ventures Board in August 2022 and member, Search Committee for Appointment of Lagos State Government Endowed Professorial Chair Transport, Lagos State University in September 2022.

Prof. Olufunsho *Omobitan* has authored and co-authored Nine (9) books and more than thirty (30) Journal articles.

He is a member of the Nigerian Economic Society, Fellow, Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (FNIPR) (Honorary) and Member, Researcher and Publication Committee of the Chartered Institute of Bankers in Nigeria.

Prof. Omobitan has won several awards and grants among them are; TETFUND 2020 National Research Fund Grant for Project Titled: Emerging Patterns and Determination of Rape: Comparative Study of Rural – Urban Communities in Nigeria; Afro – Asian Institute in Vienna, Austria Scholarship; Austrian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Scholarship; and Lagos State Bursary Award 1979 – 1983.

The Professor of economics has attended several conferences, workshops, exhibitions, technical meetings in different states in Nigeria and abroad. He is married with a child.

He was until his election, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences



Prof. Olatunji-Bello with the Best Graduating Student for the 2020/2021 Academic Session, Lopez, Feyisayo Divine



Inspection visit to the Manufacturing Assistant Centre at the Epe Campus.



Inauguration of the LASU Bakery on the 1st Anniversary of the administration



Visit of the UN Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Mathias Schmale to the VC

PROF. ADENIKE BOYO,

Deputy Vice Chancellor, Administration

bears her mind on
Prof. OLATUNJI-BELLO
Says her model of leadership is
summed up in
**TRANSPARENCY,
OPEN-MINDEDNESS,
INTEGRITY &
EXCELLENCE**



INTERVIEW

You have been part of the administration of Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, mni, NPOM from inception. What are your thoughts about the administration so far?

The administration of the Vice Chancellor has been so wonderful for the past two years, and I would say her administration has enjoyed immense cooperation from all members of staff and students. Everyone is playing his or her part; everyone is happy and the VC herself is leading with resilience and integrity. She runs an open-door policy, and the books are there for everyone to see. So, I can say so far, so good.

Please tell us more about the leadership style of Prof. Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji-Bello mni, NPOM

Talking about leadership, she is someone who is a team player and she rarely makes sole decisions, she wants everybody involved in whatever decisions she's making. She wants the opinion of those of us in the management and then, the views of everyone as individuals, especially on decisions that affect everybody. She has an open-door policy like I said, and then, she has a clear vision, which is driving all of us. So, her style of leadership is something I would embrace; it is worth emulating, and then working on.

The VC came with a vision to make LASU the Best University in West Africa. How has the University been working to achieve that vision?

We have started working towards it

from day one, and it's being actualized. We are all working towards it, and already LASU is being known and celebrated all over Africa, not just West Africa. We have achieved a lot in two years already. The VC has a working team that is working with her toward achieving her goal and I am happy that we already have much evidence of success. We can talk about the staff, the increase in the infrastructure at the University, hybrid teaching method that the institution is fully embracing, which puts us in a position to interact with students virtually and physically from anywhere in the world. Many other things are being done. These are all parts of her goals and her vision and most of them, if not all, are being achieved.

The VC seems to enjoy a cordial relationship with major Stakeholders, Governing Councils, TETFUND, JAMB, Staff, and Student's Union. What do you attribute to this?

I will say her humility plays a part in this. She is someone you can walk up to at any point in time. Whether you are a student or a staff, if you have something to share with her, you can walk up to her and tell her; she does not need a third party before a piece of information needs to be passed. She truly has an open-door policy and she needs no mouthpiece. If you place

a demand before her, if it's achievable, why not? And if it's not, she will give good counsel towards a good direction. She has an open mind toward everyone. She likes to know people on her terms and does not rely on hearsay. In her words, she would say "I will rely on my own opinion and perspective of that person, and if I get my perspective, then it's either I move on with that person or I don't". She has the fear of God. There is so much that lies on her shoulder, many mentees and people are looking up to her. So, I think her model of leadership is more of transparency, open-mindedness, integrity, and excellence in everything.



Prof. Boyo

HER WELFARE POLICIES HAVE STIMULATED WORKERS' PRODUCTIVITY

University Registrar,
Mr. Emmanuel A. FANU

The level of staff welfarism that the administration under Professor Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji-Bello mni, NPOM, has demonstrated has also been impactful and helpful in promoting and enhancing the level of productivity that we now enjoy from the staff members.

The Vice Chancellor is two years in office. You have served with her from the inception of her administration, initially in Acting capacity and later as substantive Registrar. What are your views on some of her achievements and impacts on the University?

I thank you very much for this opportunity to be able to speak about my boss and the 9th substantive Vice Chancellor of Lagos State University. As you are aware, she came in as the second female Vice Chancellor of this institution and now she is marking her second anniversary in office having been appointed based on the rigorous selection process by the Executive Governor of Lagos State.

So, Professor Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji-Bello came in as a distinguished academic; somebody who has had the experience before, having served as the Deputy Vice Chancellor for two terms in this institution, and also as Acting Vice Chancellor before this substantive appointment. The administration under her watch has recorded some achievements notable among which was a stable academic calendar that we are now enjoying in this institution, thanks also to the support of the Council and Senate. She has also impacted the human resources, that is the personnel area of the university.

Before her assumption, there were some deficiencies in personnel engagement and we have bridged that gap by her appointment of some non-teaching and teaching staff. We have also been able to record a very good mark in our accreditation processes during her tenure. For example, we have been able to secure accreditation for our existing programmes; we presented 71 programmes and we had about 96% accreditation for those programmes.

We have also been able to bridge the gap in a working relationship with major stakeholders as regards university administration. Before now, you may not be aware, that LASU was not in the good books of agencies like NUC, TETFUND, and JAMB. But today, we have a very perfect working understanding with those agencies. I have had the opportunity of attending some of the stakeholders meeting in the company of the Vice Chancellor and I can tell you authoritatively that LASU is now in the good book of those agencies.

We have also been able to secure an increase in our admission quota since her assumption and have also recorded a high application of

the number of subscriptions, which must have been influenced by the way the university is being run. During her first year in office, we had about Forty Thousand candidates subscribing to LASU, and this year, we have about forty-seven thousand subscribers. This means that a lot of people want to get into LASU and the reason is not far-fetched.

Our ranking has also improved, and we have been able to maintain our ranking as the best state university in Nigeria. We also emerged as the best university in West Africa in the U.I Greenmetrics ranking which means that the environment with regards to tree planting and the topography is very good and as such, in Nigeria, we are the best. Security-wise, we have also improved tremendously. Before now, when even LASU was mentioned in the public space, people usually see it as a den of cultists, which we have successfully curbed. We now have regular interactions with the security agencies around us- the Police, the Civil Defense Corp, the military, particularly the army, and the 184-battalion based in Ojo, I do have meetings with them on behalf of the university. In all, the administration under her leadership has recorded great achievements in recent times. Only recently we celebrated our 40th anniversary we celebrated the 26th convocation, and in the



Mr Fanu making a point



history of the university, we had one of our products emerging as the overall best with the perfect CGPA of 5.0.

The VC has continuously always referred to LASU staff as competent, hardworking, and diligent colleagues. How integral are they to the achievements of her administration?

Well, there's this popular saying that a tree does not make a forest and whatever involves teamwork always comes out best, and for me, I am learning from the leadership of the Vice Chancellor. I have come to realize that it is better to work as a team to be able to record excellence. The staff members are very hardworking and diligent.

If you have been opportune to attend one or two of our functions in LASU, you will notice that the staff members always refer to the Vice Chancellor as a SAN (Senior Abiamo of Nigeria). I must confess, the level of staff welfarism that the administration under Professor Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji-Bello mni, NPOM, has demonstrated has also been impactful and helpful in promoting and enhancing the level of productivity that we now enjoy from the staff members. Before now, we have instances where the staff agitate for things, and when such is prominent at work, it means that their welfare is not considered enough. But when it is considered, the level of ALUTAISM is reduced.

The staff members have in turn reciprocated by contributing 100% to the success of the growth and

development being recorded in LASU. I will also commend and appreciate the staff in the Registry, which is the heart of the university, for working assiduously with me.

As you confirmed, the administration has taken staff welfare very important. How would you describe the VC's achievements specifically on the issues of staff development and promotion?

Under this administration, staff promotion is something that is on the front burner and that is taken seriously. I can tell you there have not been any issues of denial of promotion; the staff are promoted as and when due. Just as all members of staff have enjoyed

their promotions, the administration has also been investing a lot in staff development.

In fact, 2-3 months before promotion, we do refresher courses for staff members who are due for promotion. Even with the regular training exercises that we run, we send staff members to conferences, Local or International. We also take the opportunity to also utilize funds from TETFUND in that regard so by and large, a very good percentage of staff are promoted.

Any Final words?

Yes, just to encourage all of us to be on our toes and to work in line with the vision and mission of the Vice Chancellor.



2022 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTORATE OF SPECIAL INTERVENTIONS

The Vice-Chancellor on assumption of office established the Directorate of Special Interventions, which comprises of both NEEDs and TETFund Units. The Directorate is an office to effectively manage and utilize funds obtained from Federal Government Interventions and attract other forms of Interventions to the University.

A. NEEDS ASSESSMENT UNIT

During this period, the University received its 2021 NEEDs Assessment Allocation, for the procurement of Classroom furniture, Office equipment, Laboratory equipment, machines, and books for



Dr. Afisi

To be continued on pg 23



We have significantly expanded the I.G.R of the University

- Olayinka Said Babatunde, FCA
University Bursar

INTERVIEW

Can we meet you, sir?

I am Olayinka Said Babatunde the current University Bursar of this great university. I became the bursar, through my first tenure on July 2nd, 2018, and by that I got another term effective from 2nd July 2022 and that is what I'm presently serving.

You have been part of this administration from the outset. So, what have been the achievements of the bursary department under the administration of Professor Ibiyemi Olatunji Bello, mni, NPOM?

I am happy to report a lot of positive achievements, thanks to the consistent support the leadership has been giving the bursary. As you know, by the functions of the bursary department, we are very strategic to the achievement of the University's goals. I am happy to report that in terms of financial resources, the administration has done well. It would interest you that we were about to go for the defense of our annual budget for the year 2022 when the V.C. assumed duty. Using her influence, we were able to move our proposed budget from 3 billion to 4.5 billion, which is an additional 1.5 billion. We were able to achieve it even beyond that proposal and the implication is that apart from the university enhancing its revenue base by having additional resources to execute its project, it also globally, or at the state level, enhanced and expanded the IGR of the State because the budget of the university is an integral part of the State.

Subsequently, in the year 2023, which is the operating budget we have now, we then moved the budget from N4.5 billion to N7 billion and that is what we are still operating. The implication is that we were able to move the budget again additionally by 2.5 billion. It is an ambitious figure but I believe we will be able to achieve it by the grace of God.

You will equally notice that some internally funded projects are springing up. They were only possible with the ability to expand our revenue base. Our IGR has equally contributed to the payment of the regular salary and as when due. We are still using the IGR to augment the salaries because what the government is giving us as subvention is short of what we are paying, although it still falls within the approved budget. In the other areas, we've been able to consolidate our e-processing system.

The bursary is now fully digitalized. You must have noticed that we now have what they call an e-



OLAYINKA, Said Babatunde, FCA
University Bursar

pay slip. We no longer give hard copies to staff; you can access your pay slip through your email and the advantage is that you can always retain the soft copy in your records without coming to the bursary. Then during this administration, the University Press was restructured and moved fully to the Ventures Limited, which is a limited liability and the implication is that it is now a commercial outfit expected to make its profit, pay its salary, and generate more money.

How will you describe the administrative or leadership style of the Vice Chancellor?

Frankly speaking, the VC has been so supportive and responsive; she listens to ideas. Some of the projects and developments you are seeing around are a result of her listening ears. She's a compassionate leader, she's selfless. She always wants constant improvement of the system, and she is somebody who always wants good things and better welfare packages for members of staff and students. In months to come, new projects are coming up. Look at how beautiful our environment is and you will know it's part of what made the university to be rated as the best university in West Africa by U.I Greenmetrics Ranking. She's a wonderful leader and a mother and I think that accounted for why she's called "Mama Welfare", she is always ready.

As head of the Bursary, you were the first to roll out our Core Values years ago. What brought about the idea?

As an accountant professionally, we have our core values. And that is where I took the cue that we needed to be guided by certain ethical standards. That was why I had to create our vision and mission when I was the Director of Internal Audit, and it was fruitful; it brought a lot of achievements because when you have goals and objectives, you will strive to achieve them. When I experimented with it in the audit and it worked, I did the same in the bursary. When you get to a new environment you must bring something new, you must be innovative and creative. And then your innovation brings improvement to a system. Incidentally, I was the first substantial Director of the Internal Audit and I was the first accountant in the system to become the Director of Internal Audit. I am also the first Director of Audit to be the bursar of the university and I am the first junior member of staff to rise to the pinnacle of my career, from level 2 to level 15; the first level 2 officer to become a Principal Officer. So, these are the things that stimulated me to bring more innovation and creativity into the system. Right now, I have equally created the bursary mission, the bursary vision, and the core values of the department.

What would you like to be remembered for in the bursary department?

There were a lot of achievements during my first tenure. One of them is the unbundling of some of the units and creating some divisions in the Bursary. We have fully gone commercial in some areas, specifically, the Ventures Limited and the Consult. Under the ventures, we have the Bakery, the Press, etc. Under the Consult, we have the School of Baking Studies, Diploma programmes, and other activities. The reason why I did the restructuring is to enhance effectiveness and efficiency. I also want to be remembered for my leadership style, both professionally, and politically, my human relations with my staff. My legacy is also to ensure that the bursary system is fully digitalized and we are almost there.

What is your message to the members of the

university staff in the next three years?

I want to urge them all to stay united and formidable and be our brothers' keeper. When I was in the Audit, the slogan was *“An injury to one is an injury to all.”*

We move together and we must be formidable, responsive, fair to all, and believe in the same goal and objective.



“I want to be remembered for my leadership style, both professionally and politically, my human relations with my staff ”

- Said OLAYINKA, Bursar





SHE CAME IN PREPARED FOR THE JOB; SHE UNDERSTANDS UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

- Prof. Emmanuel Layi Adebayo,
University Librarian

Prof. Emmanuel Layi Adebayo University Librarian

Q: Can you introduce yourself fully sir?

My name is Dr. Emmanuel Lai Adebayo, the University Librarian.

Could you share your thoughts on the achievements of the current University administration especially in the area of the library, sir?

If one is to talk about the administration of Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, mni, NPOM, where do I start? Is it in the area of welfare? Expansion of academic programmes? Staff development and stability in the system? There are many. I've worked with 12 different Vice Chancellors and she easily stands out. When she came in September 20, 2021, some people did not give her a chance, maybe because she is a woman. But she has proved them wrong. We have had potentially crisis situations and she has been able to manage them, averting any crisis.

I'm the Chairman of the University Welfare Committee; when that appointment came, some of my people in the library came to sympathize with me. Sir, why is it that it's you that they gave this kind of appointment because the expectations are huge. However, the VC has made my job very easy. Before the demands of members of staff or Unions lead to agitation, the VC has taken it up and solved it. So, in the area of staff welfare, I think she has scored excellently.

Then, in the area of staff development, she has also been excellent. In just about two years since she came, more than 40 members of staff have been sponsored on various conferences, both locally and internationally, in the University Library. Currently, we have

about 15 members of staff on full-time higher degree in various universities, home and abroad.

Today, LASU has received approval to run the School of Library and Archival and Information Sciences, the first of its kind in Nigeria and the second in Africa, after Makerere University, Uganda. When she brought up the idea early in her administration, I couldn't believe it, but she mandated me to start working on it. We started like play, but here we are today. A lot of universities have been calling me and trying to ask how we did it so that they can also move from where they are, to have their own School.

Another thing is that we now have 20 new programmes taking off. I tried to follow the happenings at NUC and at various universities. I don't think there's any University out of all the 200 universities we have in Nigeria now that are starting about 20 programmes at the same time. Of course, this will attract more students and more money, and when there is more money in the university, then the welfare of staff and students will also be attended to.

How would you like to describe the Vice Chancellor, Professor Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, mni, NPOM having worked closely with her since the inception?

She's a mother and as far as I'm concerned, she doesn't discriminate. She's a giver. Anything that is your right, she will give you. And she is very, very accommodating. Another thing about her is hard work. She works round the clock and still attends to everyone that comes to her office.

Also, she is very amiable, very hard-working and she has prepared for this job and I give that to her. She is very knowledgeable in university administration. She has a lot of experience and she has worked through several administrations and several vice chancellors as a scientist in the medical profession. She knew that she would one day be a head and she went for a teaching certificate. So, she prepared for this job and she has connections locally and internationally, which is helping the system. When we proposed this programme to the NUC for verification, I knew within me that it would be approved because she knows how to press her button. She will press the button locally and she'll still press it outside the University to bring goodies for the system.

Do you think the University will achieve the vision of the VC to make LASU the best University in West Africa?

Yes, we are working towards it. Those who rank the University do so using so many parameters. It is these parameters that we're working towards. For example, the university just has adopted hybrid teaching because of the surge in the population and you know that one of the ways by which the ranking is done is that the University has to be visible globally and before it can be visible, all the things that happen in the entire system must be online. So, the University is working assiduously to make sure that we are visible online. All other parameters are also being improved upon and I believe we will get there.

Could you highlight some of your achievements as a University Librarian under this administration?

First is the School of Library Archival and Information and Sciences, which is first in Nigeria and West Africa as I mentioned earlier. We have also been able to automate all our services in the library. Currently, we have concluded the architectural laydown and it's just to put a few things together at the ICT Centre and our staff and students would be able to access our resources anywhere, even on their phones. We have also had many of our staff attend trainings locally and internationally. Then, there are those that have been employed in the last two years.



Promotion has also been smooth. Since this University began it has always had one Deputy University Librarian, but now, there are eight. So many I can't count.

Do you unwind at all with the kind of volume of work that you do?

I enjoy music a lot so I listen to music and watch sports.



Prof. Adebayo

2022 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTORATE OF SPECIAL INTERVENTIONS

continued from pg 19

the Epe, Ikeja and Ojo Campuses of the Lagos State University. The items have been distributed to the respective Faculties, Schools and Colleges.

B. TETFUND UNIT

The activities of the TETFund under review has impacted on the University under the following Interventions:

Physical Infrastructure

Under this line of intervention, there is the Construction and Furnishing of a Faculty of Arts Building and also the Construction and Furnishing of a School of Communication Building. The two projects were awarded in 2020 and payment has been made up to 85% of the total cost of the projects.

Conference Attendance

The Conference Attendance for 2022 Intervention was carried out and Eighty-Two members of staff (Academic and Non-Academic) benefited from this intervention grant.

Academic Staff Training and Development:

The University received approval for Three (3) of its academic members of staff to attend training in different parts of the World. Funds have been disbursed to these members of staff and they have commence their programme.

Institution Based Research (IBR). The University utilized its Year 2018-2022 (merged) TETFund Intervention in Research Project. Thirty (30) Academic Staffs are benefiting from this intervention grant.

Manuscript Development into Books

The Directorate has been working in conjunction with the University Publication Committee in collating another set of manuscripts submitted by members of staff for processing and submission to the TETFund Headquarters in Abuja.

Academic Journal Publication

This is also being worked out with the Publication

Committee and the University is at the verge of processing the submission of new volumes of the University Journals for TETFund's approval.

Library Development Intervention

The Desk Office in collaboration with the University Librarian made a submission to TETFund to utilize the 2019-2020 allocation for Library development. The Project has been completed since June, 2022.

Special Intervention (Zonal Intervention):

The University utilized its Year 2021 TETFund Zonal Intervention on procurement and installation of Engineering/Laboratory Equipment for Teaching and demonstration in our various Science/Engineering Programmes and equipment have being procured. The project has been completed

Entrepreneurship Centres: The University utilized its Year 2018-2020 (Merged) TETFund Entrepreneurship Intervention for the supply, Installation, testing and Commissioning of Bread Making Equipment and the equipment have been procured and the project has been completed. Also, utilized Years 2021/2022 (merged) TETFund Entrepreneurship Intervention for Supply and Installation of Water Treatment and Bottling Equipment. The Project is on-going.

ICT Support: The University utilized its Year 2019-2020 (Merged) ICT Intervention for the e-learning application and e-learning support training. The Project has been completed.

Above are the summary of activities of the Directorate of Special Interventions **FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN OFFICE** of the 9th substantive Vice-Chancellor of the Lagos State University, Professor Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji-Bello.

DR. OSENI TAIWO, AFISI

Ag. Director, Directorate of Special Interventions



SOME OF THE COMPLETED & ONGOING PROJECTS UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION



Lagos HOMS



School of Communication Building



**International Resource Centre,
sponsored by TetFund**



**Newly built Toilet facility.
main campus, Ojo**



**TetFund- Sponsored faculty of Arts
building**



Main Library nearing competition



Students Arcade



Main Library nearing competition



**8,000 bed Hostel facility, Ojo main
campus**



New Students buses



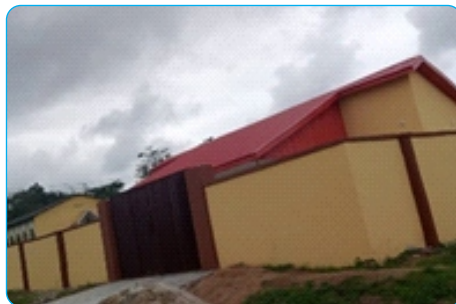
International School



LASU Radio



Innovation Hub



Store House, Epe



Hostel facility at Epe

LASU AND THE TWO YEARS ON TOP : A TESTIMONY BY OBSERVATION

Kayode AJIBOYE

This piece is not intended to go biographical; neither is the author out on a praise-singing adventure. The write-up is simply out to achieve a close, non-participant but interested observatory testimonial of the acts and deeds of the current arrowhead of the fire-like spreading gospel of LASU in the race that's on toward hitting the six-cardinal-point-agenda as set by the 9th substantive and the second female Vice Chancellor of Lagos State University (LASU).

Her name, of course, needs no more of a stressful introduction. She is **Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji-Bello** mni, NPOM, a professor of Physiology.

At this juncture, we have no choice but to take a cultural detour as we sojourn a little into the background of the woman at the centre of this piece. Now, we ask: What is in a name? Of course, there's always much to every name given to a child from the cradle. Of course, the culture-rich Yoruba people do say *ile ni anwo ki a to so omo loruko* (meaning the family circumstances at hand at the time of a child's birth determine his/her name. And when the child is so named, it becomes attached to his or her aura. Ibiyemi, therefore, simply means "I am born into a befitting family" while Ibilola, succinctly translated, connotes Born into a family with an aura of wealth and affluence.

Going aura-cultural philosophy, therefore, the chances of a child bequeathed with this

combination of divinely selected names going beggarly or being lowly placed among contemporaries in future are indeed very slim. No wonder then, that the bouncing beautiful baby girl of some three-score years ago is currently where she is, even as she's helping to move LASU forward and soaring it higher from the altitude at which she took over the cockpit as the pilot about two years ago.

So far, LASU has remained competitive even as it has, in the last few years, impressively kept on rivalling the hitherto unrivalled giants in the Nigerian Ivory Tower.

On her assumption of duty as the 9th Vice-Chancellor of Nigeria's Best State University and Africa Centre of Academic Excellence, she swiftly swung into action by spelling out her vision for the varsity in a six-point action plan namely:

- *To ensure that academic and professional programmes are and remain accredited by the relevant bodies;

- *To make the University a research, innovation, and development hub for Lagos State and National development;

- *To ensure that infrastructural facilities are improved and readily available for seamless performance of administrative and academic duties;

- *To improve Internal Generation of Revenue with the aim of achieving financial sustainability of the University;

- *To promote the welfare of all

staff and students in the University;

- *To promote LASU's participation in Sports and Recreational Activities.

Placing the aforementioned six-point core-value mission statement item-by-item, it does not belabour one's memory, though it bewilders many discerning minds that ere the dawn of her second-year anniversary in office, she has, by divine grace and humane-driven staff, both academic and non-academic, achieved the first and most critical item far ahead of the five-year vision.

The testimonial evidence to this was given by no less an authority than Prof Abubakar Rasheed Adamu, the immediate past Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC) while speaking as a dispassionate but critical stakeholder in the affairs of the Nigerian Ivory Tower at the convocation lecture of LASU's historic 40th anniversary and 26th convocation.

Prof Abubakar Rasheed Adamu thumbed up the Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji-Bello-led LASU for being the trailblazer in digital-driven academic programmes in the comity of Nigerian varsities. That head-swelling news was just by the way.

Prof Adamu, who was at that material time the most authentic source of any official information about any Nigerian university, also declared that of the 72 academic programmes being run by the Lagos State



University, "70 minus one" (69) had been fully accredited by the NUC. By any standard of measure in any academic community globally, this an A-plus score, an equivalent of Excellent mark. So, high! So quick under two years in a five-year target! Pastor Iya Miracle, well done. And don't wane.

Of course, the second point in view is already taken as recurrent attainment given that LASU has relentlessly remained the pioneer respondent when it comes to any critical topical issue, national and global from social to political. The pace-setting university is known for its instantaneous research discourse as soon as the issue arises. It is global knowledge today that LASU has become the bride for toast by high-calibre higher institutions of repute across the globe for research partnerships.

From the School of Transportation and Logistics to the Faculty of Science; from the Language Laboratory of the Faculty of Arts to the Faculty of Education, this writer can boldly testify that LASU has assumed the position of a pacesetter, research-wise.

It is noted, however, that Professor Olatunji-Bello is not yet amused as she seems to aim beyond the sky for LASU, the bride of the moment.

The third agenda on the VC's mission list concerns her avowed improvement and making available of infrastructural facilities for seamless performance of administrative and academic duties. Yes. Testimonials to this are found in the recent digital upgrading of the entrance of Raji Fashola Senate Building. It is not only beautiful but fascinatingly befitting. The female hostel is at

the moment awaiting habitation by lucky freshers and even returners of the institution any moment from now. Old buildings are observed bearing new looks while giant structures are speedily in progress.

As for the fourth item on the VC's agenda, one is aware that much as elegant academic endeavours not to make tuitions a nightmarish affair for parents of LASUITES, she and her management team have been thinking out of the box to ensure that the university does not go cap-in-hand to the state government, the proprietor for every little need. The LASU Bread is readily at heart as a subtle source of internally generated revenue, to start with. Next is Prof Olatunji-Bello's pledge To promote the welfare of all staff and students in the University. In this wise, our interaction with the workers indicates that they are happy doing their various duties as reciprocated by her management via prompt payment of salaries and other office emoluments. This observer watched a video clip involving the motherly VC wherein a testimony was related about a veteran driver who, at the point of retirement, was to be sent forth by his colleagues,

Then the sixth agenda, To promote LASU's participation in Sports and Recreational Activities. activities with other universities across the country. This writer is aware that LASU is already billed and set to co-host an edition of intercontinental university games with the University of Lagos very soon.

Let's take another dispassionate, highly valued but quite unexpected testimonial from no less an international, in fact, diplomatic figure than the

Consulate-General of India (the official Head of the Indian Government in Nigeria), Mahesh Narasimhan:

"LASU is one of the greatest universities in Nigeria and the greatest in Lagos.

"LASU is doing very well in Science and Technology. So, we are very proud to associate with the university and we look forward to more collaborations with her.

This was not curried. It was not solicited. Neither was it a pre-arranged public relations statement. It's simply a declaration of fact from a duly informed, non-participatory follower of development in the global academia. So short, yet already so high.

Again, this unofficial LASUITE reporter witnessed this testimonial.

A little undercover interaction with a few clusters of students of the university gave me the clue that this soft-looking academic Amazon called Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji-Bello is a hard driver on the highway of success who does not believe in taking a restful refuge under a mountain that is meant to be climbed on the way to the ultimate rest. No wonder the students generally hold the notion that LASU is difficult. Though Ibiyemi's latest title as awarded by the all-time record creator of LASU, Aminat Yusuf, is Senior Abiyamo of Nigeria, (SAN), I doubt if she will ever be apologetic about her dogged determination to ensure that every certificate awarded to any LASUITE at any level of completion is earned and defensible at all times.

She envisions a Greater LASU of which the world will remain proud. So, help her, God.



**OUR GOAL IS TO STAND
SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER
WITH WESTERN UNIVERSITIES
IN ICT SOLUTIONS**

Prof. Oluwatoyin ENIKUOMEHIN
Director, ICT

Could you please introduce yourself, sir?

My name is Professor Oluwatoyin Enikuomehin. I am a Professor of Computer Science and the Director of the Directorate of ICT, Lagos State University.

LASU is one of the most digitalized universities in Nigeria as alluded to by the former NUC Executive Secretary, Prof. Abubakar Adamu Rasheed. What is the secret behind this?

I believe it's all about leadership. When you have a dynamic leader, you will see that there are boundless ends to what you can achieve. The leadership style brought in by Professor Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji-Bello, mni, NPOM, has given us the opportunity that we can use our flexibility of knowledge to achieve any aspiration that comes to mind.

And, of course, if you look at the framework of what we had at the ICT, we had the same staff members all along, the same set of personnel; the only thing that changed was leadership. The Vice Chancellor brought up a style that wants everybody to bring up their best. We are in an environment where everybody wants to prove that, "Oh, I need to make this system work" and that's why we've been able to come up with this. Of course, the environment is conducive for us to deploy these technical services, and what we have done is that we are hungry to do more.

That being said, one of the key areas that we want to emphasize is

that the leadership of this university is not a leadership that leaves you to go and do it; it's a leadership that also puts into perception the do-it-yourself ideology. We have a Vice Chancellor who will by herself clear people on the Leave Portal, clear people on the Promotion Portal, log on to the laptop, and do her tasks even with her busy schedule. All these give her a clear understanding of the process and the procedure. What this means is that, if the Vice Chancellor can do it by herself, HODs will not give excuses and that's why you see that the flow is clear, it's clean and students believe in what we do.

Thank you very much, sir, could you also share with us some of the technological innovations that are being introduced under your leadership as Director of ICT and by extension under the leadership of the current Vice Chancellor who is celebrating her second year in office?

We have done so many things; I call them interventions because the conventional processes we ran before now were working; the brick-and-mortar processes were doing their own thing, but we needed to bring up things that will help us do the same thing in a smarter, more cost-effective and more transparent way with a viable result, which is why we bring up all of these solutions.

There are so many interventions we have had and I think everything is major, but of course, I start from the studentship. You will recall that before now we used to have stand-alone processes, where the result portal is just a result portal, and registration is registration. Now we have a system that gives us a central technical ecosystem that frameworks everything on one platform, and I doubt if any other institution has any system that runs this kind of thing where the same data students use at entry when they are cleared at the online clearance (LACACA) level is the same they use when they graduate. The same data is what is being taken from one point to the other.

The latest intervention for staff is the Academic Staff Appraisal System, a completely digitalized online process where our teaching staff appraisal is automated. We are running a data university. That process is very clear and with it, the university has completely abolished the use of paper. As complex as it is, from internal accessor to external accessor and all the life cycle of that process till it gets back to the Vice Chancellor, no paperwork has been used. So, no academic staff will want to move from one point to the other and fill anything on paper. For our non-academic staff, the same thing applies to them.

We are also coming up with a dedicated Mobile Application for LASU students. It's going to be a LASU- Student Mobile App, which is



at the testing level; everything has been completed. It gives the students a complete life cycle digitally. We also have the hybrid teaching framework - a virtual learning environment where students can completely stay anywhere to receive lectures and even write examinations on approval of the Senate. LASU has a proctoring system that allows you to write exams wherever you are diligently without giving room for malpractice. The system completely monitors what you do while writing exams and that is a very serious software intervention. One of the things that are currently in use is the inclusion of artificial intelligence models into what we do. The summary of it is that the life cycle of students and staff here is completely digitalized.

In addition to all of these, we have taken the Postgraduate (PG) School to another level, and that's one area that I think we must celebrate ourselves. Now I can tell you that with the launch of the Online Results Processing Portal for PG School, transcript processing is just one day at the PG School for those that have graduated from the 2020-2021 session and coming forward. What this means is that you can apply for and get your transcript in your email within 24 hours,

thanks to the intervention of the Vice Chancellor.

Our Online repository is also now live. People are subscribing to it as I'm talking to you. Other universities are talking to us to come and replicate what we have here that is because they have seen what we do. Our plagiarism detector runs above anyone, compares clearly, and defeats the Turnitin.

Also, check our website, look at the 3D animation, the 3D projection, the 3D web; look at the web performance, all of these can only be compared with the international standards. It's true we may have some challenges because of where we are. The environment is not the same as being in a place like the UK. But when you look at the basics you know that we are not taking it easy because we know the advantages for us and the students. The students want to point to us and say go to lasuwebsite. No student of this university is not accessible online. Once you have graduated, we can assist you online if you have added your project to the repository.

Thank you very much for the extensive insights, sir. Now, where are we going precisely? What is the goal, specifically, ICT for the

university?

With all that the current management is doing, we will be standing shoulder-to-shoulder with Western universities soon. We are now including the use of AI in our processes. Our prediction level is going to be high. LASU is going very far, we are introducing prediction into our models.

So, in the coming years, I see us leading the block in terms of ICT and when you look at ICT, it is an ingredient to a process. When we have a stable ICT, you will agree with me that the system as a university would work better. Take a look at the Bursary system, the synergy between the Bursary and the ICT has yielded many positive results and blocked leakages, now we receive our pay slips in our mailboxes/addresses, and if there are issues they can easily be detected and immediately corrected.

I can't imagine comparing LASU in the next world of three years to any university around Africa because one of the things we do is to look at the best practices around the world and I see that this commitment, shows that the Vice Chancellor is hungry to achieve more, and I strongly believe that we are going places

Thank you.



When the VC won the Tertiary Education Administrator of the Year Award



Members of extended Management at a retreat



IWD 2023: GOV. SANWO -OLU CELEBRATES LASU VC, PROF. OLATUNJI - BELLO, mni ...Recognizes her among 150 EKO Aspire Women.

The Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, has celebrated the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, mni, and recognized her as one of the 150 Eko Aspire Women in commemoration of this year's International Women's Day, which held on 8th March, 2023. The theme of this year's International Women's Day is #EmbraceEquity.

In a personally signed letter, the newly re-elected Governor of the State, expressed his delight to celebrate the IWD with the Vice Chancellor, while extolling the role women play in the society.

He said, "Today, we celebrate all women and girls in the world and the infinite opportunities that they deserve, and we chose to embrace equity and promote inclusion in place of prejudice and discrimination...Lagos State celebrates you on this day and always, as a woman at the forefront of challenging the status quo. Against many odds, you continue to break glass ceilings shatter stereotypes, and make your voice heard in places where cultures and circumstances try to stifle you. In doing so, you have inspired and continue to inspire the rest of us.", the Governor said

Recall that the Governor, in 2022, also named the Professor of Physiology and second female Vice Chancellor of the University as one of Eko 100 Women.

Congratulations.

We Are LASU, We Are Great!



Gov. Sanwo-Olu and the VC present a post-humous Award to the family of the 1st LASU VC Prof. Folabi Olumide

"By 2026, LASU will be the BEST IN WEST AFRICA. It's not a pipe dream, it will happen. What I expect is for everyone of you to run with the vision without looking back".

- Prof. Ibiyemi Ibilola OLATUNJI-BELLO, mni, NPOM

AANI HONOURS LASU VC, PROF. OLATUNJI-BELLO, ICAN PRESIDENT



The Alumni Association of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, (AANI), Lagos Chapter, on Wednesday, 25th May 2022, honoured the Vice Chancellor, Lagos State University, Prof. Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji-Bello, mni, with an Excellence Honours Award for being an outstanding alumna of the Body. The 9th Substantive vice chancellor of the Lagos-State owned ivory tower was joined by the 57th president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), Mrs. Comfort Olu Eyitayo, FCA, mni as the only two recipients of the inaugural honour award.

The event, which held at the Radisson Blue Hotel, Ikeja, drew participation from dignitaries from various walks of life in the state, including the governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary, Special Duties and Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Sesan Ogundeko, mni, first lady of the state, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, Commissioner for The Environment and husband of the vice chancellor, Mr. Tunji Bello, Director General of the NIPSS, Prof. Ayo Omotayo, amongst others.



The VC, Prof. Olatunji-Bello was the Book Reviewer at the Launch of "Hallmark of Labour" Vol. 11 with four State Governors in attendance



LASUDEF COMPLETS CONSTRUCTION OF 96-BED HOSTEL, HANDS FACILITY OVER TO LASU FOR STUDENT'S USE

Some eminent Lagosians under the aegis of LASU Development Foundation (LASUDEF) have built and handed over a 96-bed hostel facility for the use of students of the University. The facility, located behind the first block of the Lagos State Government-sponsored 8,000-bed hostel under construction, was handed over to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, mni, NPOM, on behalf of the body by the Chairman of the Executive Committee of LASUDEF, Hon. Justice Solomon Olusola Hunponu-Wusu, on Friday 28th July 2023

While handing over the building, Justice Hunponu-Wusu said the donation was aimed at supporting the efforts of the government in the infrastructural development of the University. "In the realization that the Lagos State Government and indeed any government cannot efficiently and completely fund tertiary education, the founding members of this Non-Government Organization decided to assist the State Universities by putting up complementary infrastructure as its main priority and objective.

"As you are aware, LASU started as a non-residential institution. Accommodation for students was and

remains a challenge. It was for this reason that LASUDEF decided to assist the university with this 96-bed units hostel", he said.



He further revealed that the project commenced in November 2017 but due to some administrative and Covid-19 challenges, the construction dragged until much recently before its completion.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Olatunji-Bello, in her response, expressed gratitude to LASUDEF for the donation and described it as a welcome development "...at a time of dire economic situation and outrageous hikes in rent and prices of other goods, making decent accommodation outside of the campus unaffordable for many of our students. The donation of this hostel implies that 96 of our students would be provided decent accommodation at a subsidized rate."

She expressed her delight that the hostel building would complement the infrastructural development in the University, thereby fulfilling the third strategic goal of her administration, which is to ensure that infrastructural facilities are improved and made readily available for seamless performance of academic and administrative duties.

She assured the Body that the facility would be put to judicious use and acceded to the request to allocate 30% of the rooms to students of Lagos origin annually.

The Permanent Secretary of the newly established Lagos State Ministry of Tertiary Education, Mr. Kazeem Kasali, who was a Special Guest at the handover ceremony, expressed his optimism that the facility would support the yearnings of LASU students for conducive students hostels to enhance their learning experience.

The hostel was opened by the Vice Chancellor to the glory of God and use of students after documents of the Deed of Gift were signed by representatives of the LASU and LASUDEF. The hostel is dedicated to the memory of the first Military Governor of Lagos State and founding Chairman of LASUDEF, the late Brigadier General Mobolaji Johnson.



The VC and other eminent personalities in Nigeria's education sectors during the 26th Convocation of the University



The inspection visit of the Governing Council to the College of Medicine, Ikeja



LASU Best Graduating Student for 2022/2023 Academic Session, Aminat Yusuf Imitsemeh, who graduated with a perfect CGPA of 5.0 hosted by the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu at the State House.



Prof. Olatunji-Bello with VC, University of Lagos, Prof. Folasade Ogunsola and the Senior Pastor, Trinity House Church, Pastor Ituah Ighodalo



Prof. Olatunji-Bello with dignitaries at the burial ceremony of her late mother, Chief Mrs. Jadesola Ibadapo



Dignitaries at the 26th Convocation of the University.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE 17 SDG GOALS, LASU VC, PROF. OLATUNJI-BELLO SAYS AS SHE RECEIVES THE UN HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR IN NIGERIA

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, mni, NPOM, has pledged the commitment of the Lagos State University under her leadership to the fulfillment of the United Nations (UN) 17 Sustainable Development Goals aimed at improving the quality of life of all people.

She made the commitment when the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mr. Matthias SCHMALE alongside the Permanent Secretary, Office of SDG & Investment, Lagos State, Mrs. Abosede GEORGE and Mr. Oluseyi SOREMEKUN of the UN Information Centre (UNIC), Abuja paid her a courtesy visit at her office on Friday, 21st July 2023, ahead of the Inauguration of the LASU-SDG Youth Club holding the same day.

The Vice Chancellor in her remarks said, "As a university, we have created

the Centre for Actualization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals to show our commitment to the actualization of the 17 SDG Goals. These goals have been designed by the UN to ensure that the world is livable for every one of us.

The government cannot achieve these goals alone; everyone must be involved. We as a university are also involved in ensuring that these goals She called on the United Nations to partner and support the university to achieve its laudable plans to entrench SDG activities in the university.

The UN Nigeria boss, Mr. Mathias SCHMALE, in his response, assured of the Body's willingness to partner with the University noting that such a partnership would be mutually beneficial to the two organisations.

The visitors were led to the Vice Chancellor by the Director, Centre for the Actualization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Prof. Tayo AJAYI, with other members of the University Management in attendance are fulfilled in the lives of our students and staff and other stakeholders.



The Oniba of Iba Land, HRM. Oba Adesina Sulaimon Raji; Chairman, Nigeria Diaspora Commission, Hon Abike Dabiri-Erewa; Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Dr. Kadiri Hamzat; VC, Prof. Olatunji-Bello; former SSA to the President on SDGs, H.E Adejoke Orellope-Adefulire and Chairman, Governing Council LASU, Sir Davide Sunmoni.



Prof. Olatunji-Bello's Two-Year SCORECARD

...Continues from page 7

Goal 1: ACCREDITATION OF ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMMES BY RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL BODIES

- * Admission of new International Students: The University, earlier in 2022, attracted seven new international students from Ghana to the Africa Centre of Excellence for Innovative STEM Education (ACEITSE) postgraduate programme. An additional set of Eleven (11) new international Students was also admitted into in September, 2023.
- * Procurement of Additional Library Books: The University Library, which had consistently had an average of 2,500 additional volumes of books per year since inception in 1983, acquired almost 4,000 volumes of books within six (6) months of inception of the Administration. The University also subscribed to seven (7) different electronic databases for all round learning, this is unprecedented with four (4) for Law Programme alone.
- * The University graduated the first Ph.D. in Housing and Urban Development in Nigeria.
- * The University secured 5 years Full Accreditation for Masters in Urban and Regional Planning [MURP] Programme by the Town Planning Registration Council of Nigeria in January 2022.
- * Implementation of hybrid teaching mode for large classes in the University
- * Procurement of 150 KVA Brand New Diesel Generator on the main campus
- * Installation of 32 CCTV Cameras and other Security and Information Communication Gadgets in all lecture theatres
- * Provision of a Bus for JUPEB Library use
- * Approval of the Construction of Computer Base Test Centre (CBT) at CASU Foundation campus, Badagry
- * Resource assessment and commencement of Admission of students at both 100 Levels and direct Entry into four new faculties and Schools- Faculties of Allied Health Sciences, Faculty of Pharmacy, Faculty of Environmental Sciences and School of Archival and Information Sciences, first in West Africa and Second in Africa.

GOAL 2: TO MAKE THE UNIVERSITY A RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT HUB FOR LAGOS STATE AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- * LASU School of Transport Research Team won Volvo SEK 100,000 Research Grant
- * facilitated deployment of internet across the Campuses and plans are underway to improve on physical facilities.
- * facilitated the commencement of construction of Technology Hub for staff and students of the

University by the Lagos State Government

- * Establishment and equipment of the Centre of Excellence for Sargassum Research.

GOAL 3: TO ENSURE THAT INFRA STRUCTURAL FACILITIES ARE IMPROVED AND READILY AVAILABLE FOR SEAMLESS PERFORMANCE OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND ACADEMIC DUTIES

Under her leadership, the University also completed some inherited projects, started and completed some new projects, and commenced the construction of several other projects including:

- * Delineation of boundary line between the Epe Campus of the University and the Nigeria Armed Forces
- * LASU Primary Health Care in Ojo
- * Central Bank of Nigeria sponsored Manufacturing Assistant Centre in Epe Campus
- * Renovation of LASU Museum Agege
- * Construction of 2nos. Prototype Toilets in Ojo
- * Construction of LASU Bakery in Ojo Campus
- * Renovation of Blocks of Hostel in Epe Campus
- * Construction of 750-Seater Lecture Theatre in Ojo Campus facilitated by the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)
- * Renovation of Staff Quarters for Professors on Sabbatical appointments in Epe Campus
- * Renovation of LASU Staff Quarters for International Students on main campus, Ojo
- * Fully renovated and equipped classrooms, laboratories and libraries across our Campuses.
- * Upgrade of the LASU Radio for efficient service delivery.
- * installation of CCTV Cameras at all income generating facilities in the University
- * revamped and upgraded the LASU Health Centre
- * upgraded Science Laboratories across the University
- * Procured utility bus for the LASU International School.
- * Refurbishment of four (4) bedroom flat which houses the Head of Campus, Epe Campus.
- * Refurbishment of four (4) arms of 3-bedroom Apartment at Uphill, Epe Campus.
- * Construction of perimeter fence of the Central Store, Epe Campus.
- * facilitated, through the LASU Directorate of Advancement, the renovation of six (6) blocks/units of students' hostels by His Highness, Oba Kamorudeen Ishola Animashaun, the Oloja of Epe
- * Renovation of Students' Hostel at Epe Campus through the Direct Labour System by the University.



“PROF. OLATUNJI-BELLO has created a safe learning and work environment for our staff and students”

Director of LASU Centre for Response and Prevention of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, Dr. Igot Ofem, speaks on the administration's zero-tolerance policy for sexual harassment and Gender-based violence in the university

Can you please introduce yourself?

I am Dr. Igot Ofem, the Acting Director of the Center for Response and Prevention of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.

As the pioneer Acting Director, can you tell us what informed the establishment of the Centre?

It would interest you to know that Lagos State University is the first University in Nigeria to have a stand-alone Centre solely dedicated to attending to issues of sexual and gender-based violence. I think this is basically because the issue of sexual and gender-based violence is very important; it affects everybody irrespective of your status or age and it has adverse effects on staff productivity and academic performance of the students. These consequences could also be emotional so I think the Vice Chancellor must have envisioned the importance of creating this Centre to enable staff to achieve maximum productivity and to help the students excel in their academics.

You will also recall that the fifth strategic goal of the current administration has to do with the welfare of Staff and Students. As mentioned earlier, gender-based violence can affect the welfare of the students and the staff and this was one of the reasons the VC created this centre because the welfare of Students and Staff is very important to her. Every student and staff have a right to a free and safe learning and work environment.

So, in a nutshell, I would say that the Centre was created to curb violence in the workplace and the entire University environment. The Centre was created precisely in November 2021, which was exactly two months after Prof. Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji-Bello, mni, NPOM resumed office as the 9th substantive Vice Chancellor of the University.

Can you briefly explain how the

Centre operates?

You see, the issue of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence is diverse so we created a structure to deal with it. As the Acting Director, I have three Assistant Directors working with me; one Assistant Director is in charge of rape cases, another is in charge of sexual harassment and the third is in charge of gender violence. So, issues coming from these three different areas are being channeled to the particular Assistant Director in charge of the case. We also have what we call the response team because when a case is brought to the Centre, for instance, an issue of rape, the Assistant Director investigates, but first, we protect and care for the survivor.

We adopt the survival centre approach here and that involves the medical services and the security services. This made the response team to be expanded beyond just the Staff of the Center. We have the Director of Medical Services and Chief Security Officer as members of the response team. Apart from this, we also have the student members of the response team, which involves the president of the Students' Union as a member, the Vice President of the three LASU Campuses, and the Presidents and vice presidents of all the different Faculties.

Also, In the Centre, a new platform was created during the last International Women's Day by the United Nations Population Trust Fund which is the mentor-mentee platform. For that platform, we have two staff representatives from each of the Faculties as Faculty mentors and then we have vice presidents of all these faculties as captain mentees that help to provide a kind of support to the students.

What are some of the gains that the Centre has recorded?

So much; one major one is the in-depth awareness that has been created. We have helped to raise the confidence of staff and students.



Dr. Igot Ofem

These days we have students frequently coming in to make reports, some of them even talk to us about issues in their homes and family. If their home is not safe and comes as a distraction, they are confident to share and we proffer possible solutions to help them be at ease.

We have also established partnerships with governmental and non-governmental organizations such as Lagos State Domestic Violence Primary Partners. Recently, we have also ignited a partnership with the Lagos State Ministry of Health to come in and train our staff on psychosocial support and more.

Just as LASU wants to remain the best in West Africa, as a Centre, we also want to be the best SGBV service provider aligning with the VC's goal. We want a situation where all stakeholders can feel free to know that they can come to LASU without being harassed. You are free to relate with anybody without being harassed or violated in any way.

What are your final words and advice?

Staff and Students should learn to speak up and fight against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. Confidentiality is our watchword, no one will hear what you tell us and justice will be served if the oppressor is found guilty.



**DIGITALISATION:
LASU HAS DONE
EXCELLENTLY WELL**
... Equipped to train other
Varsities - NUC
MONITORING TEAM

The National Universities Commission (NUC) Monitoring Team on E-Learning has given a five-star rating to the automation drive of the University describing it as excellent. The 3-man team, led by Dr. Chinelo Nwosu, also passed the University fit to train other Universities in Nigeria in the digitalisation of their services.

That was the report submitted to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji - Bello, mni, at the end of the one-day assessment visit to the University on the Open and Distant Learning and Research Institute (ODLRI) programme, which held on Tuesday, 28th March 2023.

On their arrival on the Campus, members of the team were received by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, mni, at her office where she assured them that the facilities of the ODLRI programme are in top shape. They then left to inspect the facilities under the guidance of the coordinator of the programme, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Prof. Adenike Omotunde Boyo, the Director, Directorate of Information and Communication Technology (DICT), Prof. Toyin Enikuomihin and other officials of the programme.

Upon the submission of their report later in the day, the Vice Chancellor appreciated them for the good works and assured them that other areas of improvement identified would be effected.



Former NUC boss, Prof. Abubakar Adamu Rasheed and TETFund boss, Arch. Sonny Echono at the University during the 26th Convocation Lecture.

**FOUR STATE GOVERNORS, OTHER
EMINENT NIGERIANS IN
ATTENDANCE AS LASU VC, PROF.
OLATUNJI-BELLO REVIEWS NEWLY
LAUNCHED BOOK, "HALLMARKS
OF LABOUR"**

Eminent Nigerians, among whom were four governors - HE, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State, H.E, Governor Babagana Zulum of Borno State, H.E, Governor Abdullahi Sule of Nassarawa State and H.E, Governor Dapo Abiodun of Ogun State - were in attendance as the Vice Chancellor of Lagos State University, Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, mni, NPOM, reviewed newly launched book, "Hallmark of Labour" written by veteran media personality, Patricia Otuedon-Arawore.

The book chronicles the story of four distinguished and eminently successful Nigerians - former Chief of Staff to the President, H.E, Professor Ibrahim Agboola Gambari, CFR, HLR; former Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E, Professor Akinwande Bolaji Akinyemi, CFR, HLR; former Minister of Science and Technology, H.E, Dr. Ogonnaya Onu, CON, HLR and Insurance guru, late Professor Joseph Ogonnaya Irukwu, SAN, HLR - who have exemplified distinction in public service and shown hard work, humility and selflessness.

The book launch, chaired by former Secretary for Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Sir Isoma Philip Asiodu, was organized by the Hallmarks of Labour Foundation, as part of the author's effort to celebrate and promote integrity and hard work among Nigerians.

Apart from the Awardees and the governors, other eminent Nigerians, such as the President, Africa Development Bank, Dr. Akinwunmi Adesina, and former Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, were also in attendance.

Prof. Olatunji-Bello's review of the 4 chapter book attracted commendation from the dignitaries even as she harped on the need for the younger generation to eschew shortcuts in their quest for success and embrace hardwork as exemplified by the honourees whose stories are captured in the book.

She was accompanied to the event by members of the Momentum Men and Women of the Learning Association in the University (MOWLAS and MOMLAS).

THE GENIUS OF AMINAT YUSUF: BEFORE THE CATALYSTS GO UNDER THE RADAR

- by **Seun Gbanja**

"She stands peerless not just by the power of her say-so, but the orchestration of factors that played well to her advantage."

In the afternoon of Friday, 23rd June, a day after the denouement of the 26th Convocation and 40th Anniversary of the University, I was ambling back from getting an item at the popular Franklass bus stop opposite the vast Ojo campus of the university when two urchins brisked past me discussing - no prize for guessing - the achievement of LASU's 5.0 star, Aminat Yusuf, and the 10 million Naira gifted her by the Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the day before.



Ordinarily, I should have sauntered on unconcerned with the conversation (half of Lagos was probably discussing the feat at that same time, anyway). But my curiosity was piqued by how animated the 15 or 16-year-olds, whom I could otherwise have passed for being unlettered, judging by their raggedy mien, spoke about such academic attainment. Interesting! Even though my legs were heavy and my body tired from the exertions of the prior week of the 2-in-1 Convocation activities, I hurried up to match their pace and walked at earshot to get the angle of their tete-a-tete.

"Won ni omo yen, five-point zero lo ni (they said the girl had 5.0), which means she did not fail any

question throughout the university. Ah!", the first ended his statement with an exclamation, an apparent perplexity at the incongruity of such a feat in a public University, a state university for that matter.

"Aje lomo yen, Oloun. For secondary school sef, ko si bo se mo iwe to, you must to fail question sha ni (that girl must be a witch, and no one can convince me otherwise. Even in secondary school, no matter how brilliant you are, you must fail a question).

I smiled. In their puerile savviness, their ignorance of the university scoring system was manifest. It was the same mistake that many people whom

I have heard, especially outside the university make. They seem to think that Aminat scored 100 over 100 in every single course she took throughout her five years in the university to be able to finish with 5.0. Whereas, all she needed was to get an A (or a distinction, achieved when you score anything between 75 to 100) in every course. And even that was hitherto almost impossible.

The boys were contemplating what they could do with the whopping sum of 10 million Naira that Mr. Governor gave Aminat when I eventually got to the University's main gate and ceased following them.

Little was known about 23-year-old Aminat Yusuf Imoitesemeh, an

indigene of Edo State until the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, announced her feat during the Convocation Press Conference on Wednesday 14th June. Since then, Aminat has become the proverbial golden fish who has no hiding place; the subject of animated discussions, the crux of newspaper stories and articles, and the proud bearer of such appellations as "star girl", "heroine", "genius", amongst others, and I dare say she deserves every accolade that has been poured on her since her achievement became public knowledge. Not only did she set a record that cannot be bettered anywhere, but she also did so in a course as intellectually saddling as Law being a girl child, an indigent student bereft of the luxuries that could have made her journey easier. Her CGPA of 5.0 aside, I dare say she is the very best that Lagos State University has seen and one of the very best to have passed through any public institution in Nigeria.

Indeed, her feat is by no means an easy one, and so it is for the other 281 graduands who also earned a first-class degree at the just concluded Convocation Ceremonies.

During that press conference the Vice Chancellor, a record breaker herself, announced proudly that the 282 first class graduands was the highest figure to have been produced in the history of the University in a single graduation.

The ovation that greeted her announcement evoked feelings of a similar declaration that she made 15 months earlier during a similar event when the university held its 25th Convocation. It was the institution's first Convocation under her nascent administration and she had gleefully declared that the 112 first-class graduates produced that year was the highest in the institution's history.

Now that the number has been bettered, a trend is emerging, and it's not just in the number of scholars being produced by the university, but in the sheer quality of their erudition.

Let this sink in: In the 25th Convocation, the number of the first class was 112, a record. The best graduating student was Benjamin Olowu with a CGPA of 4.97, a record.

In the 26th Convocation, the following year, the number of the first class was 282 (two sets were combined), a record. The best-graduating student



records within two years in the same LASU where it was easier to find a needle in a haystack than to find a CGPA of 4.5 and above on a student's result at graduation!

Now here is my point: Were the records merely a case of coincidence? Or have the students suddenly become more diligent in their studies? I think not.

To simply attribute it to either is to miss the point. I believe that the demonstration of higher academic attainments more empirically, speaks to the reality of a systemic evolvement, an institutional shift that LASU has experienced within the last few years and specifically under the leadership of Prof. Olatunji-Bello. To argue otherwise, in my humble opinion, is to do a great disservice to the people, and there are many of them, who have worked hard to put LASU on this pedestal of sustained growth.

Don't get me wrong: Benjamin Olowu, Divine Lopez, and Aminat Yusuf are geniuses; all the first-class graduates are, but even an Iroko tree cannot thrive in the absence of water and clement weather. In the words of Susan Brooks, "It is the learning environment that determines the success and motivation of the student to achieve".

So, the first catalyst, evidence of LASU's growth, is a conducive atmosphere for learning.

Without a conducive environment, today's genius would have remained nothing but potential. Under the leadership of the professor of Physiology, LASU today boasts of an environment characterized by serenity, security, and infrastructure, such as good lighting cum internet connectivity, that engenders learning. Unlike in the days of yore, when a stroll on the ill-lit campus was akin to walking through the biblical shadow of death, the ivory tower ground, the campus, well-illuminated and protected, has become a haven, a sanctuary even, for students who wish to study any time of the day. The example of Aminat Yusuf herself, who spent a good part of her five years of study sheltered at the University Central Mosque on the main campus lends credence to this point. A CGPA of 5.0 would have been unheard of in an unsecured environment.

Secondly, LASU lecturers must also be applauded for their commendable inclination to reward students' performance with commensurate grades, a clear departure from the notorious act of grade capping, which has become synonymous with many public university teachers. It is almost a universal practice in public ivory towers that students' results are determined not by the quality of their input, but by the whims of

the lecturer. "A is for God, B is for me, and C is for the best among you", you will often hear. But in LASU, today, what you give, is what you get.

And while the lecturers are getting the accolade, the Senate of the University must also be praised for endorsing hard work, in the prompt and just approval of results, and in the process setting good examples of same.

Also worth stating is that under the right leadership, LASU now generally boasts of a motivated, energetic, and passionate workforce, professionals who are willing to provide quality service to the thousands of students of the university. The implication is that no case of missing script, lost profile, sexual harassment or the threat of it could derail Aminat and her likes from graduating with flying colors. A sense of ownership of the vision to make LASU the best University in West Africa, and the knowledge that helping learners achieve their full potential in the University forms part of the building block to achieve that vision is a motivating factor. LASU has become a garden in which flowers (students) blossom and dreams become reality; an institution that rewards excellence, where students like Aminat can dare to dream and with the existing catalysts, achieve their aspirations. Those catalysts are summed up in one word: leadership.

Continue from pg 32

- * Modernized renovation of eight (8) Units of the Transit Lodge at Epe Campus.
- * Provision and rigging of boreholes to enhance the supply of water across the Campus.
- * supervising the Recovery and Regularization of over 800 Hectares encroached LASU Land
- * Construction and equipping of new facility for Faculty of Environmental Sciences.

Security

The security of lives and property is not negotiable and has been identified as germane to the Administration's success. Consequently, the Administration embarked on the following projects to enhance security of lives and property in the various Campuses of the University:

- * strengthened the Security Committee for enhanced

performance

- * revamped the Security apparatus of the University with the appointment of a new Chief Security Officer, capacity development, logistics enhancement and engagement of the service of a private security outfit to boost logistic requirements
- * procured and commissioned five new motorbikes for enhanced performance
- * installation of Street Lights at strategic areas and at every 100-meter space across the perimeter of the University main Campus for adequate illumination
- * acquisition of ten (10) new body scanners for prompt detection of likely security threats



VOX POP

We asked some members of the LASU Community their views on the Vice Chancellor's administration in the last two years.

She has made giant strides in the introduction of new courses which are germane to the economic progress of nation. The vice chancellor, Professor Ibiyemi I. Olatunji Bello, has made tremendous impact since her assumption of duty as the vice chancellor of this great citadel of learning.

Apart from these, she is a kind hearted soul, a mother with a great compassion towards the welfare of the staff.

Mrs. Taiwo Atolagbe, member LASU 12th Governing Council



The Students' Affairs Division has never had it this good. Under the leadership of Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, it has been an unprecedented achievements. Her leadership style is welfare-centric, for both staff and students of LASU.

Some of the achievements include a stable and uninterrupted academic calendar, scholarship for students, perfect CGPA, 5.0 in 40 years of LASU, buses for students from Lagos State Government, participation in national and international sporting events, corporate sponsorship for students' events, free accommodation for physically challenged female students, cordial relation between Management and Students' Union, amongst other notable achievements.

From the Students' Affairs, LASU, we can only wish the Vice Chancellor, more successes and a greater LASU.

- Dean, Students', LASU, Prof. Tajudeen Olumoko.

The Vice Chancellor's Administration has been nothing short of wonderful. She has performed beyond expectations. In the area of Procurement, she is highly Transparent and clamours value for every money spent. She is a true leader that carries every one along; she is not just a boss but a friend to many and that is the reason why so many call her Senior Abiomo of Nigeria (SAN)

Agoro Abosede, Head of procurement, Lagos State University, Ojo.



First I like to say that the Vice Chancellor, Prof Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello mni, NPOM is a fantastic, viable, fun, adorable, indomitable, a woman of timber and caliber, a very industrious person. As early as 6:30am, you will find her in the University premises that I often wonder how she is able to do that. Yet, leaves so late at the end of the day. In the aspect of Security, which is my area of interest, the VC never jokes with Security. She provides every necessary need for adequate security of the environment. Before we make a request, she is ready to get it done which is one major factor why the Staff and Students can live in an enabling and conducive environment. Before now, the impression was different as regards Poor Security but this Administration under the leadership of Prof. Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji-Bello mni NPOM has made safety for all, possible. Knowing how well I have moved around other Universities, I can proudly say LASU is indeed Great.

CSP Oluwale Ojo (Rtd), the Chief Security Coordinator of Lagos State University, Ojo.



During Vice Chancellor Prof. Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji-Bello's remarkable two-year tenure, she has undeniably left an indelible mark on our university. Her visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to excellence have propelled our institution to unprecedented heights. Under her guidance, we have achieved the prestigious recognition as the best state university, a testament to her dedication to elevating the quality of education and fostering research excellence. Her innovative approaches, such as implementing online and physical teaching modes and digitizing admission procedures, showcase her forward-thinking mindset and her determination to provide adaptable, technology-driven education. Her accessibility and willingness to collaborate with student union representatives further demonstrate her inclusive leadership style, making her tenure a period of transformative growth and progress for our university.

Agoro Oreoluwa, 33rd President LASUSU

Lagos State University has been painted in good shape nationally and internationally within a short period of two years the VC assumed office. To crown it all, Professor Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello Bello has listening ears and feelings for Staff and Students as a good mother should.

When you see a woman well educated, exposed, cultured and God fearing as the head of an institution like this, you don't expect anything less than peace and progress. By the grace of God, before the end of the next three years the present administration under the leadership of the current VC, Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello mni NPOM would have taken LASU to a very stable world class and enviable University status with the financial support of the Lagos State Government and cooperation of other important stakeholders in the University. Congratulations to the VC

Mr Michael Tadopede - Deputy Registrar, Non-Academic Staff Establishment



The Vice Chancellor, Professor Ibiyemi Tunji-Bello, mni, NPOM is a progressive leader with niche for educational excellence and infrastructural development. The LASUSBAS is a reflection of her unreserved desire for human and institutional development, a listener and dexterous progressive, considering her favourable priorities given for transition of LASUSBAS students to the university and prompt approval for various requests from LASUSBAS.

AVOSEH, KEHINDE OLUBAMISE; PAR/Programme Secretary, LASUSBAS

The Campus experienced a massive increase in students' populace on Campus in the previous Programmes, such as the Faculty of Engineering and the School of Agriculture, and all the other programmes on Campus as well as the enrollment into the Diploma programmes in the Faculty of Engineering all this has brought more light thereby bringing the Campus more alive.

Mrs. Onikoyi-Obikoya, Deputy Registrar/Head, Registry, Epe Campus, Lagos.





The two years of Professor Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, mni, NPOM, have been remarkable. Her achievements within this period is evident not only in infrastructural development, the introduction of new programmes that are designed to impact the Nigerian and African societies, the number of programmes accredited by the NUC, provision of funds for staff development, but also in the area of income generation through several ventures among others. I know she's a leader with great capacity and capabilities so, the next three years will be greater than the past two years.

Prof. Tunji Azeez, former Head, Department of Theatre Arts and Music and Acting Dean, School of Tourism, Film, Performing Arts and Cultural Studies.



In the last two years, Professor Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello has brought to bear the spirit of tenacity in the pursuit of goals, and her zest and zeal for excellence, sui generis, has propelled her from the first day in office to set herself the goal of making LASU "the best University in West Africa by 2026".

What greater testimony do we need to underpin this vision than the demonstrable improvements in the infrastructural, academic, and institutional profile of LASU under her leadership over the past two years. One can only wish her, as a successful successor to a string of successful administrators, a more reflective tale of successes by the end of her tenure in 2026.

Professor Amidu Sanni (PhD Lond)
Chief Imam, LASU



One area where the VC has performed exceptionally well, and one in which I have a special interest is war against sexual harassment and gender-based violence in the University. She established a Centre to that effect and the Centre has been working seriously to ensure no hiding place for rapists, molesters and abusers in LASU. She deserves our commendation. She also takes issues of workers' welfare as a priority; always eager to give workers their rights without hard agitation. She believes in dialogue and negotiations. Whenever there are government policy/policies that has to do with staff welfare, she is always at the forefront of implementations. LASU Staff are indeed lucky to have her as a Progressive and Proactive VC who is attracting many positivity to the Institution.

- **Comrade Chief Agnes Funmi Sessi**, Chairman Nigeria Labour Congress, Lagos State Council, and Chief Nursing Officer at the Directorate of Health Services Dept LASU



The Vice Chancellor - Professor Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji-Bello mni, NPOM has been a forward thinking, innovative and progressive leader. Over the last two years of her administration, she has maintained a stable academic calendar, attention to staff and Students welfare, established the institute of (I believe research and innovation) alongside other progressive ideas. She has been a mother, a leader, a giver, and an excellent administrator.

I pray that may God will help her to fulfill her vision and mission over LASU.

Dr. Kunle Ogabi, Chaplain, LASU Chapel of Light



LASU SCHOOL OF TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS WINS PRESTIGIOUS RESEARCH GRANT FROM KUEHNE FOUNDATION IN HAMBURG, GERMANY

Lagos State University's School of Transport and Logistics, under the esteemed leadership of Prof. Odewumi S.G, has achieved a significant milestone in its research endeavours. The team recently secured a prestigious research grant from the Kuehne Foundation in Hamburg, Germany. This remarkable achievement highlights the exceptional calibre and dedication of the faculty and students at the School of Transport and Logistics.

In another remarkable feat, the School of Transport and Logistics showcased their expertise at the African Conference on Logistics and Supply Management (ACOSM 5) held in Kampala, Uganda. Amongst a diverse range of participants from Africa, Europe, and Asia, LASU's School of Transport and Logistics emerged as the second-best in the paper presentation category. This recognition not only reflects the outstanding research capabilities of the team but also positions the school as a leading institution in the field of transport and logistics.

As a testament to their exceptional performance, the School of Transport and Logistics was awarded a grant of \$10,000 (Ten thousand Dollars) for their outstanding contribution to the conference. This grant serves as a testament to the immense value of their research and its potential impact on the field.

The School of Transport and Logistics expresses its sincere gratitude to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji-Bello mni NPOM, for her unwavering support and visionary leadership. Under her guidance, the school has been provided with a conducive environment that enables the pursuit of excellence and the realization of dreams. Her invaluable contribution has played a vital role in the success of the School of Transport and Logistics.

This significant achievement not only brings recognition to the School of Transport and Logistics but also underscores its commitment to advancing knowledge in the field of transport and logistics. With the support of the Kuehne Foundation grant, the school is poised to further enhance its research capabilities and contribute to the development of innovative solutions in the field.

We are LASU, We are Great!

LASUCOM Unveils 85 medical Doctors and Dental Surgeons in Epic Induction Ceremony

...Provost charges inductees to fully embrace the responsibility attached to the power of the profession.

It was a day of triumph and joy as the Lagos State University College of Medicine held an "unforgettable" Induction ceremony on Thursday 31st of August, 2023 to welcome its 17th and Largest Graduating Set of Medical Doctors and 7th Set of Dental Surgeons into the Medical and Dental Profession.

The Ceremony took place at the College's grand auditorium, with esteemed guests from the Ministries of Health & Tertiary Education, Traditional leaders, Medical and Dental Council, proud parents, faculty members, and the 92 new graduates in *overflowing* attendance.

The College's Provost, Professor Abiodun Adewuya in his welcome address, expressed pride in the graduates' accomplishments and highlighted the College's commitment to producing outstanding healthcare professionals. He praised the Faculty members for their dedication and mentorship, attributing the graduates' success to their guidance and teachings.

While addressing the graduates, he urged them to not be demoralized by the economic downturn of the Nation but rather channel it as a platform and motivator for constant self-improvement that may lead them to various specialties that would be beneficial to society and the rapidly changing world.

"Remember, with great Power comes great responsibility and as you are being instilled with that power today, let the integrity and leadership qualities the College has instilled in each and every single one of you guide your actions and dictate your path to success" he said as he wished them the very best in all their future endeavors.

In a poignant moment that moved the parents and guests present, the graduates took the solemn Hippocratic Oath led by Dr. T.A.B Sanusi, the Registrar of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCAN). This oath signifies the traditional rite of passage, marking the official entry of the graduates into the medical and dental professions. The Inductees pledged to uphold the principles of their respective

professions and to serve humanity with sincerity and integrity.

The Medical Elder for the Ceremony, Prof. R.A. Akinola who was charged with role of motivating the new Doctors and Dental Surgeons after being officially sworn into the profession encouraged the graduates to embrace their roles as healers and caregivers with compassion and dedication. The speaker emphasized the importance of lifelong learning and staying at the forefront of medical advancements to provide the best possible care to patients.





SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE MOVES TO BOOST KNOWLEDGE APPLICATION, HOSTS TWO AMERICA VARSITY PROFESSORS

The School of Agriculture of Lagos State University has moved to enhance its knowledge and application of the latest trends in agriculture with its reception of two America-based agriculture experts - Prof. Richard Omotoye and Dr. Leonard Githinji - on Thursday 15th June 2023, The duo, who were led to an entry meeting with the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, mni, NPOM, by the Dean, School of Agriculture, Prof. O.T.F Abanikanda, would provide hands-on training to members of staff of the School with the aim of enhancing the food generation capacity of the School to meet the second SDG goal, which is to eradicate hunger.

Leader of the team, Prof. Omotoye, an Awori by birth who has spent the better part of the last two decades in the United States, expressed his excitement to be back home having spent a good part of his childhood growing around the University community. "To be here gives me much joy and I am proud to see what LASU has become." He also congratulated the Vice Chancellor on her accomplishments in the university.



The VC receives two fellows of the Carnegie African Diaspora Fellowship

Dr. Leonard Githinji, the second member of the team, a Kenyan by birth, noted that part of the team's assignment would be to explore ways to maximize small spaces to

carry out large-scale farming considering the small size of a city like Lagos. Both agric experts are from the Virginia State University, United States of America.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Olatunji-Bello, mni, NPOM, while welcoming the team, thanked the Dean, Prof. Abanikanda for facilitating the visit and assured the visitors of a good stay during the six weeks that they would be staying at the Epe Campus.

"I want you to pass the wealth of your knowledge to our people. We are working towards making LASU the best University in West Africa and our strength in Agriculture would go a long way to help us achieve that. Please give us everything you have, don't hold back", she urged the team.

The meeting, which held at the Vice Chancellor's Conference Room, also had in attendance members of the University Management and aides of the Vice Chancellor.

LASU VC, PROF. IBIYEMI OLATUNJI-BELLO, mni, BAGS NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY ORDER OF MERIT AWARD

The Vice Chancellor, Lagos State University, Prof. Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji-Bello, mni, has been announced a recipient of the National Productivity Order of Merit (NPOM) Award by the Federal Government of Nigeria. The announcement was made by the National Productivity Centre, Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment via publications in The Daily Trust of Tuesday 29th May, and The Nation of Tuesday 30th May 2023.

The National Productivity Order of Merit Award is an award of Dignity instituted by the Federal Government to recognize hard work and excellence among deserving Nigerians.

A professor of Physiology, Prof. Olatunji-Bello, assumed office as LASU's 9th Substantive and second female Vice Chancellor, on Monday, 20th September 2021 with a clear vision to lead the University to become the best in West Africa.

She has since her assumption galvanized the University to national and international reckoning, with several accolades - one of which is LASU's rating as the Best University in West Africa in the U.I Greenmetrics Global Ranking - serving as a testament to her transformational leadership. The award is also a recognition of the positive impact she has made as a leader and as a catalyst for productivity and development in the country.

Prof. Olatunji-Bello, mni, an alumna of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), is

also a recipient of a plethora of individual honours, the latest being her conferment with the Award of Fellow of the National Labour Institute (FNIL) by the Michael Imodu National Institute for Labour Studies (MINILS) earlier in May 2023.

We are LASU, we are great.



The VC with her NPOM award

SOME OF THE COMPLETED PROJECT UNDER THE ADMIRATION



The New LASU gate house, Iraye, Epe



Staff Club



Gate House, main campus, Ojo



Newly renovated LASU museum, Agege



LASU Press



Newly built Toilet facility



LASU water plant



Renovated School of part-studies building



LASU Bakery



New Ambulance buses



Renovated building, Epe



Staff quarters, Epe



Hostel facility at Epe



Femi Gbajabiamila conference Centre



Twin cafeteria building, Badagry campus



Discover
a New
Level of
Taste @

LASU BREAD

For enquiries:

09064526580

yummy! yummy!! yummy!!!



LAGOS STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS

PRINTING & PUBLISHING PRESS



OUR SERVICES:

Book Publishing	↔	Souvenirs of all kinds
Programmes of all kinds	↔	News Letters
Magazines	↔	Calenders, Posters
Brochures/Journals	↔	Handbills
Exercise Books	↔	Flex Banners/SAV

LASUPRESS...Creating a better impression!

Printed@ Lagos State University Press ,Tel: 08033843793.