

*Ali stood with
and for Ilorin
Emirate during
tough times
- Emir of Ilorin*

KULIYA NGERI

Ilorin stands still for Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN





CELEBRATING 1ST KULIYA NGERI OF ILORIN



Editor's Note

Kuliya: Behold the Maker of History, Yusuf Ali!

OUR VISION

To change the narrative and break new grounds in the ever-changing world of social activities around us, bringing into public discourse that which would ordinarily go unreported.

OUR MISSION

To gather, package and adequately disseminate information on social events as they happen within our immediate reach and beyond, knowing fully well that information is power.

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For Yusuf Olaolu Ali, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria and Professor of Law Practice, history has been made in his lifetime. It was at the ancient Palace of the Emir of Ilorin and Chairman, Kwara State Council of Chiefs, Maimartaba, Dr Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, where Ali's pick as pioneer Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate, is formalized on April 11th, 2025.

Since late 2024 that the monarch gifted the founder, Ghalib Chambers, a law firm with Headquarters in Ilorin, the coveted traditional title, accolades continued to pour in torrent from all stratas of the society, given the amount of reverence with which the holder is held.

It is an understatement to posit that Ali commands respect and admiration among his contemporaries and those below him in the field of law. Obviously, this cannot be divorced from the fact that beyond practice as a lawyer, he is versed in jurisprudence; little wonder he is one of the most sought after in the legal voyage.

The conferment ceremony of the traditional title attested to the larger than life personality of Professor Yusuf Ali with the calibre of individuals that graced the occasion. Among the dignitaries in attendance were Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Senator Kashim Shettima; Borno State Governor Professor Babagana Umara Zulum; his Kwara State counterpart and Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq (represented). Present at the event were also Ministers including Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Prince Lateef Olasunkanmi Fagbemi (SAN); and Marine and Blue Economy, Mr Adegboyega Oyetola.

At the historic event were also eminent jurists, legal luminaries, members of the academic community, traditional and religious leaders, captains of industry and members of the political class among others. With the sizeable number of attendees from across the world, the imprimatur of Ali as Kuliya Ilory was further solidified.

But something strange happened on the day of the turbaning. Any indigenes of the Ilorin Emirate, who, at one time or another, attended the conferment of honorary title on distinguished individuals at the palace would have observed that the Emir hardly make speeches.

However, the revered traditional ruler broke his silence when it was the turn of Professor Ali, thus setting aside the long standing tradition of merely observing while his aides and palace staff performed the preceding rites and eventual conferment of such prestigious title.

Sulu-Gambari said, "Let me announce publicly to all of us present that Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN earned the title of Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate through a dint of hard work. This is because he stood with me when the going was tough. He fought for the Emirate in a manner that the Ilorin Emirate would remain strong.

"We also considered him for the title due to his contributions to the development of our Emirate. We recognised his efforts. He should endeavour to relate this to his children and unborn children".

Apparently, the Emir of Ilorin and Chairman, Kwara State Council of Chiefs used the occasion to dispel likely rumour mill about the choice of the legal luminary for the title despite not being an indigene, and to lay to a permanent end the figment of imagination of 'Doubting Thomas' on the rationale behind the decision of the Emirate. The Emir's terse statement sealed the title.

Some attributes such as humility, humanity, religiosity, philanthropy, meekness, kindness and mentorship are replete with the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate in his over four decades of practice as a Minister in the Temple of Justice.

That he is averse to corrupt practices is second to none. He is convinced that Nigeria requires cleansing from the vices plaguing it to attain its status among the comity of States. Ali, indeed, is a pacesetter, and this presupposes that Nigerians have a lot to learn from him for the betterment of all. It is hoped that he would not drop the ball but sustain the momentum.



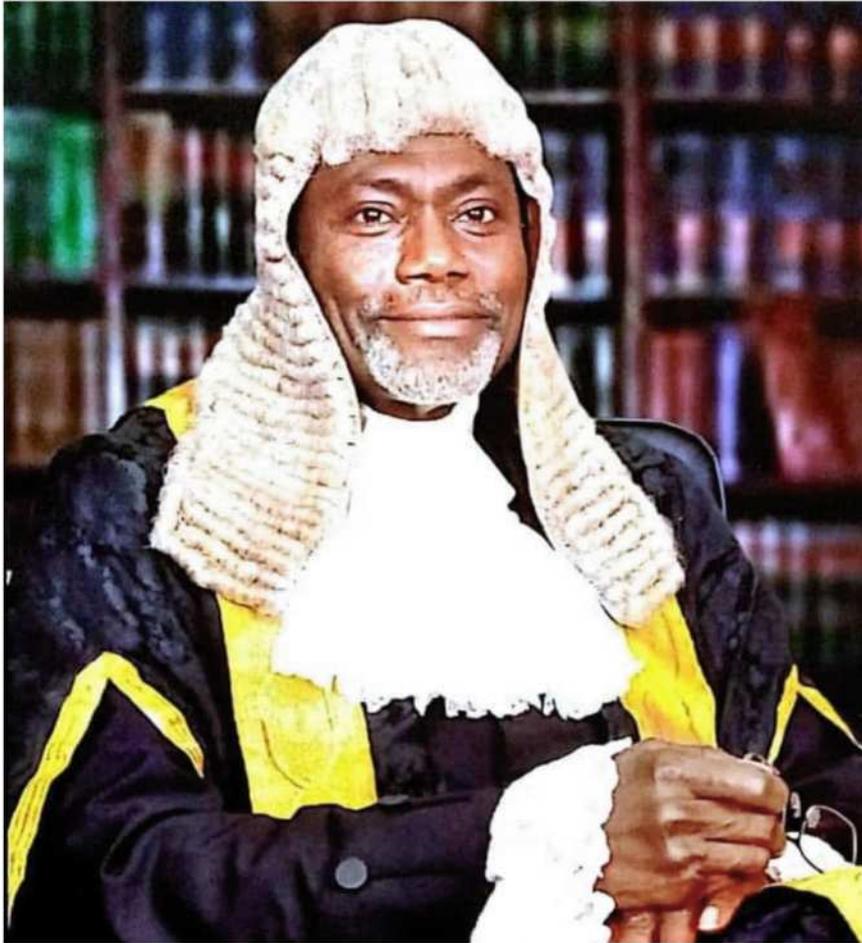
TUNDE AKANBI

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PROFILE

Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, a legal colossus



Yusuf Ali, SAN started his early life by being enrolled in a local Quranic school and in a formal school in 1960. After his primary education, he proceeded to a secondary modern school for three years. He worked briefly before he gained admission to Ibadan Boys High School, Ibadan, where he passed his school certificate with grade one. He was the labour prefect.

He again worked briefly as a clerical officer in the old Oyo state Ministry of Finance as a tax officer posted to Igboora in 1977.

He gained admission to the University of Ife, now (Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife) in 1978 and graduated with a 2nd Class Upper Division for his Bachelor of Laws degree.

He was a winner of the prestigious Federal Merit Award for undergraduates and a University Scholar as an undergraduate at Ife. He attended the Nigerian Law School, where he also passed with a 2nd Class Upper Division

About a decade after graduation, Yusuf Ali went back to his alma mater

for his Masters programme which he completed with flying colours in 1991 when he bagged his LLM. He was appointed by the Chief Justice of Nigeria in 1989, as a Notary Public

He attained the highest professional honour at the Nigerian Bar in 1997, when he was conferred with the prestigious and honorable title of Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), Yusuf Ali has been in active legal practice for over three decades.

He joined the Law Firm of Adegboyega Awomolo & Co in 1983 and rose to become a partner before he left to found his own law firm in June 1994.

He is the Principal and Founder of the Law Firm, Yusuf O. Ali & Co, Ghalib Chambers, with offices at Ilorin, Lagos and Abuja with Ilorin as the head office.

Yusuf Ali SAN is a member of many professional bodies such as:

Nigerian Bar Association
International Bar Association
American Bar Association
Commonwealth Lawyers Association; among others.

He has won and conferred with many fellowships such as:

Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, (FCI Arb) (UK).

Fellow Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCI Arb) (Nigeria)

Member Chartered Institute of Taxation Nigeria (CITN)

Fellow Society for Peace Studies and Practice (FSPSP).

Fellow Dispute Resolution Institute (F. DRI)

Honourary Fellow, Nigerian Mining And Geosciences Society.

Yusuf Ali, SAN also served and is still serving on boards of many companies and institutions. He was the Chairman, Kwara State Law Reform Committee. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin. He was the pioneer Chairman, Council of Public Defenders, Kwara state. He is the Chairman, Board of Directors Apex Microfinance Bank Ltd.

Yusuf Ali, SAN held and still holds many professional offices including but not limited to:

Sole Judge of the Kwara State Local Government Election Petition Tribunal 1996

Member, Kwara State Local Government Election Appeal Tribunal 1997

Life Member, Body of Benchers
Member, National Executive Committee, Nigerian Bar Association

Former Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of Nigerian Bar Journal

Former Chairman of the NBA Committee on the Rule Of Law

Pioneer Chairman, Nigerian Bar Association Section on Legal Practice (SLP)

Pioneer Chairman of the NBA Anti-corruption Commission.

News Letter Editor International Bar Association Committee on Damages and Negligence.

Member of Council, Commonwealth Lawyers Association.

Member, Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee of the Body of Benchers.

He is the Vice Chairman of the International Bar Association committee on Damages and Negligence.

He is a member of the NBA ILORIN Council of Elders.

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Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, a legal colossus

He was co opted into the Council of the University of Ilorin in 1995 to probe the bursary of that university.

He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Ilorin Central Mosque.

Chairman, Alanu Trust Fund of the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital.

Yusuf Ali SAN is a Patron and Legal Adviser to many professional and socio-cultural groups across Nigeria. He is also an Associate Lecturer, at the Faculty of Law, University of Ilorin. He has delivered more than Two Hundred papers on different and diverse topics at various force, including the International Bar Association Conferences, Commonwealth Law Association conferences , Annual Conferences of the Nigerian Bar Association, among others.

He has contributed more than 17 Chapters to various legal books and has to his credit more than 40 published articles in learned journals in the field of litigation, Commercial Law, jurisprudence , practice and procedure, constitutional law in local and international law journals. He had represented many state governments, high-net-worth individuals, corporate and institutional clients before all the superior courts of record from the High Court to the Supreme Court in many landmark cases.

Yusuf Ali has been awarded more than 100 honours from within and outside of Nigeria. He is listed in the American Biographical Institute's Who is Who, as well as in Nigeria's Who is Who.

A few of the over 100 awards conferred on him are:

Lifetime Achievement Award by the Governing Board of Editors of the American Biographical Institute

West Africa International Golden Award for Excellence in Enterprise

Award of Excellence presented by AIESEC Ilorin

Award of Excellence as a Doyen of Legal Luminary in Nigeria by Nigerian Vogue

Special Award by FIDA Kwara

Award of Excellence by the National Association of Muslim Law Students, National Headquarters, Abuja.

Distinguished Personality Award presented by the Faculty of Law, University of Ibadan

Merit Award by the Nigerian Institute of Management, Kwara State

Branch

Award of Excellence by the National Association of Polytechnic Students

Award of Excellence by the Students' Union of the University of Ilorin

Award of Exemplary Leadership and Service by Rotary Club, Ilorin

Merit Award by the Ibadan Boys High School Old Boys Association

Merit Award by All Nigeria Confederation of Principals of Secondary Schools, Osun State Branch

Kwame Nkrumah Leadership Award of 2010 Africa Legal Icon by All Africa Students' Union

Award by the NBA Women Forum for Immense Contribution and Activities to the Forum

Police Friendly Award 2009 by the Kwara State Police Command

Kwame Nkrumah Leadership Award on Education Per Excellence/Icon of Societal Development by the West African Students' Union

Commander of Great IFE , (COI) by the Obafemi Awolowo university national Alumni.

Honorary Degree of Doctor Of Letters (Honoris Causa) of Al-Hikmah University.

He is very passionate about philanthropy and using the vehicle of YUSUF ALI FOUNDATION of which he is the Founder and Sole Financier so far, had intervened in many public institutions by donating:

A twin dormitory to the University of Ilorin.

An eighty-bed hostel to the Osun State University.

A ten-bed Advanced Trauma Centre

to the University of ILORIN Teaching Hospital.

Thirty unit ICT centre to the Faculty of Law OBAFEMI Awolowo University ILE-IFE.

Thirty unit ICT centre to the College of Law, Crescent University ABEOKUTA, OGUN State.

Endowment of the Crescent University College of Law Building.

Forty unit ICT centre to the KWARA State Polytechnic , ILORIN.

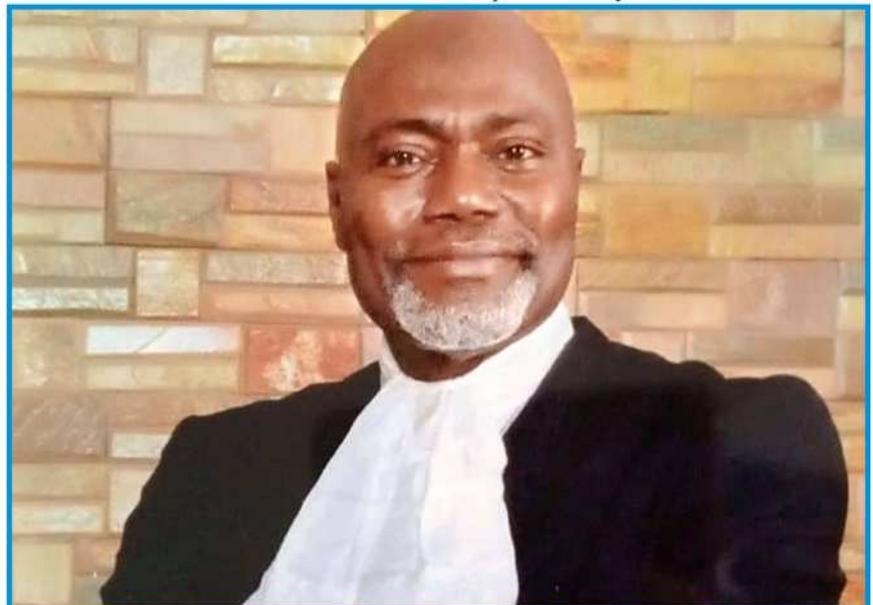
A brand new Kia Rio 2014 Model to the University of Ibadan for the use of the Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies of the university.

In the recent past, in order to enhance the work of the KWARA State police command, he donated a well equipped patrol van and some units of motorcycles.

The Yusuf Ali Foundation does a lot of other charity works like award of scholarships to indigent students in secondary and tertiary institutions both in Nigeria and beyond, provision of wells and boreholes to communities, medical financial assistance to patients both within the country and outside and the development of literary awareness in secondary schools all over the country through an annual sponsorship in partnership with the Association of Nigerian Authors.

Yusuf Ali is a well travelled man and has visited all the continents of the world for professional and educational purposes.

He has published many articles in learned journals and contributed chapters to many books.





Kuliya Ngeri, invitation to renew my commitment, contributions to Ilorin Emirate - Yusuf Ali, SAN

Can you kindly give a brief insight into your background?

I am Professor Yusuf Ali, a lawyer, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, and Alhamdulillah, I am a father and grandfather. I have been in practice for more than 40 years, and since I qualified as a lawyer, I have not done any other thing than legal practice to earn living. I have been practicing from only one place, which is Ilorin, right from the beginning. Of course, we have offices outside of Ilorin. We have an office in Abuja, which is also built like the one in Ilorin, but not as big as it is. Everybody knows Ilorin is the headquarters of our legal firm, and it was for a purpose.

One, we want to let people know that where you are is irrelevant to

In this exclusive interview with OUR EVENTS CREW, the Legal Giant and first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, bares his mind on the new traditional title, roles expected of him. He also offers insights into his family background, childhood, marital life, legal practice and the nation's polity amongst other issues of interest.

what Allah wants to do for you. People believe if you are not in Lagos, Port-Harcourt or in Abuja, just the way it was when we wanted to be lawyers, most of our parents in those days didn't want us to be lawyers. They had the belief that if you don't belong to some underground type of organisations, you probably will not make it in life;

we proved that to be a lie.

Once you believe in God, and you are faithful to Him. He doesn't cheat. He will reward you, and you would see the beneficence of Allah. He says if you do one good thing, He gives you manifold rewards. But, if you do one evil, He will reward you with just one evil. So, that is who I

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I've not tasted pounded yam for 50yrs ...rarely eat alone

am.

I am from a family of seven; my father, my mother, and five other siblings. We lost my immediate brother in 2003. So, it remains five of us. The first two are men, the last three are women. I think the youngest of our siblings is about 59 years old now and that is the baby in my father's family. Many people are surprised that my father was married to only my mother. Yes, destiny played a role in it. Whereas my grandfather was a 'four-star general' and my great grandfather was a 'two or three-star general'. I never met him, he died almost 80 years ago. His name is Abdulsalam Ajijola-Anabi. That is a story for another day because that Ajijola-Anabi was an alias.

Originally, they were not Yoruba but they just found themselves somewhere there and then all other things followed.

I'm not ashamed to say it. In fact, our connection with being Yoruba is just because my great-grandfather married an Ife princess who gave birth to my grandfather. That was how our 'Yorubanness' came in. Otherwise, we would have been something else, but it is okay, we are Yoruba now, end of story.

The Emir of Ilorin found you worthy of being appointed as the new Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate, how do you feel about the development?

First of all, let me show appreciation to the Almighty Allah and then to our father, Mai Martaba, the Emir of Ilorin. It is something I thank the Almighty Allah for. After the announcement, people started saying that I have done so much to deserve the title, I just laughed. It is recognising blessing of Allah. I'm sure there are individuals, both dead and alive in this hallowed city who have done so much too, who never got recognised. So, recognition comes from Allah. He will plant it in the minds of people to recognize you.

So, like I always tell people, I have not seen anything I have done that is extraordinary other than the blessings of Allah in my life. So, to be recognised is not something one think you set out for, you could even break your neck. If Allah says you are not going to be recognised, you will not be recognised.

I always tell people to put everything in the courtyard of Allah. He is the only one who makes preferment and dispensation; that is

the truth. You just do your own part and move on.

I must say that I have been very close to Baba (Emir of Ilorin), for as long as I can remember. But I'm not the only person who is close to him, and I'm not the only lawyer he knows. So, let us just say that Allah has, the way He does His things, He put it in the Emir's mind that he should give me this and the Emir carried out the work of Allah by recognising me. So, I wouldn't say it is because I have done anything, it is just because Allah wants it to happen.

Did the Emir of Ilorin discuss this appointment with you before it was given to you?

Baba doesn't operate that way, he normally wouldn't tell you. I travelled somewhere and I got a call from the Palace that Baba wanted to see me on a particular date, and I said, "okay". Later I got an inkling and I told the person that they could make the announcement while I was away on a trip, he said no, as the Emir would want me to be there in person.

To be honest, on the day I was to go to the Palace, I was advised to bring a few friends. Then I knew something would happen.

That is the farthest I got but there was no time Baba called me privately. We had a very good relationship even before I became the Kuliya. I normally sit at his feet. Initially, he always insisted I sit on a chair, but as a traditional person, I felt it is more traditional to sit at his feet.

Can you tell us about the meaning of the Kuliya title?

Yes, it means the pinnacle or zenith of law practice. It is like being made a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, that is the highest you can become as a lawyer. So, in the traditional setting, Kuliya is the highest you can become as a lawyer in this type of a community. But I know it is a very popular thing in Gombe and some

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'Kabiyesi' syndrome, replete with Nigerian politics

other places like Bauchi.

Speaking of the pinnacle, are you the most senior lawyer in the city?

No! When I became SAN, I was just 14 years at the Bar. There are hundreds of people who are my seniors at the Bar that are behind me. That is why I said God picks people out of preference and the Mai Martaba has his reasons, which nobody can query.

What are the specific roles attached to this office?

It is a traditional title. I think it is an invitation to renew one's commitment and contributions to the community and to humanity. That is my summation of it. Yes, I have been part of the community more than many people know of. I was on the Implementation Committee of the Ilorin Central Mosque when Dr Abubakar Olusola Saraki was the Chairman, and when eventually the mosque was completed, I was privileged to be one of the ten people who were on the board of trustees of the Central Mosque.

The luck I have over many people is that I'm connected with three places and I play active role in the three places. Here in Ilorin, Ifetedo in Osun State and Ibadan in Oyo State. If I get to Ibadan today, you will not understand. Many people who attended my father's funeral in Ibadan in 2017, were surprised. I'm equally at home there and in truth, I have blood relations with Ilorin, Ifetedo and Ibadan, and I have homes in these three places.

Who are the dignitaries expected for the turbaning ceremony slated for April?

Alhamdulillah! So far, I have had indications from a few Governors, Vice President, many Senators and Ministers who are my friends among others.

How prepared is the committee to receive all these dignitaries?

I'm sure they are well prepared because I'm aware that at the Palace, they are making provision for 1,000 people and at the reception, three times of that number. So, I'm sure

they are more than prepared.

Given your many decades of residence in Ilorin, what is your general overview on the development of the city in the last 30 years or 40 years?

Let me talk as a citizen. This city has grown in leaps and bounds. I can tell you that; back then, that Taiwo road used to be a single lane, known as Oja-Iya bypass. By the way, had been visiting Ilorin for holidays since my days in the university. It is not when I became a lawyer that I came here. I had stayed in places inside the city. So, I have known Ilorin and had been coming to the city long before I became a lawyer. So, I can speak with some level of authority about the giant structural development of this city.

As I was saying, that Oja-Iya bypass, used to be a single lane in the late 70s and early 80s, you could virtually drive your car, close your eyes without applying brake from the junction up to the general hospital because there would be no traffic.

This city has been very lucky to have produced some good leaders who had transformed the city in different ways, starting from the time of Bamgboye. Many people do not know that Gaa-Imam and other places were villages outside of this city but have now been absorbed into the city, and even places like Sabo-Oke and Adewole were villages on their own.

So, the city has enjoyed a lot of expansion and development. It has become cosmopolitan now. When



we started practice, there were no eateries other than 'Buka' and we would go there to eat after court proceedings with our friends. This idea of big eateries and restaurants like Mr Biggs came much later and now there is virtually no 'Buka' anymore. They have almost been run out of town.

A few months ago, you marked your 70th birthday. How do you feel stepping the seventh floor?

Alhamdulillah! I keep on thanking the Almighty Allah.

What is the secret of your youthfulness?

You see, one, we must all know that genetics play a lot of role in who you are. So, your family is very important, because we are told in medicine that you as an individual is 50-50 between your father and your mother in terms of the chromosomes, and there are a lot of things you inherit from them.

Then, your lifestyle matters, because you may acquire something good and you spoil it with the way you live your life. I always tell everybody, everything must be in moderation, which is what the Prophet said. As a Muslim, you are never to the extreme of right or the extreme of left. You are to be moderate.

Once you do everything in

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Ilorin has grown in leaps and bounds

moderation, of course, you must watch out for your well-being. Everybody who knows me knows I am a gym fanatic. In fact, once I get home by 5.30pm, I will do my routine workout because I have a gym in the house.

Recently we saw you on a boat, what is it about?

It is part of the thing we thought we should use to promote our environment. People go to Lagos to go for boat club. I am sure with that kind of thing, people will feel more comfortable coming here and spending money weekends and come to spend money for hotel accommodations.

Are you planning to commercialise it?

No, I am saying if we encourage investors to invest in it and people will be coming here from Lagos to spend weekends. We should beg the government to give access to Asa dam so that we can create a place where people will come and enjoy themselves.

Looking at the multitude of friends that you have, how have you been able to maintain cordial relationships with them?

First of all, once you are my friend, you are my friend. No matter what you become, you are my friend, and I want everybody to also see me that way. The problem is that most times we turn people into idols. One of my

old friends, Abdullahi Ibrahim, we grew up together. If he becomes President of Nigeria tomorrow, he will always be Abdullahi Ibrahim to me. 'Ibro' is what I will still be calling him, and I also encourage my friends to do the same thing to me. Because if you are not careful, when people start to deify you, you will start to think you are who you are not, and for goodness sake, if you want to remain a person, you must remain a human being proper.

I don't expect people who are older than me now, just because of whatever I have become, feel that they need to kneel down to greet me. No. In fact, there are people who are older than me, I challenged some of them, to cease from using traditional honorifics for me but most of them will remain insistent on addressing me with honorifics.

There are my classmates in secondary school. Of course I am older than most of them actually because I entered secondary school at over 18. So, I was in class with people who were just 11-12 years old.

Even those ones, I don't expect them to address me with honorifics, although some of them call me 'Bros'. That is neither here nor there, But the friends I grew up with, people like Abdullahi Ibrahim, Ishaq Oloyede, Oba Adelodun, Aliyu Badmus, Jamiu Ekungba,

Ibrahim Shekarau and Yadudu. We were all together in the 70s in the MSSN in the 70's, and I don't expect anyone of them to think I am something of a big deal now. Of course, I am nothing to them, absolutely nothing.

And it is one of the things we do and try to promote so that the young ones too can also emulate. I realised that many of them don't keep friends. We are talking of friends of more than 50 years, some more than that, and there is nothing like it. It is only when you are in the midst of friends like that, that you remember who you truly are; you are Yusuf Ali, nothing more, nothing less.

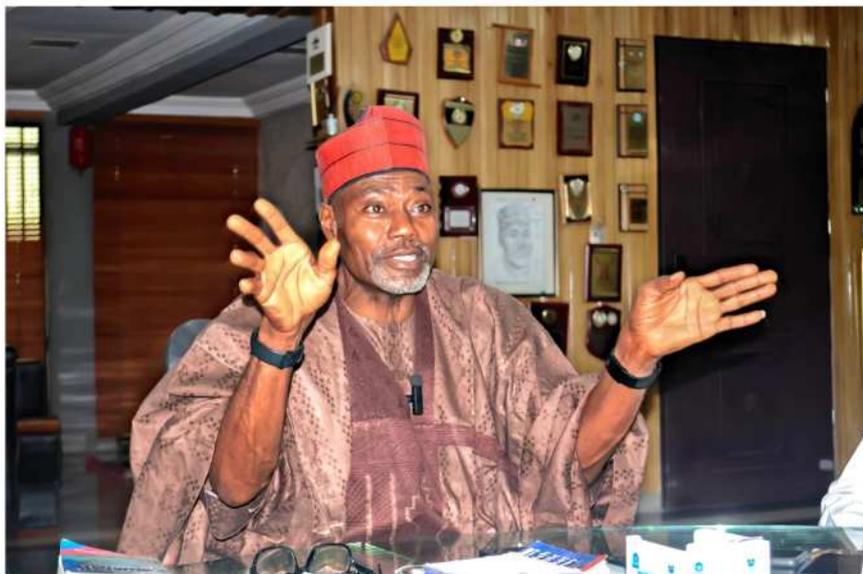
The other day we were having a meeting at IWF and I said that those who missed the meeting missed a lot because it was one forum where people could call you who you are, other functions are too formal. People want to see you as if you do not have blood flowing in your system, people will see you as a demigod who doesn't use the toilet. When people say to me that I'm not an Ilorin person, I just laugh because I am more Ilorin than many people. I won't say more than that.

When the news of your professorial appointment emerged, many questions were asked. Can you tell us more about it for clarification?

I am not sure there is any doubt. Let me first of all tell you one of the things that surprised me most when that announcement was made. Some people in the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) believed that I am not their friend because when I was the Pro-Chancellor of Osun State University, I didn't hide my stand on "no work, no pay". Some of them felt that, I am not a good person but the first thing that surprised me, which I knew, it was because Allah wanted it to happen. And nobody in ASUU said it is not deserving.

Secondly, I have been teaching consistently since 1998 at the

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SANship not for self-glorification

University of Ilorin, *pro bono*. And without being immodest, as at today, I have almost 60 published articles in legal journals all over the world. By the way, I am on Google Scholar. I have published four books and I have almost 25 chapters in other books. I have delivered more than 300 lectures all over the world on law and non-law issues.

I never expected to become a professor. Once the door of teaching on full-time closed in 1983, I never imagined I would return to the academia. I was just doing my own, just to exercise my brain. Even writing articles and papers was just to exercise my brain, because I know that God gave me talents and I know one of them is writing. So, it never crossed my mind that I would ever become a professor.

How did it come? I was in office.

They said one woman and one man were looking for me, and they came in and turned out to be the Dean of the Faculty of Law in Federal University of Oye-Ekiti (FOUYE). Professor Femi Abifarin, who was my junior here and also my current Head of Department at FOUYE. I taught her in University of Ilorin when she was there but I couldn't remember.

What did they come for? They came to invite me to deliver a lecture. Shortly after, I agreed. They told me to pick a topic which I did and on the day of the lecture, I traveled to Oye-

Ekiti. On getting there, they asked me to see the Vice-Chancellor but I wasn't inclined to see him. But after much appeal and persuasion, I went to meet with the VC.

By the way, when I was Pro-Chancellor at Osun State University, the then Vice Chancellor, Professor Popoola was a classmate of the Vice-Chancellor of FOUYE. I didn't know all these details at the time. But I recall when I entered his office that day, he just prostrated and addressed me with honorifics.

He used to be invited to UNIOSUN when I was Pro-Chancellor events, but I never had any close interaction with him and then we were chatting. He informed me that they have a surprise for me on that day. In my mind, I thought maybe they wanted to gift me a car.

We went to the venue and I delivered the lecture, and all the principal officers of the School were present. Apparently the lecture was well-received. Thereafter, the VC dropped the bombshell while making his remarks. He said, that he dropped the bombshell, and he told me that they have been following me all these years, that they know that I have many publications, apparently, they did their research on me.

Before my arrival, they had made the Senate to give an approval, and they appointed me right there as a

Professor of Practice in the University. They gave me the letter with an acknowledgment copy of which I asked my Personal Assistant, to sign on my behalf. That was how it happened.

Initially, when I was leaving Ife, my plan was either to go back to teach or do what I'm doing now, and Allah chose this one for me. When I was given the Research Award of Excellence in July at the OAU, Ife, the DVC remarked that they learned that I didn't come back to Ife because of the pay and I said, "let me set the record straight, for the first time.

There was politics in the faculty, a lot of politics, and by my nature, I'm a free soul. I can't operate where you have to be asking whose office you are to enter and whose office you are not supposed to enter. So, that politics put me off". At that time, there was a lot of politics. The lecturers were pulling themselves right and left, wondering who you are supporting and who you are not, and I don't support people, I support God. That is why I cannot go into politics.

So, that was why I opted to go into practice rather than go back to teach. But because it is in my system, somehow, I still found a way as time went on to be teaching. So, that was what happened.

It is good you raised this issue of politics. Why are you not into politics?

Because it is not one of the talents that God gave me. I don't have the talents for politics. God has given me a lot of talents that I thank Him for but politics is not one of them, and yes, I romance a lot with politicians, it is because of my work.

Ilorin as a City has garnered a reputation for the practice of law, how would you compare practice in the past to the present times?

They are incomparable. Firstly, when we started, as short as it was, we knew all about ourselves. We know our bosses and they know us too but today I don't think I know

Turn to Page 11





SAN decries erosion of Nigerian cultural values

15% of lawyers in Ilorin.

Secondly, because we were not many, it was easier to monitor people, especially for ethical practices. Thirdly, most of us have very large hearts that we took law practice as what it is, professional calling. I will give you a few examples. Many people will tell you that the closest lawyer to me in this city is Oba Adelodun, SAN. We were actually classmates at the Law School in 1982 but he graduated from Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria while I graduated from Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife.

I was the MC at his wedding ceremony held at the College of Education Hall in Ilorin. I was already married then. Then I was with Awomolo, SAN while he was with Wole Olanipekun, SAN when we started our law practice. I want to recall one particular case we had at Akodudu. We were the plaintiff. Somebody wanted to cheat our client of his house. We went to court, and they (Adelodun's team) were defending the case.

We would be in court shouting at each other and immediately we finished, we would jump into his car or my car and drive to a particular canteen at Yoruba Road where I would take Eba and he would eat pounded yam. Besides, I don't eat pounded yam. I haven't tasted it in the last 50 years.

Sometimes we travel together to handle cases against each other. I remember when we were handling former Olusegun Mimiko's case in Ondo State. I was for Mimiko, he was for former Governor Olusegun Agagu. When we will be leaving for Akure, we will be in my own car and his car will be following us. It is when we get to Akure that we go our separate ways. Our friendship did not affect our professional calling. From Ilorin to Akure and back, we will not talk about that case because we are conscious of our professional ethics.

The other day, one lawyer came here and he was lamenting that lawyers are no longer limiting their courtroom confrontation there, that they have started taking it outside into the town. Look, anything we do in court, we forget, that is the end of the story. People refer to Oba and I as twins because you will hardly see him without me, at most functions.

When he knew I was applying for Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), he was giving to Malams money to pray for me despite the fact that we were classmates. He became SAN about nine years after me. But it didn't take anything away from our friendship. That is why I said you can't compare the good old days of law practice with the present.

I think our younger colleagues should know that going to court, to handle cases is just like playing

Ludo or Ayo, except for people who are exceedingly insane. You don't see people boxing when they are playing Ludo or Ayo. So, people should take it like that. Do the best you can.

I take you journalists for example. Sometimes you work for opponents in different media. That does not mean that when you see yourselves, you now think that you are enemies. No! So, people should appreciate that. It is a profession.

Presently, we are many. But, we are no longer our brother's keepers. It is necessary that we should be our brother's keepers. No matter what happens, you must see the law as what it is. It is a professional calling. I have seen it in practice. It is not worth it to fight because of a client. Because somebody you work against today might be your client tomorrow; it has happened to me. I handled cases against some people, they still came back to me and asked me to handle the case for them in another matter.

Not only here, nationally, there was a man argued against, he was a Deputy Governor; he was impeached. He followed the matter up to the Supreme Court. When he contested an election as governor, he came to me to his case. So, you must have the ability, to separate your person, from the work you are doing. In the sense that, don't get emotional.

I always tell people. Why should you be unnecessarily emotional, that you start to cry, because you lost a case. After all, the result is known, before you start. You know why? It is either you are in, or you are out. It is either you win or you lose. There are no three ways. So, if you lose, why should that become a problem to you?

I always tell people, once you know, you have done your best, and you have satisfied your conscience that you have not done anything unprofessional, end of story. You are not bound to win all cases. You can't, Baba Williams never won all cases.

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Untold story of my professorial elevation

Kemi Sofola never won all cases. Nobody does.

How can we bridge the gap between the past and present legal practice in Ilorin?

What people like me should be doing is to continue to mentor the new generation and lead by example. I think that is what we can do, at our level. Mentor them, encourage them, promote them. I have my own way of doing those things. That is why you see us when we have any serious matter, I get people involved.

What was your growing up like and what is your appeal to modern parents as a father and grandfather?

I said at the beginning, growing up, I was living with my paternal grandmother. First of all, you must know that in this part of the world, there is nothing like uncle and cousins, they are all your brothers and sisters, and that was the spirit.

I remember my grandfather had three brothers and a sister, and at the time I was growing up, all of us were living in my great-grandfather's house. All of us, except for one of the brothers, who was in Ilorin.

I was the first grandchild. Some of them were slightly older than me but it doesn't matter as they are to be seen as my elder. I recall that my great-grandfather was buried outside of the house somewhere and the grave was only demarcated with rock. They didn't cover it. At night, all the children would come when it was time for dinner with different delicacies from our respective mothers, sit round the grave and jointly devour those meals one after the other.

That was how I grew up and it would interest you to know that, when my children were still younger, before they dispersed, anybody who knew me, would tell you, normally, along with those cousins and nieces who were living with us, my wife, may God bless her soul, would put the food inside one big bowl and all of us would sit round and eat from it.

Up till now, I can hardly eat alone;



very rare, and that was how society was then. The families were closely knitted, everybody looked out for the other person. That time, we hadn't gotten to the stage where everybody now eats like lepers; it is only lepers that eat alone. You throw their food at them in order not to get infected. That is how everybody lives now.

Today, society has become too permissive. The good old saying is, "spare the rod, and spoil the child." In our days, if your teacher beats you in school and you run to the house, they will beat you from the house back to the school, and it paid off.

Most people nowadays will insist that no one should touch their children. We are not Europeans and our social fabric is different from theirs. The permissive nature of their society is why it is coming down. I have a friend, who has been in England for over three decades now. He has two grown up children. He was telling me that those children are paying rent because they were staying at his house, with himself and his wife.

That is the value of that society, that is not our own value. The value of that society is that, when your parents grow old, you throw them into a condominium, old people's home, Here, you bring them to your house, and that is what I tell people. If you allow your children to grow

up in those places and stay there, you have lost them.

It is happening, many of them even when their parents die, they won't even come for the funeral. I always tell people whose ambition is for their children to travel abroad that they are bound to lose their children. We all should stay and fix this country together, there is no escaping this country.

Can you comment on Nigerian politics and the issue of state of emergency?

It is just unfortunate that the black man has not developed to a level, where he would appreciate the tenets of the rule of law and democracy. What happens there, is happening in other African countries, unfortunately. I think the despotic nature of our beginnings as a race has not been weaned off totally from our psych where you have the 'Kabiyesi syndrome', Whoever is the leader, believes that he cannot be challenged. That was the concept of Kabiyesi. That is, nobody can query him, and that is the way, the rulers were in those days.

Incidentally, the Europeans also started that way but they got over it. They also had their own Kabiyesis in their history, Why has it been difficult for us to transmute? It is a problem I don't understand. I don't know why people think, once they get to

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Remarriage: God will direct me to make right choice

positions of authority, they are superior to other people. I think that is an unnecessary sense of superiority.

I tell people, that, if the president paves the airspace with the road, it is wrong for us to be clapping for him, why? That is what he begged us to vote him for. The function of the Governor is to do his duty. If he then start to think, he has done us a favour, it is not a favour. That is where it starts from. We act as if the man took the money from his own pocket or use personal money. No, it is our money because people like me pay tax. So, we got it wrong.

The praise singing is too much, let them do their job and go away. You just paint people in colours, they don't belong and I just laugh. All what you are praising them for is the reason they were voted for in the first place and if they couldn't deliver on their promises, then they should be held accountable.

Tell us about the title of Senior Advocate of Nigeria?

We borrowed from England where they used to have QC, that is Queen's Counsel and now KC which is King's Counsel because they now have a King. But we are so used to QC, because Queen Elizabeth II was there like forever until King Charles emerged.

It is a honour reserved for people who have reached a point of distinction in the profession. They are supposed to be leaders to others by their conduct, by their professional performance, by their general behaviour.

Their appearance alone should send signals to younger people that this is a dignified person and they would want to be like him; that is the whole essence. It is not for self glorification; it comes with a lot of duties and obligations, one of which is mentoring and leading by example.

Two reasons why Senior Advocates have their cases mentioned is first, even if their case is number 20 and also have their seat in front. One of the reasons is that when you sit in front, people look at you. This is

dignity, this is honour and then you are asked to mention your case before others because perchance, they will learn one or two things from you. It is believed that possessed great scholarship and intellectual ability.

That is the only essence. We don't have two heads, we don't speak with two mouths and then, you know, Allah does what he wants to do.

Why have you remained unmarried since the demise of your wife?

I lost my wife some years ago. But I tell people, destiny plays a lot of role in one's life. By the way, it is not because I have not tried. I experimented with one or two things along the line but you see, you will get to certain stages in life that you have to be very careful about your choices, especially about a spouse.

I can't close my eyes like I did when I was picking my wife more than 40 years ago because the stakes are high now. But four decades ago, there were no stakes. All I had was just my life. I now have grown up children who have children.

Any choice I make must be that which people will be able to live with. I cannot think about myself alone, I have to think of so many things. I have to even think about

the society. What kind of a woman comes into the house as Mrs somebody? At that time when we were marrying in our early 30s, late 30s, we didn't have to consider all those things because they were not relevant. Can you live with the person? Fine.

Now, it is beyond you living with the person. A lot of people must be able to live with her. So, we have too many stakeholders. When we were marrying in those days, the only stakeholders that you look at is your father and mother. Today, the stakeholders are very many including the society and even your profession.

So, I will continue to pray that God should direct us to make the right choice. It is not due to lack of attempts. I have never told anybody, I won't marry. No, I can't say that but when Allah says it is time, of course you can't even say you don't want to.

If Allah wants to do something, He does it. So, let people just be rest assured, I have not taken the oath of being a 'father'. So, I have not gone to a convent, I'm not a priest and I don't want to be.

What do you want to be remembered for?

I just pray people will remember me as a servant of Allah, who gives his life in the best way that Allah has prescribed; that is all.



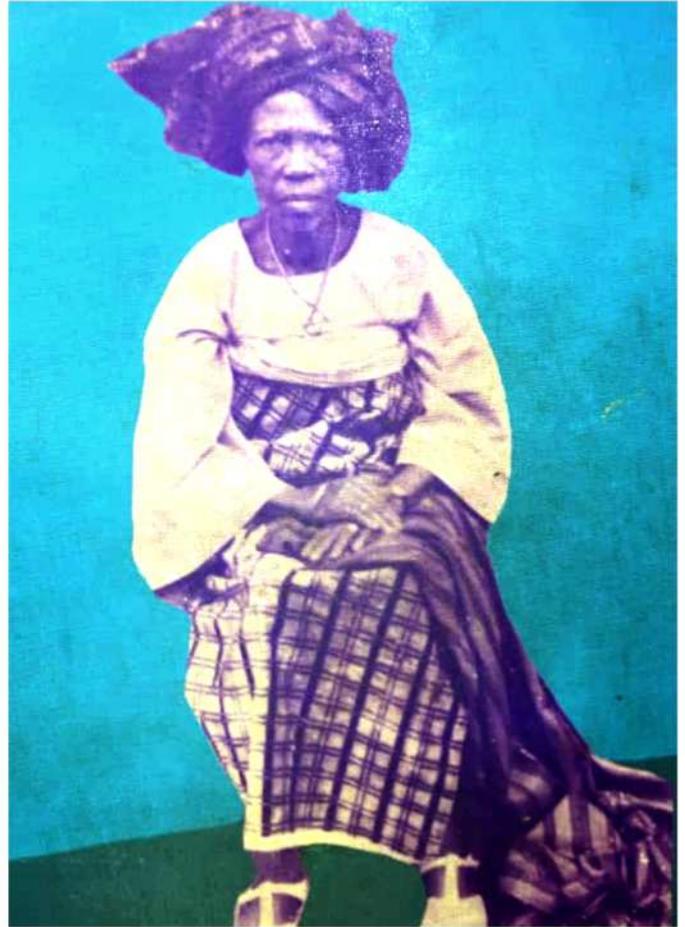




PHOTO SPEAKS

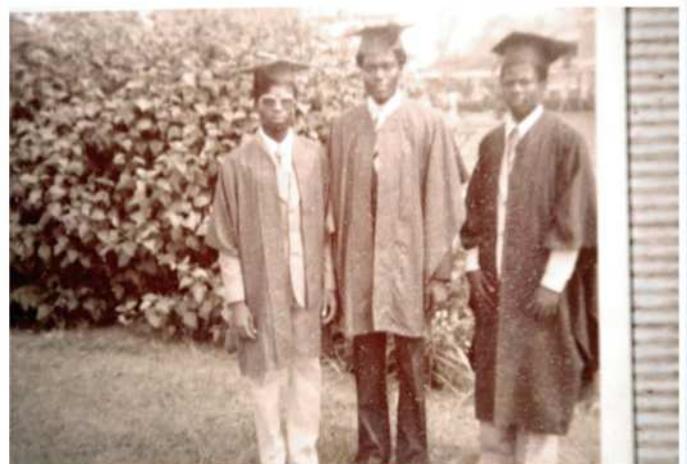






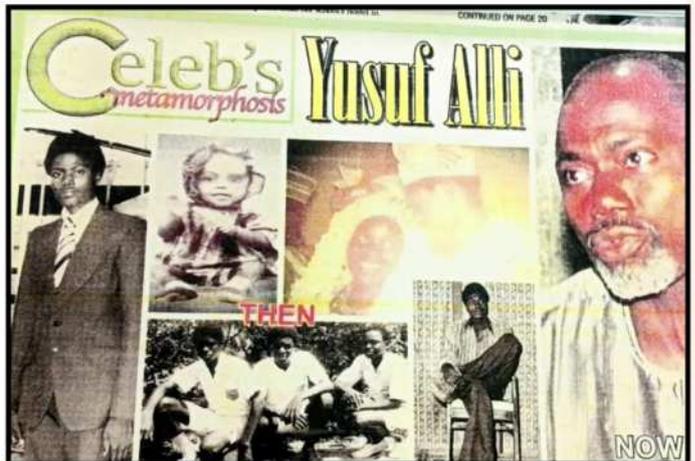
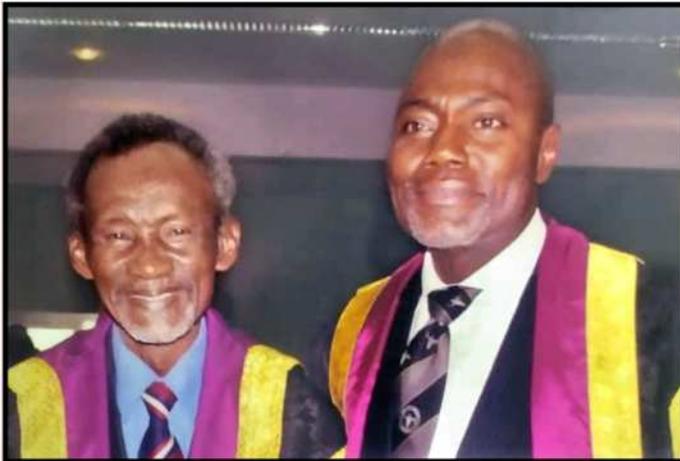
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ilA dani



Barakah Ali-Nagode



Sururah Ali



Yusuf Olanrewaju Ali



PHOTO SPEAKS






**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

20th December 2019

Yusuf Ali, SAN
Presidential Legal Team 2019
C/o Wole Olanipekun & Co.,
God Grace House,
6, Oshakati Close, Off Constantine Street,
Wuse Zone 4,
Abuja

Dear Yusuf Ali, SAN,

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

I would like to thank you most sincerely as a member of the Presidential Legal Team, 2019 for the outstanding manner in which you defended the People's Mandate at the 2019 Presidential Election Tribunal and the Appeals at the Supreme Court.

I especially appreciate your patience, diligence, steadfastness and professionalism in the prosecution of our defence in spite of limitation of resources and attempts to distract the process through unprecedented distortion of facts.

My prayer is that God will continue to bless you and grant us wisdom and guidance to deliver on our promises to Nigerians.

Once again, I thank you.

May God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Yours sincerely,

Muhammadu Buhari


**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

20th December, 2023

Mallam Yusuf Ali, SAN
Tinubu Presidential Legal Team (TPLT)
No. 6 Atbara Street,
Wuse II, Abuja.

Dear Mallam Ali,

APPRECIATION

I write to express my profound appreciation to you as a member of the Tinubu Presidential Legal Team 2023 for your immense contribution in defending the mandate freely donated to me and the Vice-President, H.E Senator Kashim Shettima, GCON at the Presidential Election Petition Court and the subsequent appeals at the Supreme Court. I am aware that the Presidential Election of February 25th 2023 was the first in the history of our great country, to attract five petitions out of which three went into full trial. I applaud your dedication to ensuring our vindication and victory at the conclusion of the process.

I specially commend you also for your commitment to duty and professionalism in the defence of the people's mandate in spite of the various attempts to discredit the judicial process and distort facts.

Whilst thanking you, once again, I wish you a happy, peaceful and prosperous new year.

Yours sincerely,

Bola Ahmed Tinubu



GOODWILL MESSAGE



**VICE PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Goodwill Message to Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, by His Excellency, Senator Kashim Shettima, Vice President of Nigeria on the Occasion of his Turbaning as the First Kuliyan Ge:ri of Ilorin Emirate

My Dear Prof.

Mallam Yusu Olaolu Ali, SAN,

A society that recognises and honours its finest citizens is not only a guiding light but also a guardian of traditions that shape generations to come. Today, we celebrate a man whose life and career reflect the highest ideals of service, excellence, and integrity. I am profoundly delighted to join in the joyous occasion of your turbaning as the first Kuliyan Geri of the Ilorin Emirate.

This prestigious title is a fitting tribute to a man who has ascended to the zenith of the legal profession while remaining firmly anchored in his cultural and moral ethos. You are not just a lawyer of lawyers, a teacher of lawyers, a defender of truth, a custodian of justice, but a true loyalist of the Ilorin Emirate.

Through your distinguished career, you have upheld the finest traditions of the law, demonstrating that legal practice is more than a profession - it is a noble calling that demands courage, integrity, and an uncompromising commitment to justice and equity.

Your journey testifies to the fact that the true measure of a lawyer is not in the accumulation of wealth or influence but in the lasting impact of their work on society. Over the years, you have nurtured and mentored generations of legal practitioners, instilling in them the principles of fairness and professional excellence. This new honour, therefore, is not merely an accolade but a recognition of a lifetime devoted to the rule of law and the advancement of legal scholarship in Nigeria.

As the Kuliyan Geri of Ilorin Emirate, you now stand as a standard-bearer of the highest ideals of the law of this nation and a custodian of the values that unify our people. You have made the Ilorin Emirate proud and flown its flag across the world, proving that one can achieve great heights while staying rooted in the values of home. This honour is a reflection of the trust and confidence that the Ilorin Emirate and its people have in your ability to continue upholding the tenets of fairness, equity, and justice. Beyond Ilorin, you remain a national treasure – a paragon of discipline, service, and commitment to the greater good.

On this momentous occasion, I join your family, friends, colleagues, and the esteemed people of Ilorin Emirate in celebrating this well-deserved recognition.

May this new chapter bring even greater opportunities for service to humanity, and may your legacy continue to inspire generations of legal practitioners to pursue excellence in the noble pursuit of justice.

Once again, congratulations on this well-earned honour. May Allah grant you wisdom, strength, and good health as you continue to stand as a luminous example of what it means to be a true custodian of justice.

Senator Kashim Shettima, GCON
Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

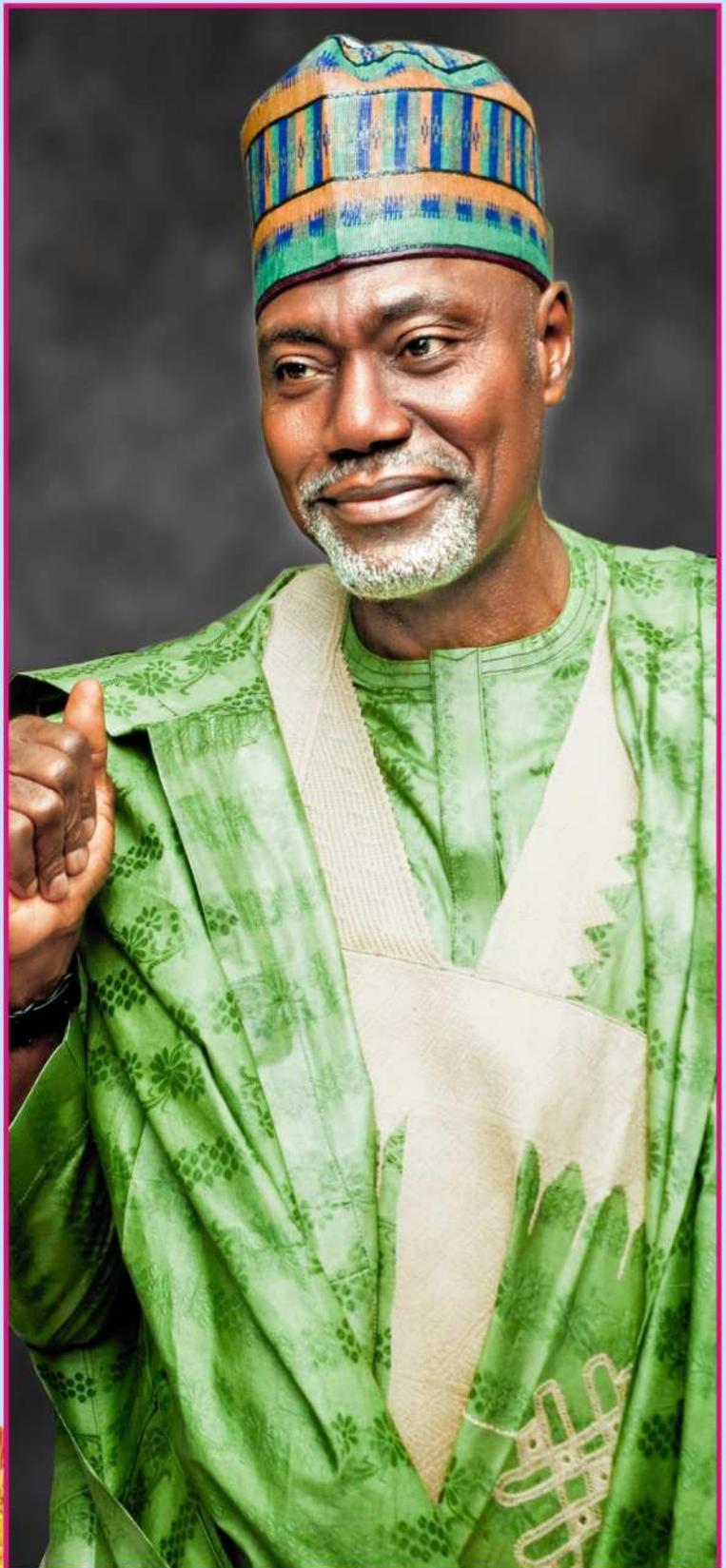
I felicitate Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN on his appointment as Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate. This is a choice well made in view of the contributions of Professor Ali to the growth and development of legal practice as well as humanity in all ramifications.

It is not out of place to posit that our traditional title holder is widely acclaimed locally, nationally and internationally for his erudition and deep knowledge of law, and it is heartening that he has continued along this trajectory.

While expressing profound gratitude to the Emir of Ilorin and Chairman, Kwara State Council of Chiefs, Dr. Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, for finding the legal giant worthy of the prestigious title, my prayer is that the Almighty Allah grant him longevity in good health.
Amin.

SIGNED

Prince Abubakar Bature
Sulu-Gambari, SAN
Ciroma of Ilorin

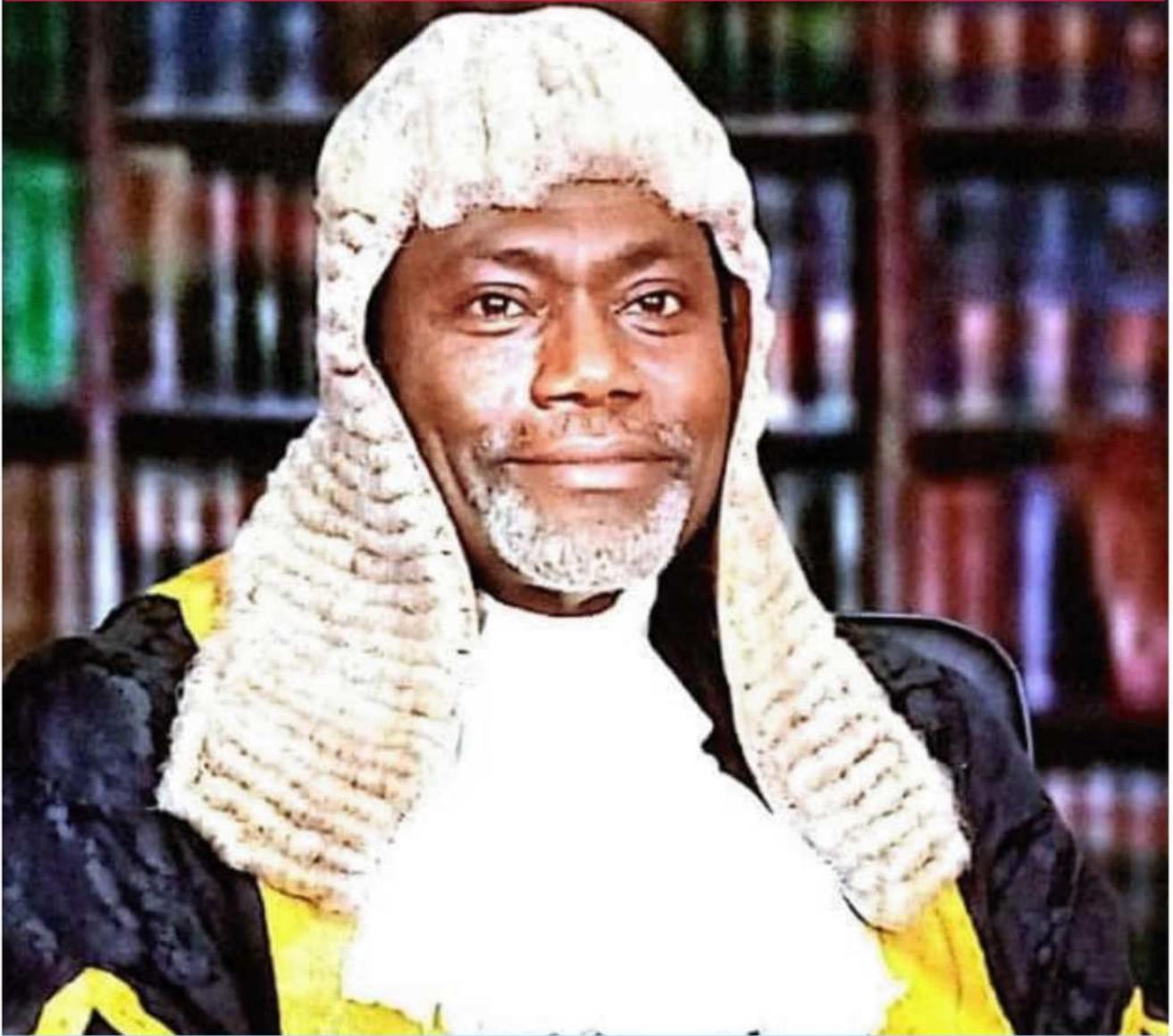


Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN
1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate





HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS!!!



I heartily congratulate you on your turbaning as the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate. Your selection for the prestigious traditional title by the Emir of Ilorin and Chairman, Kwara State Council of Chiefs, His Royal Highness, Dr. Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, is a testimony to your astuteness, integrity and piety.

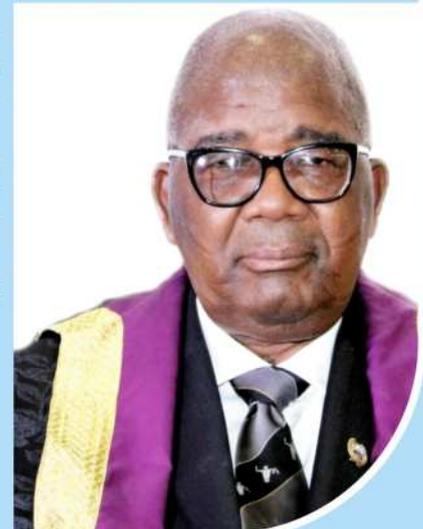
No doubt that you have etched your name in the book of history for your unprecedented achievements and your commitment to serving the Almighty God and humanity. And I'm super proud that you are a great ambassador of our Adegboyega Awomolo & Co, Mosaic Chambers, where you cut your teeth.

It is my prayer that you enjoy longevity and good health with this traditional title, which I know, is an added responsibility for you to do more.

Accept my congratulations.

SIGNED

Asiwaju Adegboyega Solomon Awomolo, SAN
Chairman, Body of Benchers





CONGRATULATIONS!!!

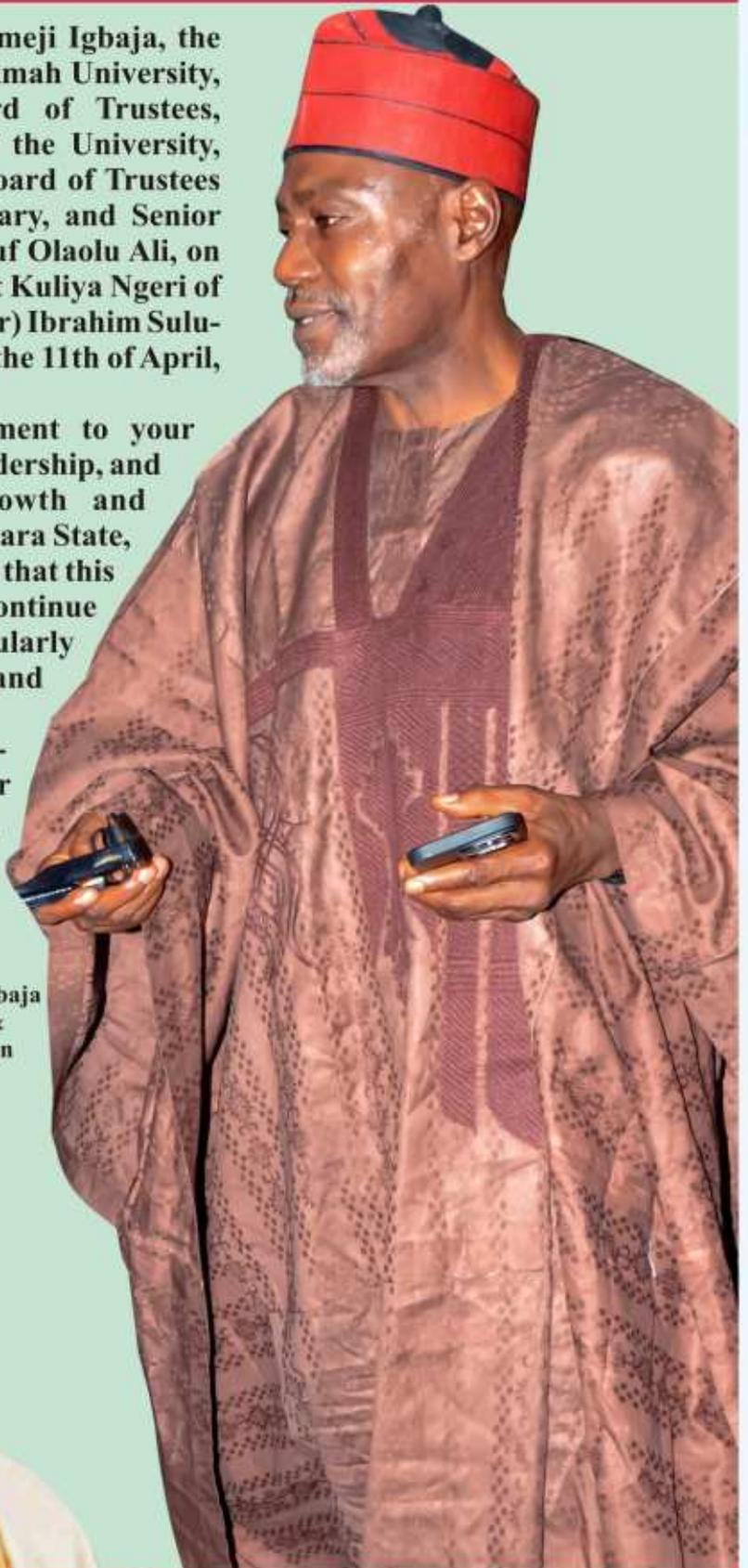
I, Chief (Dr) AbdulRaheem Oladimeji Igbaja, the Founder and Proprietor of Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, Management, Staff, and Students of the University, heartily congratulate our esteemed Board of Trustees member, a distinguished legal luminary, and Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, on his well-deserved turbaning as the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin by His Royal Highness, Alhaji (Dr) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, the Emir of Ilorin, on the 11th of April, 2025.

This prestigious title is a testament to your unwavering dedication, exemplary leadership, and immense contributions to the growth and development of the Ilorin Emirate, Kwara State, and Nigeria at large. We have no doubt that this honour will further inspire you to continue your noble service to humanity, particularly in the areas of law, education, and community development.

We celebrate you on this well-merited recognition and pray for Allah's continued guidance, wisdom, and good health as you embark on this new journey of service to the Ilorin Emirate.

SIGNED:

Alhaji (Dr) AbdulRaheem Oladimeji Igbaja
The Jagunmolu of Igbomina Land &
Founder, Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin



prof. yusuf olaolu ali, san
1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate



FELICITATIONS!!!

I am thrilled to extend my warmest congratulations to you on your well-deserved chieftaincy title as the Kuliya Ngeri of the Ilorin Emirate.

This prestigious honour is a testament to your exceptional leadership, outstanding achievements, and tireless contributions to our community.

Your dedication, wisdom, and selflessness have earned you the respect and admiration of all who know you. This chieftaincy title is not only a recognition of your past accomplishments but also a call to continue serving as a role model and inspiration to future generations.

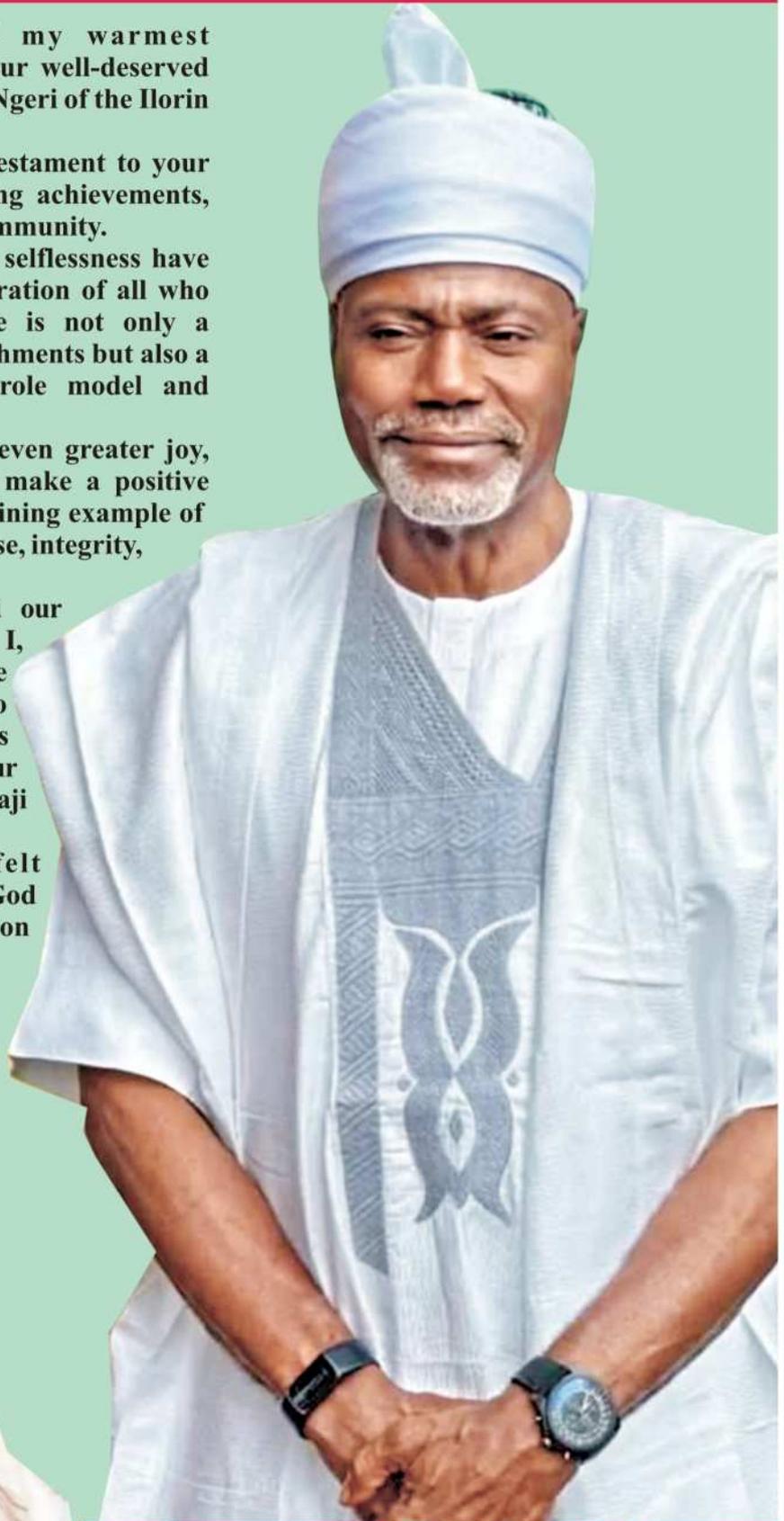
May this new title bring you even greater joy, fulfillment, and opportunities to make a positive impact on our world. You are a shining example of what it means to live a life of purpose, integrity, and service to others.

On behalf of my family and our organisation, Yolas Consultants, I, Engr Yusuf 'Lanre Sagaya, FNSE, the Za'ana of Ilorin Emirate, wish to proudly associate with you on this your new attainment facilitated by our royal father, the Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji (Dr) Ibrahim Sulu Gambari, CFR.

Please accept my heartfelt congratulations once again. May God bless and guide you as you embark on this new chapter in your life.

SIGNED

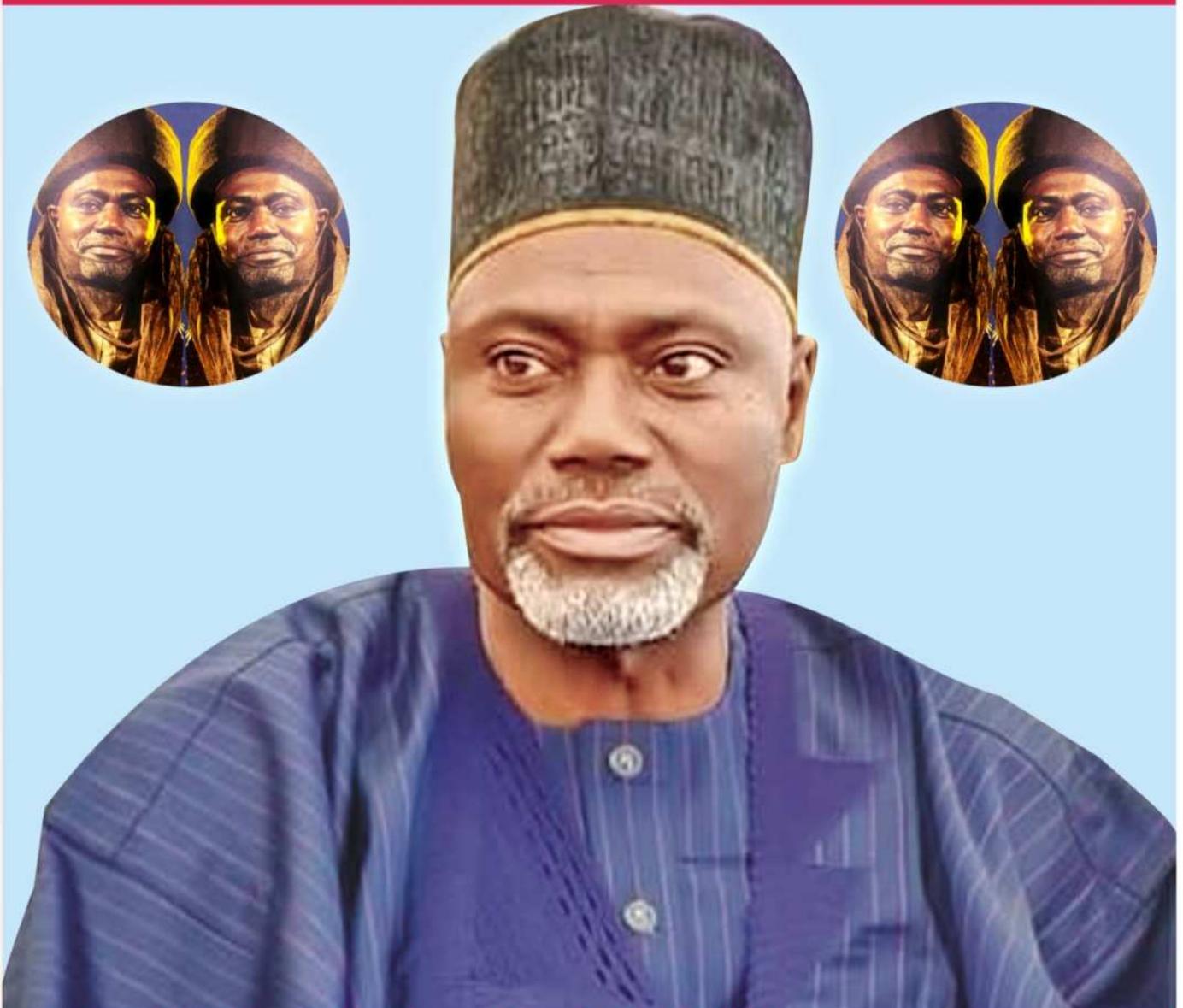
Engr Yusuf 'Lanre Sagaya, FNSE
Za'ana of Ilorin Emirate



Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN
1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate



FELICITATIONS!!!



Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN
1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate

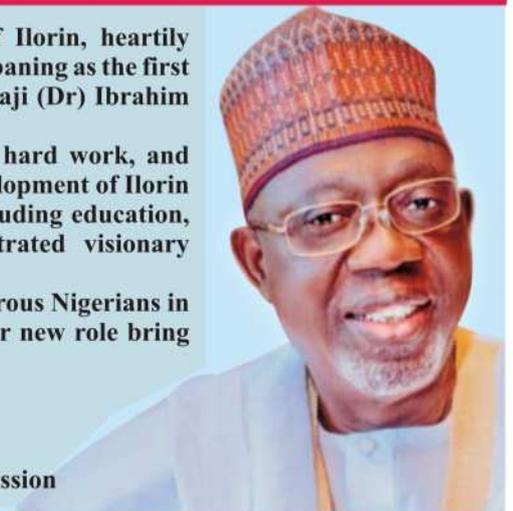
I, Professor Shuaib Oba AbdulRaheem, OFR, NPOM, the Talba of Ilorin, heartily congratulate Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali (SAN) on his well-deserved turbaning as the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin by His Royal Highness, the Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji (Dr) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, on April 11, 2025.

This prestigious title is a testament to your unwavering dedication, hard work, and remarkable contributions to the legal profession, as well as the overall development of Ilorin and Kwara State. Your Midas touch is evident across critical sectors; including education, healthcare, and infrastructure, where you have consistently demonstrated visionary leadership and philanthropy.

On behalf of my family, friends, and well-wishers, I proudly join numerous Nigerians in celebrating this significant milestone in your illustrious journey. May your new role bring continued success, wisdom, and prosperity to our beloved Ilorin Emirate.

SIGNED:

Prof. Shuaibu Oba AbdulRaheem, OFR, NPOM
Talba of Ilorin & former Chairman, Federal Character Commission





Hearty Congratulations

to
Professor Yusuf
Olaolu Ali SAN

on his formal turbaning as

The first
Kuliya Ngeri
OF ILORIN EMIRATE

I, Distinguished Senator Saliu Mustapha, the Turaki of Ilorin and Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Production Services, and Rural Development, extend my heartfelt congratulations to my dear brother, and revered legal icon, Prof. Yusuf Ola-Olu Ali, SAN, on your well-deserved turbaning as the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin by our royal father, His Royal Highness, Alhaji (Dr.) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, the Emir of Ilorin, on the auspicious occasion of Friday, April 11, 2025.

This honour is not only recognition of your towering accomplishments in the legal profession but also a celebration of your unwavering commitment to the progress of the Ilorin Emirate and your unmatched philanthropy that continues to touch countless lives. From your early days of service through the Muslim Students' Society of Nigeria (MSSN) to your present stature as a beacon of justice and faith, your journey has been nothing short of inspiring.

Your dedication to the upliftment of the Muslim Ummah, your steadfast defense of truth, and your generosity in both words and deeds have made you a shining example of leadership rooted in humility, integrity, and service.

As you ascend into this noble traditional office, may Almighty Allah (SWT) grant you wisdom, strength, and long life in good health to continue to serve our community and humanity at large. May your reign as Kuliya Ngeri usher in greater peace, unity, and progress for Ilorin Emirate.

We are immensely proud of you, sir. May your legacy endure for generations to come.

SIGNED
SENATOR SALIU MUSTAPHA
Turaki of Ilorin
Senator Representing Kwara Central Senatorial District
National Assembly, Abuja





HEARTY FELICITATIONS!!!

I congratulate my brother, friend and confidant, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, on his appointment as Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate. This honorary traditional title is not only apt and timely but well deserved in appreciation of the invaluable contributions of the title holder to the growth of law practice on one hand and community development on the other.

This is meritorious, and couldn't have come at a better time than now. My appreciation goes to the Emir of Ilorin and Chairman, Kwara State Council of Chiefs, Alhaji Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR for finding him worthy of the honour.

I pray Allah (SWT) to grant our Kuliya Ngeri long life imbued with sound health so that he can continue to serve Allah and humanity in his sojourn of life. Amin.

Accept my felicitations.

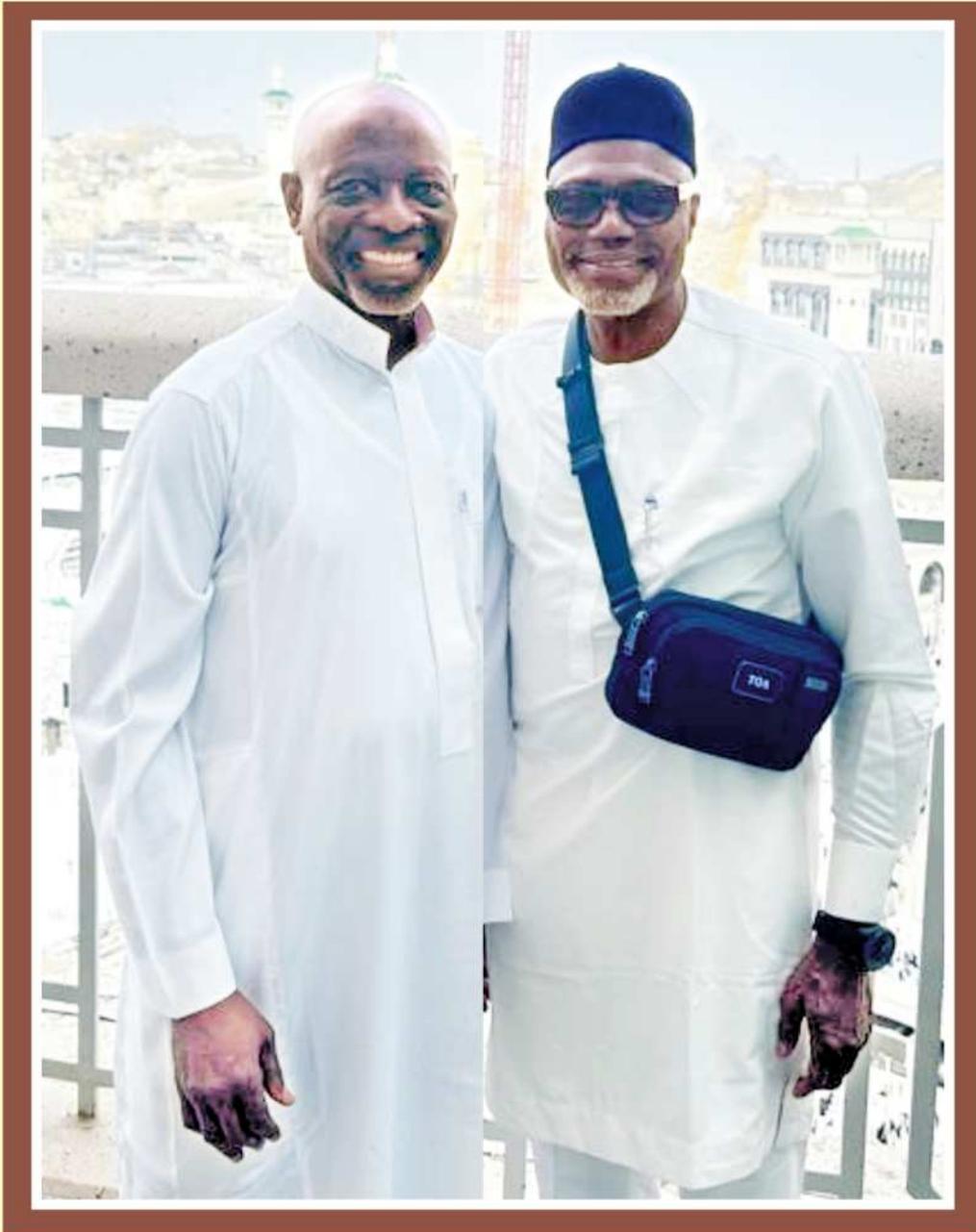
SIGNED

Prof. Is-haq O. Oloyede, FNAL, CON

Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN
1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate



CONGRATULATIONS



Dear Yusuf Ali, SAN

May I for myself and on behalf of my family, write with immense pride and massive joy, to express our heartfelt congratulations on your well-deserved conferment with the chieftaincy title of Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate, by His Royal Highness, Mai Martaba, the Emir of Ilorin, Ahaji (Dr) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, culminating in your turbaning on 11th April, 2025. The conferment of this prestigious title (first of its kind) on you is yet another solid recognition of your positive contributions toward the advancement of the Emirate as a whole, and it is not just a personal achievement but indeed a source of inspiration and pride to those of us that know you close enough to witness first hand your enviable and awe-inspiring interventions in the affairs of fellow men and women.

Your large-heartedness, selflessness, empathy and humility continue to astound and amaze your close watchers. I am ever more than proud to have you as a friend, brother and colleague.

May this recognition give you bigger impetus to be of higher service to man, woman and communities at large. Above all, May Allah grant you long life and good health to carry and enjoy the title.

Congratulations buddy!!!

SIGNED

Adebayo Oba Adelodun, SAN, FCI Arb



Hearty Congratulations! to the **1st Kuliya Ngeri**

Your choice as Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate is indeed a perfect one by our royal father, the Emir of Ilorin and Chairman, Kwara State Council of Chiefs, Dr Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, whose wisdom in selecting individuals for both honorary and traditional titles has always been apt.

Your attainment is a testament and a good way of appreciating your numerous contributions to both immediate community and the nation at large.

You have demonstrated excellence in your profession and commitment to empowerment initiatives over the years.

On behalf of my wife and entire workforce at Kam Holding Nig Ltd., we are proud to be part of this great achievement which is a call to greater commitment to what you have been known for.

It is our prayers that Allah (SWT), Whose Rahma has no comparison, continues to increase you on all sides.

Accept my sincere congratulations!

SIGNED

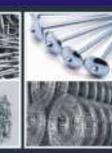
Engr (Dr) Kamoru Yusuf, MON, FCSN, FNMS
GMD/CEO, Kam Holding Nig. Ltd



Engr. (Dr) Kamoru Yusuf, MON, FCSN, FNMS
GMD/CEO, Kam Holding

PROF. YUSUF O. ALI, SAN

Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate



KAM HOLDING is the only 100% indigenous steel and allied manufacturing company in Nigeria and produces a wide range of Products.



Congratulations, 1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate



Attaining this lofty height of honour of being turbaned as 1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin, is a testament to your excellent contributions to the advancement of human empowerment and your professional calling.

This is an honour well deserved and kudos to our royal father, the Emir of Ilorin and Chairman, Kwara State Council of Chiefs, Dr Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, for deeming it fit in his wisdom to put the round peg in a round hole by pronouncing you and subsequently turbaned you as the Pinnacle of Law in the Ilorin Emirate.

Your choice, no doubt, has lend credence to the fact that the labour and sacrifices done to one's community will be rightly rewarded and celebrated by that same community.

On behalf of my husband and entire family, I, Chief Mariam Bola Iyadunni Yusuf, celebrate you for this special honour and pray Allah (SWT) continues to show you His benevolence and increase His protection over you.

We are proud to celebrate this joyous occasion with you.

Congratulations, Sir!

Signed

CHIEF (DR.) MARIAM BOLA IYADUNNI YUSUF
Vice-Chairman, Kam Holding Nig. Ltd.





FELICITATIONS!!!



I, Sheikh Abdulateef Ahmad Tijani Adekilekun, the Grand Mufty of Ede Land and the Wazirul Mumeenen of Yoruba Land, Edo and Delta States, congratulate our cerebral icon in the temple of justice, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN on your appointment as Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate.

It is an established fact that you have continued to serve the Almighty Allah and humanity in different areas of endeavours, and for you to have been found worthy of this honorary traditional title of the Emirate, it is a testament that your good works have not gone unnoticed.

I once again congratulate you on this meritorious appointment.

Signed:

Sheikh Abdulateef Ahmad Tijani Adekilekun

*Grand Mufty of Ede Land and
Wazirul Mumeenen of Yoruba Land, Edo and Delta States*



HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS



Alhamdulillah for this uncommon honour bestowed on our patriach, Professor Yusuf Ali SAN by our Royal Father, Mai-Martaba, Alhaji Dr Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, the Emir of Ilorin and Chairman, Kwara State Council of Chief, as the 1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate and grand turbaning on 11th April, 2025.

We pray that Allah continues to keep you safe with long life, good health, stronger Taqwah and Iman.

Signed
**YOUR CHILDREN AND
GRAND CHILDREN**





Yusuf Ali remains great inspiration to lawyers, young people - Ciroma of Ilorin

What do you have to say about Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN and the title of Kuliya Ngeri that the Emir of Ilorin recently bestowed on him?

Yusuf Ali is one of the frontline Senior Advocates in Nigeria, and he is a Senior Advocate that those of us behind him as Senior Advocates look up to for learning, directions, and generally for guidance. So, Yusuf Ali is an exceptional person; his knowledge of the law is very sound, he is fit to be a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, a great example of what a SAN should be. We are very proud of him in Ilorin and he is an inspiration for some of us who are lawyers, and I'm sure he

Ciroma of Ilorin, Barrister Abubakar Bature Sulu-Gambari, SAN, in an interview with OUR EVENTS, speaks on the personality of Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN and how he has been an inspiration not only to lawyers but the younger generation.

is a great inspiration to the younger ones as well.

A lot is expected from him as Kuliya Ngeri. What is your view regarding this?

He is the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin, and the title is for people who are very grounded in law. You would recall that Yusuf Ali, SAN has undertaken

many cases on behalf of the Emirate. I think I can say that as far as I know and as long as I have been a lawyer, he, as a lawyer, has defended the interest of the Emir more than many times. If anyone is deserving of this title, then it is him.

Do you have any advice for the Learned Silk?

He has been a man on the right path. My advice for him is to continue doing what he is doing, and I pray that Allah in His infinite mercy will continue to keep him on the right path; the path of those whom Allah has blessed and not the path of those who have incurred the wrath of Allah.

Is Yusuf Ali a character worthy of emulation, especially by Nigerian Lawyers?

Absolutely! You would see that I have spent some quality time describing his personality and you will recall I said earlier that I and some other people see him as an inspiration. He is a Senior Advocate that is worthy of emulation by other lawyers and even by the general public.





GOODWILL MESSAGE



Asiwaju Adegboyega Solomon Awomolo,

SAN, FCI Arb, FNIALS

ASIWAJU OF IGBAJO LAND
Life Bencher/Notary Public

6th February, 2025

Professor Yusuf Ali, SAN, FC Arb
Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate
Ghalib House,
24, Abdul Wahab Folawujo (Unity) Road,
Ilorin.

My brother Yusuf,

On behalf of myself and the entire Awomolo dynasty, I send our heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of your installation as the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate by His Highness, Mai Martaba, Alhaji (Dr) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, the Emir of Ilorin.

I have no doubt that your life and career as a legal practitioner of international repute, a professor of law, and philanthropist of the highest class qualify you for this traditional honour coming from Ilorin Emirate.

I can look back at how God in His infinite wisdom and mercies led you to join me as a professional colleague in the law firm of Adegboyega Awomolo & Co at the Owoniboy building, 119 Ibrahim Taiwo Road, Ilorin in 1983.

For over a decade that we were together, you demonstrated the highest degree of responsibility, industry and diligence in the practice of law. You also showed exceptional inclination towards academics and leadership at the Bar, no wonder you are a Professor of Law.

When fortune took me to be the 1st Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice of Osun State in 1992, you steered the ship of leadership of our law firm with integrity, honour and dignity, You excelled in all that you did, and I was very happy when you were preferred and elevated to the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN).

In your family life, you have shown yourself as a faithful and true lover of the wife of your youth, Hajia Fawziyat Ali, (may her soul continue to rest in perfect peace), and God rewarded your family with children that never gave you trouble; they are signs and wonders to their generation.

His Highness has seen in you the quality to wear the rank and title of Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate. May Allah, the most merciful and benevolent, grant you long life, good health, and prosperity to justify the confidence reposed in you.

Congratulations, my dear Mallam Ali.

Yours faithfully,

Asiwaju Adegboyega S. Awomolo, SAN

Plot 182, 444 Crescent, CITEC Villa Gwarinpa - Abuja. Tel: 08035605625
E-mail: adeawomolo1909@gmail.com



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR TURBANING!!!



This is to felicitate my boss, benefactor and mentor, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN on his turbaning as Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate. Indeed, it is one honour that is well deserved, especially for an iconic figure, who is bestriding the legal landscape like a Colossus.

The new traditional title is really befitting, apt and timely for a man of timber and calibre that he is, and through whose benevolence a number of great minds have continued to emerge in the temple of justice.

And it gladdens my heart that he has remained an embodiment of virtues in all spheres of human endeavours. Beyond exaggeration, it is a well known fact that Professor Ali is a philanthropist and pathfinder for young generation of legal practitioners.

On behalf of the Ghalib family, I thank the Emir of Ilorin and Chairman, Kwara State Council of Chiefs, Maimartaba, Dr Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR for the honour bestowed on our principal. May the new traditional title holder not cease enjoying the favour and blessings of the Almighty Allah.

SIGNED:

Mallam Kehinde Kolawole Eleja, SAN

Principal Partner, KK Eleja & Co.



PHOTO SPEAKS







When 1st Kuliya Ngeri's Thanksgiving Homage turned mini-turbaning

By Olatunde Rufai

It was a roll call of the high and mighty from far and near on Wednesday, October 2, 2014, when the newly appointed Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN paid a Thanksgiving traditional homage to the Mai-Martaba, Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji (Dr) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR.

Personalities started converging on the Emir of Ilorin's palace as early as 9am for a meeting scheduled to hold around 11am, the entire parking space in the Emir's forecourt was almost filled to capacity with little or no space to accommodate vehicles.

A few minutes later, buses and vehicles of various classes led the entourage, that ushered in the new Kuliya who arrived in black Jeep, as usual accompanied by his 'twin SAN' and right-hand friend, Mallam Adebayo Adelodun, SAN.

The gathering was graced with people from all walks of life, ranging from the recipient's immediate constituency – the Bar and the Bench; contractors; politicians across party divides; religious bodies; law students from higher institutions of learning; clusters of men and women from far and near as well as families from within and outside the State, the list is endless.

Speaking while receiving the recipient and his entourage, the Emir of Ilorin, said that the title holds particular significant to him, which is why he wished to bestow it upon a "special son whom he believes is most suitable for the position.

The Emir appreciated the commitment of Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN to Ilorin Emirate, the state and particularly humanity over the years and encouraged him not to relent in his efforts in seeing to the good of others within and around him.

He prayed for the new head of law matters in the Emirate, beseeching the Almighty Allah's (SWT) continuous support him in all of his undertakings.

Speaking with newsmen after the Thanksgiving visit, Professor Ali, SAN said, "They expect me to deliver service to the Emirate and to humanity. And they expect me to continue in the trajectory of what I have been doing before, which our father, the Mai-Martaba considered as part of the things for bestowing this honour on me. And Insha Allah, I will continue in that way. I will continue to serve humanity".

Speaking further, the first Kuliya Ngeri said, "I am ready to serve the emirate, serve the people of Nigeria and humanity generally. It's a call to service. It's a challenge that one should continue to do good; professionally, personally, socially and even religiously. And Inshallah I will continue in that way.

Turn to Page 42





When 1st Kuliya Ngeri's Thanksgiving...

"It's a challenge and I will continue to promote the virtues that they found in me that earned me this title. I pray that Allah returns everybody back to their destination safely. And may Allah provide opportunities for us to celebrate ourselves in the future, he concluded.

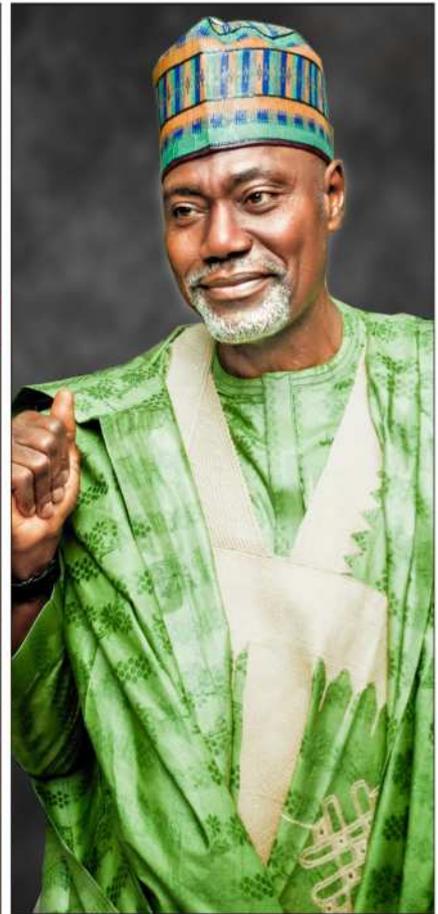
The gathering was more like a turbaning ceremony which leading attendees to wonder whether it was truly

Thanksgiving Homage or if the Emir had decided to turban the distinguished Senior Advocate of Nigeria with his title.

Among those present at the event, include; the Vice Chancellor of Kwara State University, Malet Prof. Shaykh Luqman Jimoh; retired Chief Judge of Kwara State, Justice Duroshinlohun Kawu; retired Grand stice Idrees Haroon; MD/CEO Gerin

Kadi, Kwara State Shariah Court of Appeal, Hon. Justice Idrees Haroon; MD/CEO Gerin FM 95.5, Dr. Mahmud AbdulRaheem; Barr. Abdulfatai Salman Baakini, Arch. Mohammed Jimoh Faworaja, former Nigerian Ambassador to the Netherlands, Dr. Nimota Nihinlola Akanbi; Lawyer Kehinde K. Eleja, among others.

More pictures on Pages 43, 44 & 45





When 1st Kuliya Ngeri's Thanksgiving...





When 1st Kuliya Ngeri's Thanksgiving...





When 1st Kuliya Ngeri's Thanksgiving...





A HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO A LEGAL LUMINARY AND DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUE

I, Chief Bayo Ojo, SAN, extend my warmest congratulations to my esteemed learned colleague, a revered legal icon, and an exceptional Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, on his well-deserved turbaning as the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin by His Royal Highness, the Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji (Dr.) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, on the 11th of April, 2025.

This prestigious recognition is not only a testament to your towering wisdom, unwavering dedication to service, and remarkable commitment to human and societal development but also a reflection of your immense contributions to the Ilorin Emirate and beyond. Your exemplary leadership, philanthropy, and advocacy for justice continue to inspire generations.

As you ascend this new and noble role, I pray that the Almighty grants you divine wisdom, strength, and protection to continue making a lasting impact. May this honor usher in greater achievements, good health, and prosperity.

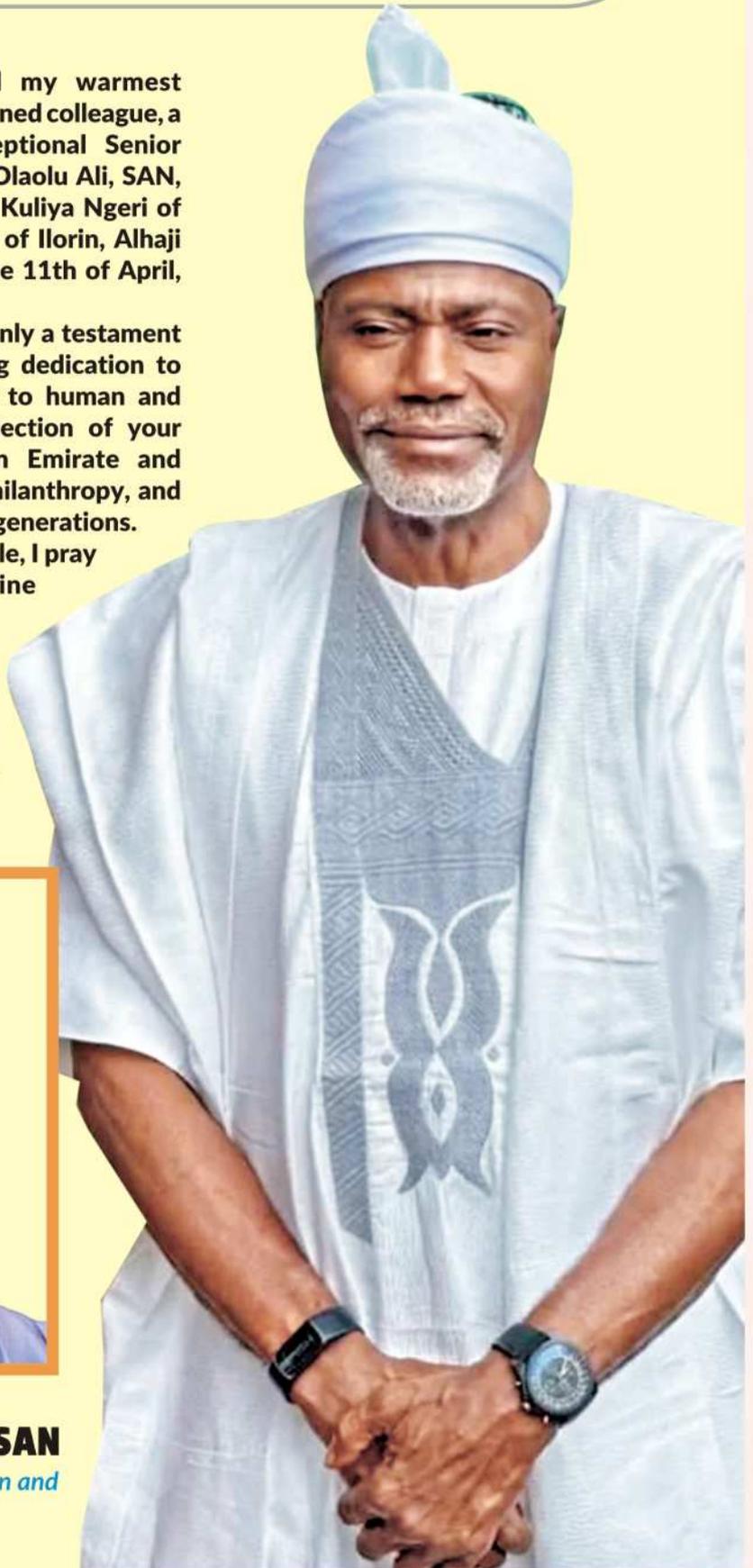
Congratulations once again, dear Prof.! Your legacy shines even brighter!



Signed:

Chief Christopher Bayo Ojo, SAN

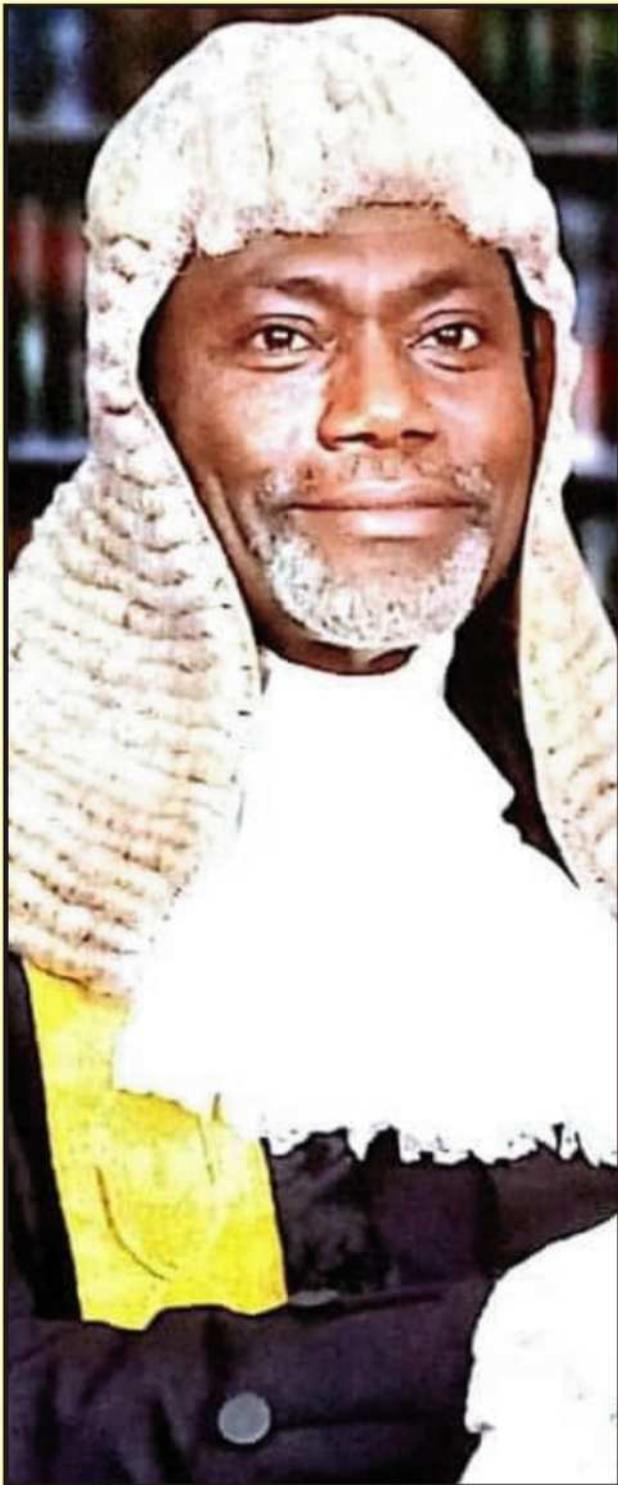
*Former Attorney-General of the Federation and
Minister of Justice,
Federal Republic of Nigeria.*





NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION ILORIN BRANCH

**A HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS FROM NBA ILORIN TO PROF. YUSUF
OLAOLU ALI, SAN – THE FIRST KULIYA NGERI OF ILORIN EMIRATE**



Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN,
1st KULIYAN NGERI of Ilorin Emirate

I, on behalf of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Ilorin Branch, extend our heartfelt congratulations to Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, on your well-deserved conferment of the chieftaincy title - 1st KULIYA NGERI of Ilorin Emirate by the Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji Ibrahim Sulu Gambari, CFR, on the 11th of April, 2025.

This honour is a testament to your exemplary leadership, dedication to the legal profession, and unwavering commitment to the advancement of justice in the Ilorin Emirate. Your contributions have not only uplifted the legal community but have also inspired many in our association.

We celebrate this significant milestone in your esteemed career and wish you continued success as you take on this new role. May your reign as 1st KULIYA NGERI bring further progress and harmony to the Ilorin Emirate. The NBA Ilorin is proud of this feat and prays for a long life with good and sound health as you are turbaned as 1st KULIYA NGERI of Ilorin Emirate.

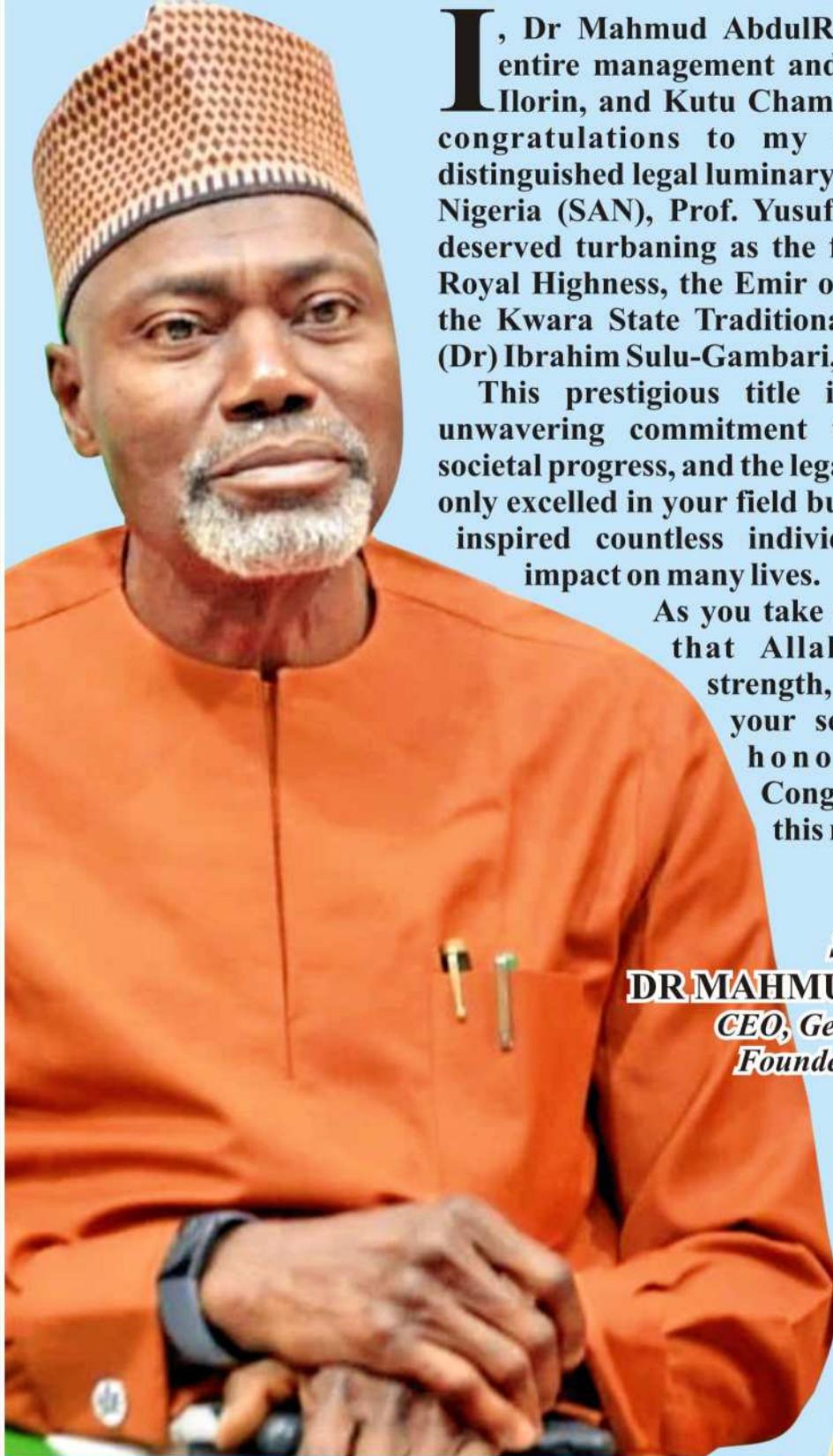
Congratulations Sir!

Signed
**Sulyman Muhammed-Hassan
Kosemani Esq,
Chairman,
NBA ILORIN BRANCH**





HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS



I, Dr Mahmud AbdulRaheem, on behalf of the entire management and staff of Gerin FM 95.5, Ilorin, and Kutu Chambers, extend my heartfelt congratulations to my esteemed colleague, a distinguished legal luminary, and a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, on his well-deserved turbaning as the first Kuliya Ngeri by His Royal Highness, the Emir of Ilorin and Chairman of the Kwara State Traditional Rulers Council, Alhaji (Dr) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR on April 11, 2025.

This prestigious title is a testament to your unwavering commitment to human development, societal progress, and the legal profession. You have not only excelled in your field but have also mentored and inspired countless individuals, leaving a lasting impact on many lives.

As you take on this noble role, I pray that Allah grant you wisdom, strength, and guidance to continue your service to humanity with honour and excellence. Congratulations once again on this remarkable achievement!

SIGNED:

DR. MAHMUD ABDULRAHEEM

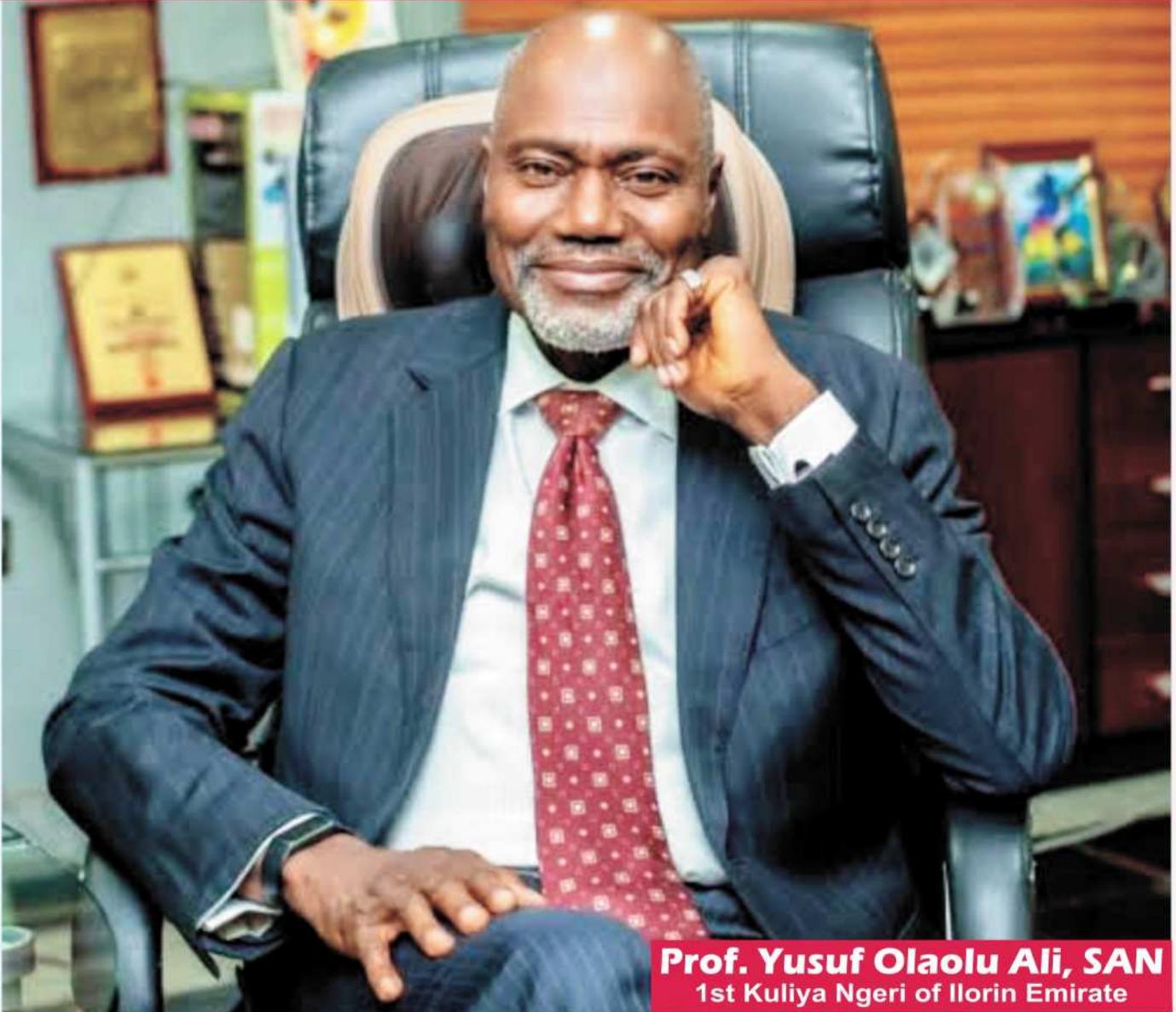
*CEO, Gerin FM 95.5, Ilorin/
Founder, Kutu Chambers*



Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN
1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate



FELICITATIONS!!!



Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN
1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate



It is with great pleasure that I join the multitude of well-wishers to congratulate you on your conferment with the esteemed chieftaincy title. This distinguished honour is a befitting recognition of your remarkable achievements, exemplary leadership, and selfless service to humanity.

Your tireless efforts to uplift our community, promote peace, and foster development have not gone unnoticed. You are a beacon of hope, a shining light that illuminates the path for others to follow. Your wisdom, compassion, and integrity have earned you the admiration and respect of all who know you.

As you celebrate this momentous occasion, I pray that God will continue to bless and guide you. May this chieftaincy title bring you even greater joy, fulfillment, and opportunities to make a lasting impact on our world.

Congratulations once again, Kuliya Ngeri. You deserve all the accolades and celebration.

With warm regards and respect.

SIGNED

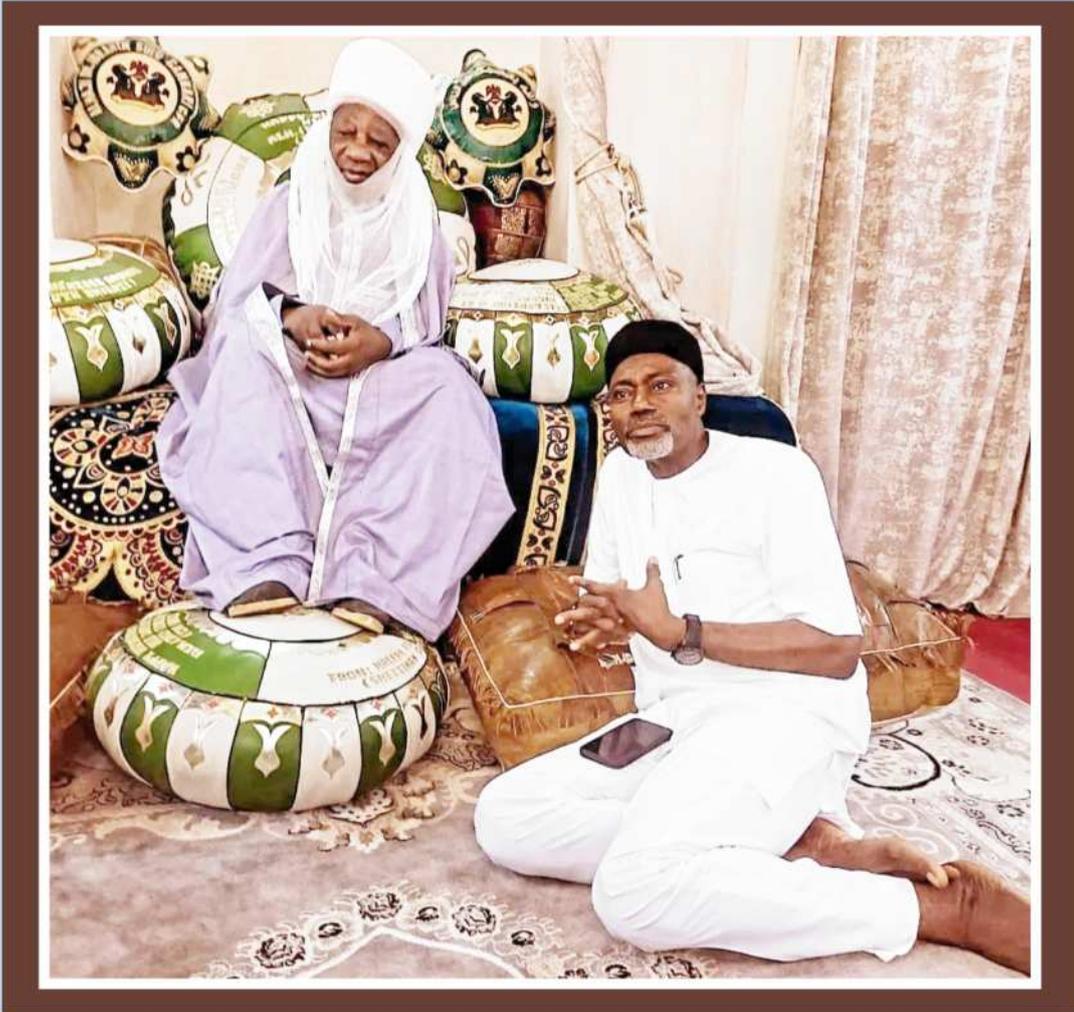
HON. MASHOOD MUSTAPHA (MM)

Wakili Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate

Chairman, Crystal Group of Companies



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIRST KULIYA NGERI OF ILORIN, PROFESSOR YUSUF OLA-OLU ALI (SAN)



With immense joy and profound admiration, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali (SAN) on the momentous occasion of his official turbaning as the Zenith of Law in Ilorin Emirate, a title befitting his towering stature as a legal luminary by the revered Emir of Ilorin, His Royal Highness, Dr Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR.

This prestigious recognition is not only a personal honour but also a well-deserved acknowledgment of Professor Ali's unparalleled intellect, unwavering integrity, and extraordinary contributions to the legal profession and society at large. As a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, a distinguished scholar, and an accomplished administrator, he has continuously demonstrated excellence in law, advocacy, and the advancement of justice in Nigeria. His influence extends far beyond the courtroom, shaping policies, mentoring young legal minds, and championing various philanthropic causes.

Beyond his professional achievements, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali (SAN) has remained a pillar of progress in the Ilorin Emirate and beyond. He is a man whose generosity, wisdom, and leadership have fostered development in education, legal scholarship, and community empowerment. His turbaning as the Zenith of Law in Ilorin Emirate is a testament to his lifetime commitment to fairness, justice, and the betterment of society.

May the Almighty continue to bless him with wisdom, strength, and good health as he embarks on this noble responsibility. I have no doubt that his tenure as Kuliya Ngeri will bring greater unity, progress, and enlightenment to the Ilorin Emirate, and serve as a beacon of excellence for generations to come.

Once again, congratulations to Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali (SAN), the First Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin. This honour is well deserved, and we celebrate you today and always!

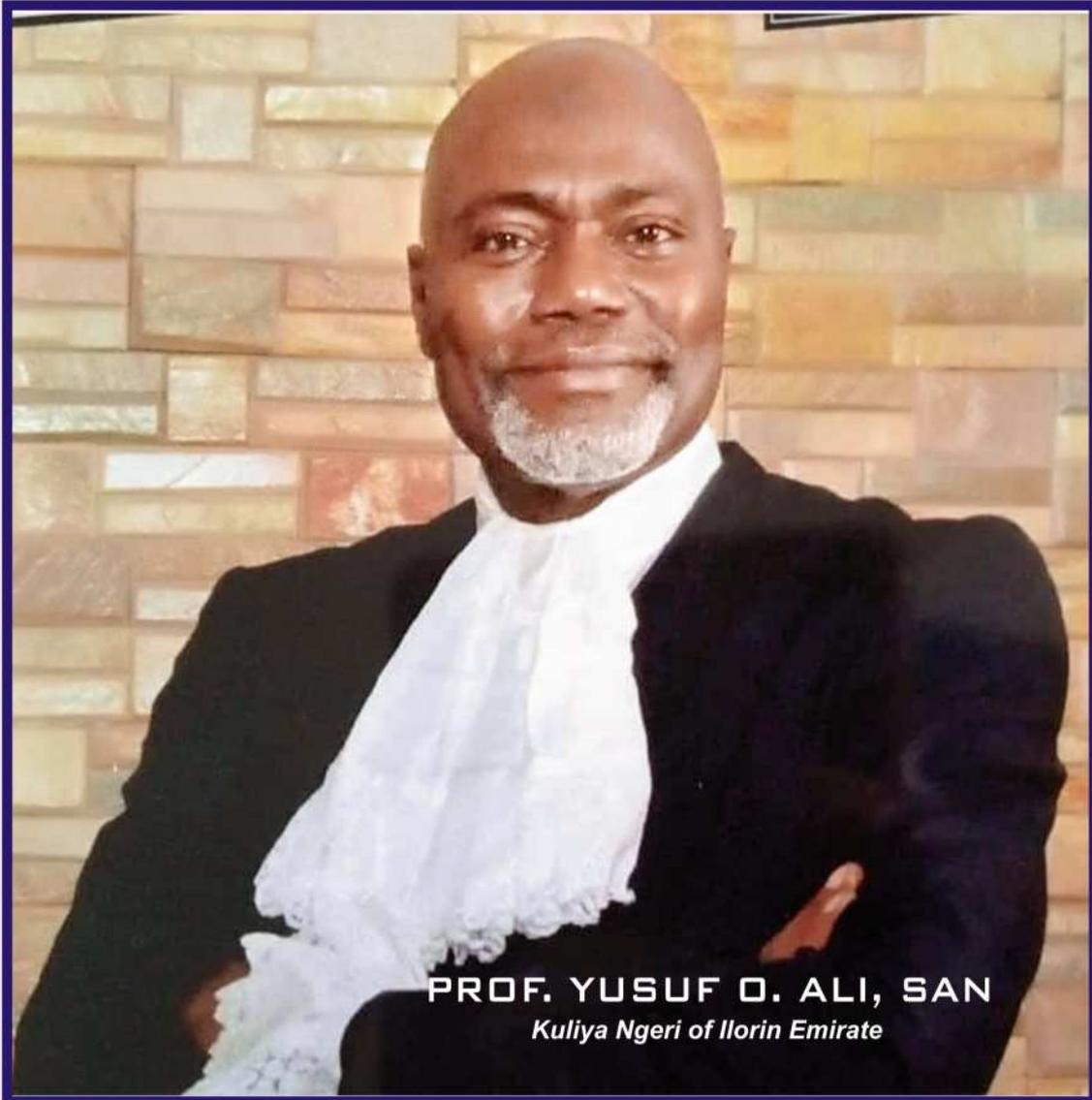
SIGNED

*Kamaldeen Adeyemi Ajibade SAN, FCIM, FICMC,
Former Attorney General of Kwara state,
National Legal Adviser, PDP*





Congratulations to 1st Kuliya Ngeri!



PROF. YUSUF O. ALI, SAN
Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate

Your dedication to community development, human empowerment and commitment to legal profession are unparalleled. These and many qualities you have shown over the decades has earned you numerous accolades.

All these are testament to your being considered for the 1st Kuliya Ngeri of the great Ilorin Emirate where nearly every household can boast of reasonable number of legal practitioners.

Our highly revered royal father, the Emir of Ilorin and Chairman, Kwara State Council of Chiefs, Dr Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR has done well in his wisdom to have accorded you this all-important traditional title.

As you are formally turbaned as 1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin, I, Chief Faysal Harb, on behalf of my family and entire staff members of JMK Construction Nig. Ltd, we pray that Almighty Allah (SWT) continue to grant His favour upon you and your entire household.

Congratulations sir!

SIGNED

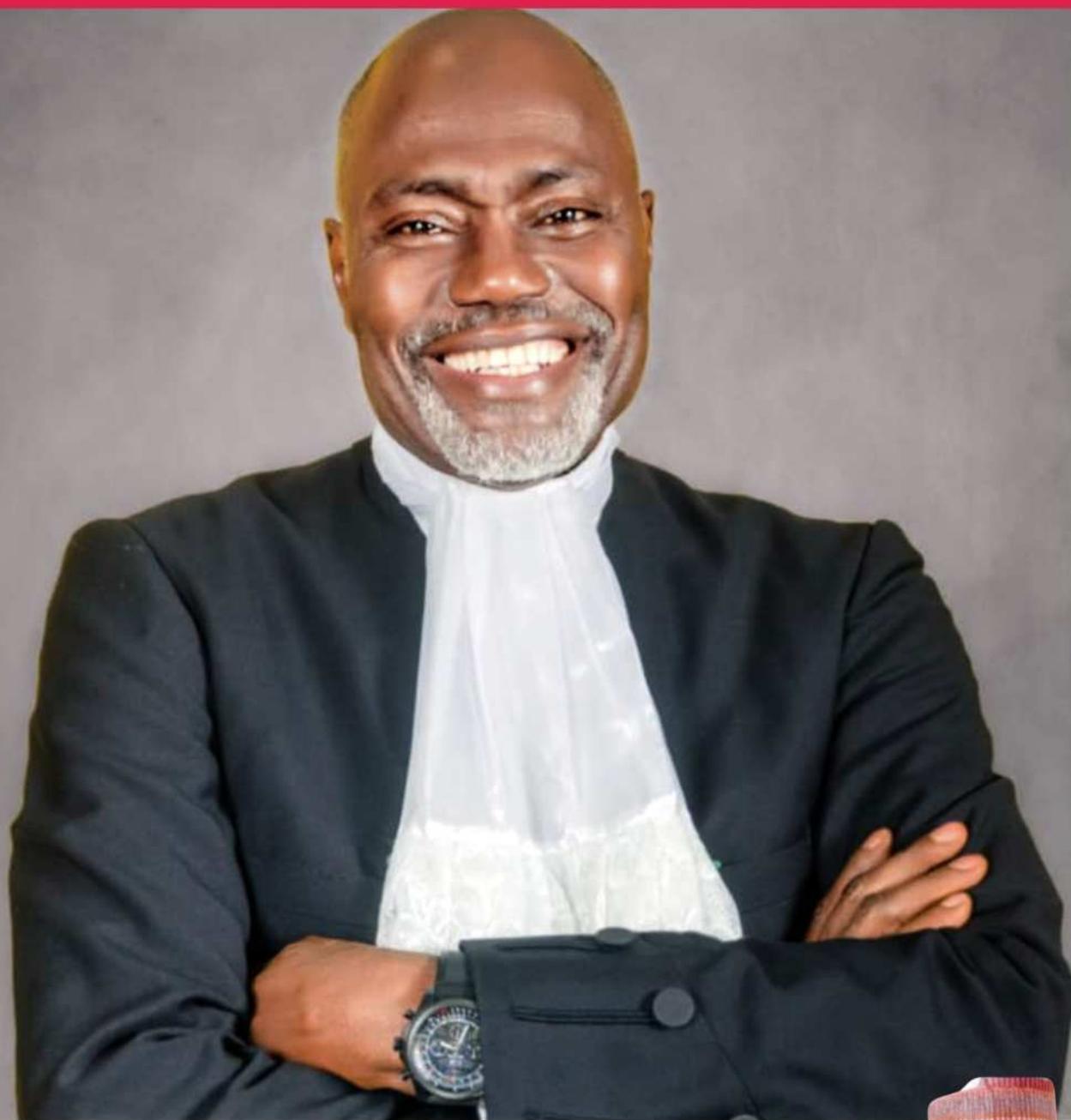
CHIEF FAYSAL HARB

Chairman, JMK Construction Nig. Ltd K





HEARTY FELICITATIONS!!!



I felicitate Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN on his appointment as Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate. As a pioneer holder of this high-flying traditional title in the Emirate, I join eminent citizens to rejoice with you on the appointment and pray that you live long in this new title for the benefit of not only Ilorin Emirate but humanity as a whole.

SIGNED
BARRISTER SALMAN JAWONDO, SAN
Salman Jawondo & Co.





Michael Imoudu National Institute of Labour Studies (MINILS)

Celebrating **1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin**

Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN

I, Comrade Issa Obalowu Aremu, mni, the Director General/CEO of Michael Imoudu National Institute of Labour Studies (MINILS), on behalf of the management and the entire staffers of the Institute, heartily congratulate my dear brother and friend, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali (SAN), on his well-deserved turbaning as the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate by His Royal Highness, the Emir of Ilorin and Chairman, Kwara State Council of Chiefs, Dr Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, on the 11th of April, 2025.

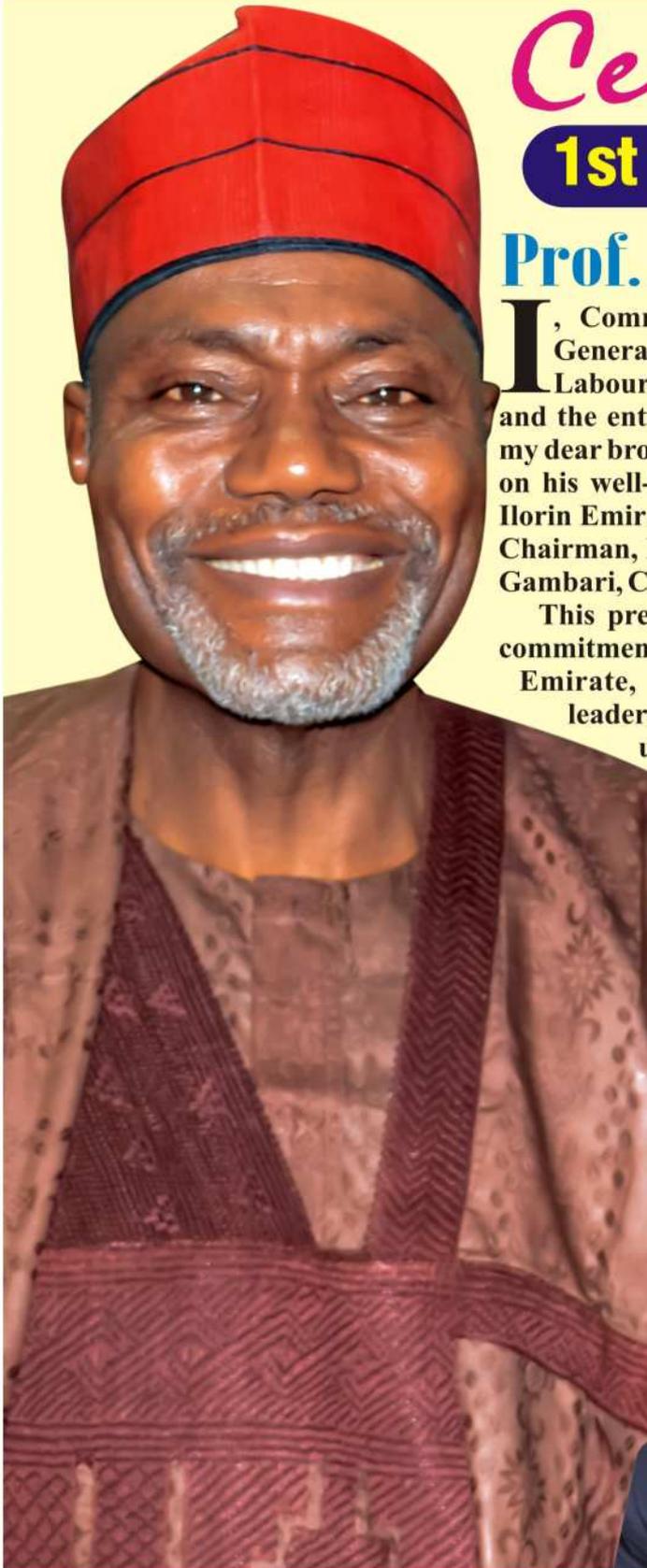
This prestigious title is a testament to your unwavering commitment to the growth and development of the Ilorin Emirate, as well as your exceptional philanthropy, leadership, and service to humanity. Your dedication to uplifting others and fostering progress has not gone unnoticed, and this honour is a befitting recognition of your immense contributions.

May this new role bring you greater strength, wisdom, and continued success in your service to the community and beyond.

Congratulations, once again!

SIGNED

Comrade Issa Obalowu Aremu, mni,
DG/CEO, MINILS



Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN
1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate



Felicitations!!!

It is with utmost delight that I, on behalf of my family, felicitate Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, on his appointment and turbaning as the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate.

Indeed, it is a rare privilege and honour for the learned silk to be chosen for this high recognition by His Royal Highness, the Emir of Ilorin and Chairman, Kwara State Council of Chiefs, Alhaji (Dr.) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR.

The pioneer Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate is a role model in the temple of justice and community development.

I pray that the Kuliya Ngeri will continue to attract the ceaseless favour of the Almighty Allah in his endeavours as a great mind in the law profession and a champion in community development and human capital development.

Congratulations, Professor of law and learned silk

SIGNED

A.U. Mustapha, SAN



**PROF. YUSUF
O. ALI, SAN**
Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate





CONGRATULATIONS!!!

I heartily congratulate my brother and legal luminary, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, on your official turbaning as “Kuliya Ngeri” of Ilorin Emirate.

With your avalanche of experience and contributions to law practice both nationally and internationally, your choice for the prestigious traditional title could not have come at a better time.

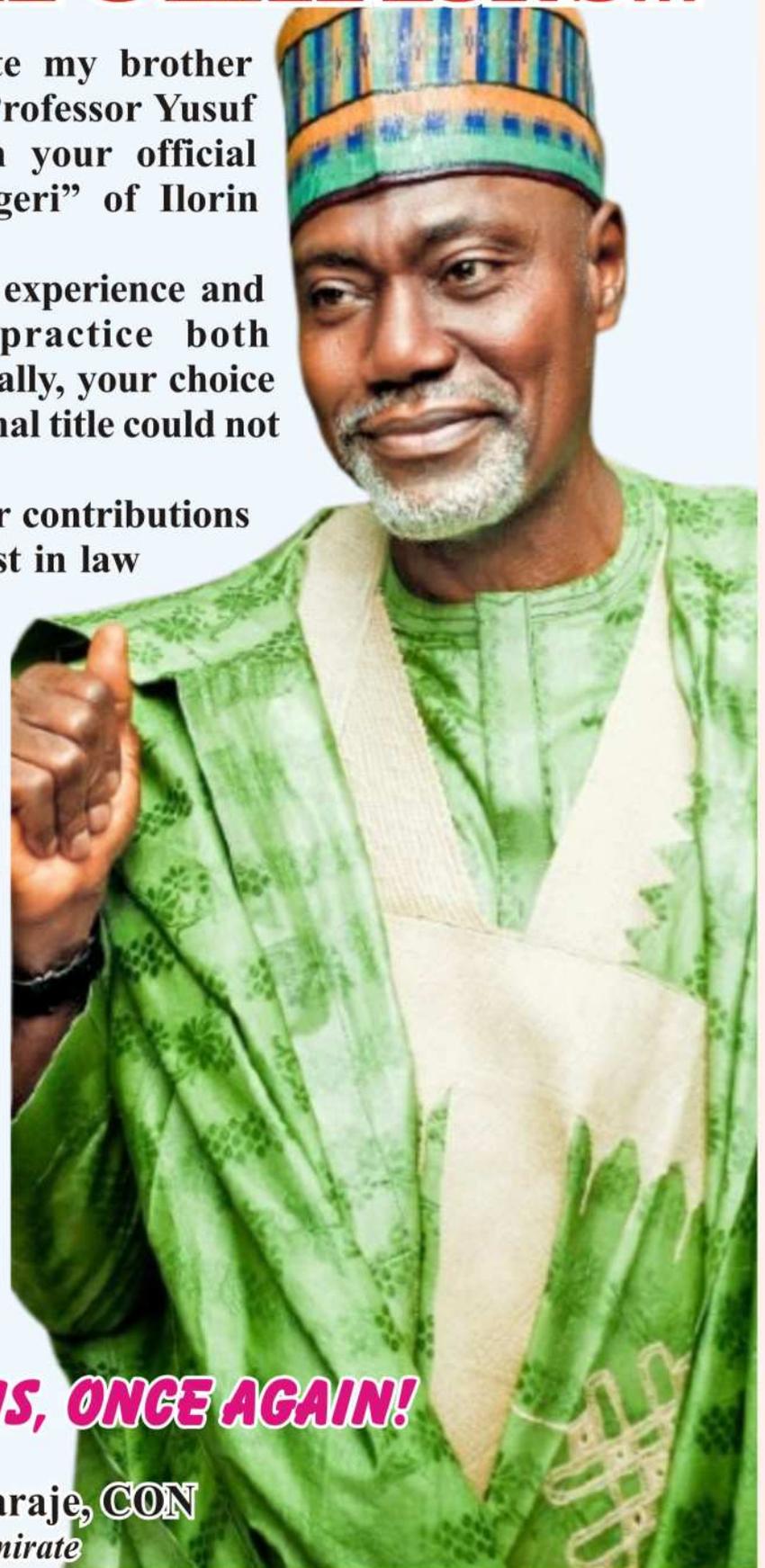
I'm glad to add that your contributions are not only made manifest in law but in community development, and nothing could be more thrilling than to see you being honoured with this prestigious traditional title, courtesy of the Emir of Ilorin and Chairman, Kwara State Council of Chief, Maimartaba, Dr Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR.

CONGRATULATIONS even as I pray that the favour of Allah shall continue to show on you and your loved ones.

CONGRATULATIONS, ONCE AGAIN!

Signed:

Alhaji Abubakar Kawu Baraje, CON
Tafida Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate





CONGRATULATIONS!!!



Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN through his generosity and philanthropy has impacted positively and widely on people across ethnic, religious, political and gender divides. He is especially committed to the enthronement of an equitable and just society using legal profession and the teachings of Islam to uplift the needy and downtrodden.

As Professor Yusuf Ali is conferred with the traditional title of Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate on the 11th of April 2025, in recognition of his contributions to the Emirate and humanity by His Royal Majesty and Chairman Kwara State Traditional Council, Alhaji (Dr.) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari Mai Martaba, I pray to Allah (SWT) to grant him long life, good health, peace, happiness and the wherewithal to continue with his good deeds and seize this opportunity to congratulate him on this momentous and joyous occasion that will go down in the history books.

Congratulations once again!

SIGNED:

Hon. Justice Sulyman Durosinlorun Kawu, OFR, Life Bencher
Immediate Past Chief Judge of Kwara State.



HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS *to*
**PROFESSOR YUSUF OLAOLU ALI (SAN) ON HIS
 TURBANING AS THE KULIYA NGERI OF ILORIN**



On behalf of my family and friends, I, Professor Ibrahim Agboola Gambari, CFR, OCORT, former Chief of Staff to former President Muhammadu Buhari and Founder, Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development (SCDDD), extend my warmest congratulations to our distinguished legal luminary, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali (SAN), on his well-deserved turbaning as the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin by our revered father, His Royal Highness, Alhaji (Dr.) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, the Emir of Ilorin, on the 11th of April, 2025.

This prestigious title is a testament to your unwavering commitment to the legal profession, your selfless contributions to the Ilorin Emirate's growth, and your impactful efforts in education, healthcare, and philanthropy. Your dedication to uplifting lives and fostering positive change is truly commendable.

We celebrate this remarkable honour with you, knowing that your leadership and service will continue to inspire generations. May Almighty Allah bless you with wisdom, strength, and continued success in this noble assignment.

Once again, congratulations!



Warm regards,
Prof. Ibrahim Agboola Gambari, CFR, OCORT
*Former Chief of Staff to former President of Nigeria
 and Founder, Savannah Centre for Diplomacy,
 Democracy and Development (SCDDD)*

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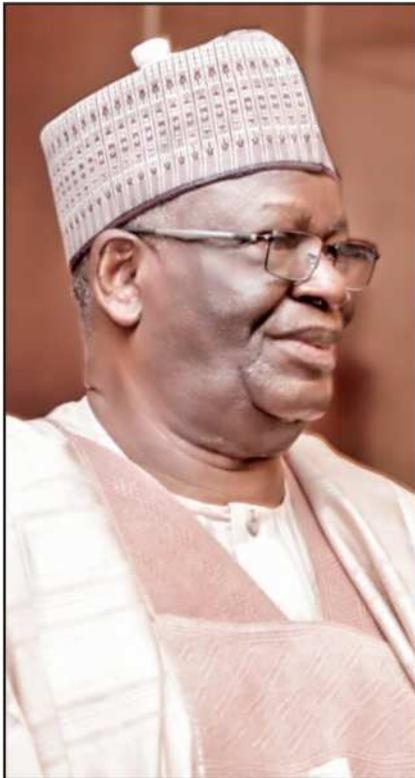
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Yusuf Ali community-minded and a nationalist – Prof. Gambari

...he's a bridge-builder between Muslims and Christians, Northerners and Southerners



Can you tell us about the new Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate?

First of all, I want to say that Yusuf Ali is a scholar, a professional, a community-minded person and a nationalist to the core. I have known him for decades now as an extremely hard working, very committed and principled person. Now, in terms of his scholarship, there is no better testimony than the fact that I am told that he has now gotten a professorship.

He is actually Professor Yusuf Ali now, a professor in the practice of law. This is something common in the United States of America whereby somebody is made a professor by a university in the practice of whatever he has distinguished himself in and in his case, it is Law.

As a professional, he is a lawyer, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), and he has gotten the title for some time now, which is recognition of the standing in the bar and as a community-minded person. I am not surprised that even though he is not from Ilorin, I think in some ways he is more Ilorin than Ilorin people, because he mixes very well with people.

He participates in the community activities and there is, again, no better

In this interview, Professor Ibrahim Agboola Gambari, the former Chief of Staff to the immediate-past President of Federal Republic of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari and Founder, Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development (SCDDD), speaks to OUR EVENTS on his perception about Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate and the reason Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN merited the coveted traditional title.

recognition of that than the Emir of Ilorin, who is the Chairman of the Kwara State Council of Chiefs and also the Head of the Ilorin Emirate. He is the one conferring on him a community title, which is new. He is the first occupant of the particular title that he has been given, which is a recognition of somebody who is a dependable, reliable, knowledgeable legal person; legal advisor, in a sense.

If somebody who is not from Ilorin, but has become part and parcel of the community, that is another indication of how a community-minded person he is. Nationally, he is a bridge-builder between Muslims and Christians, Northerners and Southerners, Ilorin, Kwara and its neighbouring states, and he cares a lot about national issues, reason he is a very much cherished speaker on a number of subjects, way beyond even his discipline and profession, because he cares a lot.

So, he is a friend, a colleague, a compatriot and now, he is a member of the kind of traditional council, by virtue of the title that he has just been given.

Sadly, I won't be there, because I'm out of town but I will be there in spirit, because I share a lot in common with him, and I'm very proud of him. So, congratulations to him. A huge thanks to His Royal Highness, Dr Ibrahim Sulu Gambari, CFR, the head of the Ilorin Emirate for considering, in a sense, one of us, worthy of being given this high title.

Now that he has been given the title of Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin, what is your

advice to him?

Well, just to be himself and continue to do what he does best, which is to help the community, to enlighten the community, to be a good advisor to His Royal Highness, and to continue to contribute to the growth, development of the Ilorin Emirate and also, as somebody who upholds the tradition, and particularly the institution of Emirship in the Ilorin Emirate.

The last time you held a political office was when you were Chief of Staff to the former President. How can we best describe you now?

It is not for me to describe myself, that is up to people. I have always served. That is not my first public position as you know. I have been serving this country in various capacities since 1977 as a Senior Lecturer at Ahmadu Bello University, later on Professor, and then Director General of the Institute of International Affairs and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and also as Ambassador of Nigeria to the United Nations for an unprecedented 10 years, the longest serving.

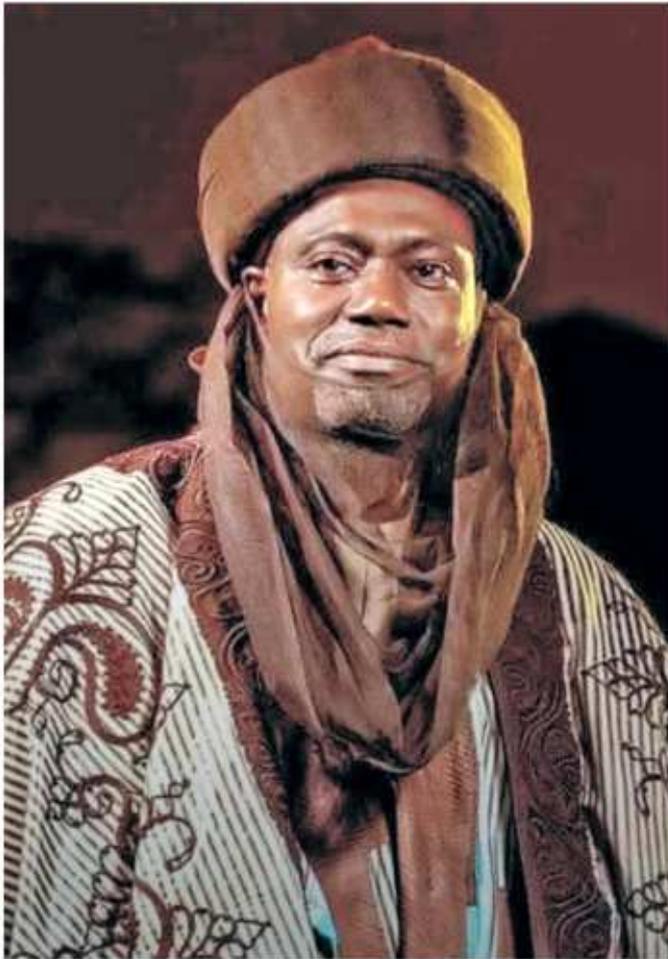
I also participated in the 2014 National Conference organised by the then-President, Jonathan and thereafter set up my own Savannah Centre. We call it Savannah Centre because it is in the Savannah, and what we do is to deepen the linkage on peace, development, and democracy, and we do advocacy as well as organise training in good governance. We do research on this linkage, the nexus between peace, development, and democracy and then, after having been separated from the then-General, Muhammadu Buhari, in 1985 at the end of his term as the Military Head of State of Nigeria, I feel greatly honoured that 35 years later, that is from 1985 to 2020. In 2020, he asked me to be his Chief of Staff, and I was with him until he ended his term, left power and wasn't seeking a third term.

I was joining him in organising and steering the transition of power to a new President and inauguration of the same.

I'm who I am, I'm a scholar, a public servant, a diplomat and now, as a founder and chairman of the Savannah Centre; a Think Tank and NGO that is devoted to the promotion of the nexus between peace, democracy, and development in our country.



Yusuf Ali: 'A Legal Eagle'



It is with profound joy that I congratulate Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, on the momentous occasion of his turbaning as the Kuliyan Ilorin by His Royal Highness, Emir of Ilorin and Chairman of the Kwara State Council of Chiefs, Alhaji (Dr.) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR. This honour is a testament to the outstanding contributions Professor Ali has made, not only to the legal profession but also to the broader community of Ilorin and beyond.

The decision by HRH, an eminent jurist and a retired Judge of the Court of Appeal, to confer upon Professor Ali the honorary title of Kuliyan Ilorin is one that speaks volumes about the distinguished character and immense contributions of the man in question. His Royal Highness, in his wisdom, has once again demonstrated a keen understanding of the qualities that make for true leadership and dedication to community service. To be recognised by such a distinguished figure in this way is a true mark of

honor and acknowledgment of a life well-lived in service to the law and the people.

Professor Ali's legacy as a respected Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), a learned academic, and a philanthropist, is acknowledged across the nation. His remarkable career in law, characterised by both depth and breadth, has left an indelible mark on the Nigerian legal system. His contributions, however, are well felt within the Ilorin Emirate, where

he has made his home. Ilorin has benefited immensely from his commitment to advancing legal education, his philanthropic endeavors, and his good work in mentoring the next generation of legal professionals.

The Ilorin community appreciates his significant contributions to the growth and development of the Ilorin Bar. As a mentor to many young lawyers, some of whom have risen to the esteemed position of Learned Silks, his impact on the legal profession is significant.

In addition to his work in nurturing young talent, Professor Ali's prolific contributions to legal literature have had a profound influence on the intellectual landscape of the Nigerian legal community. His numerous publications, which reflect his deep understanding of the law and his

commitment to promoting legal scholarship, continue to serve as valuable resources for both legal practitioners and academics alike.

Moreover, his generous support of universities, particularly those within the Ilorin Emirate, is acknowledged in our academic community. Through his philanthropy, Professor Ali has not only provided financial support to institutions of learning but has also facilitated the creation of an environment where future generations of legal minds can thrive.

As we come together to celebrate Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, on his well-deserved turbaning as Kuliyan Ilorin, we urge him to continue to uphold the sterling qualities that earned him this honour. We join his family, friends, associates, and clients in acknowledging the positive impact he has had on the legal profession and the wider Ilorin community. It is a honour that not only recognises his professional achievements but also acknowledges his dedication to making a difference in the lives of others.

May this honour continue to endear him to the hearts of the Ilorin Emirate and beyond. Alhamdulillah.



Written by:

Dr. Muhammad Alimi Abdul-Razaq, LL.M, Ph.D, BL, FCARB.
Mutawallin Ilorin and Member, Body of Benchers Nigeria



Kuliya Ngeri: Yusuf Ali's choice wise decision - Ex-Kwara Grand Kadi

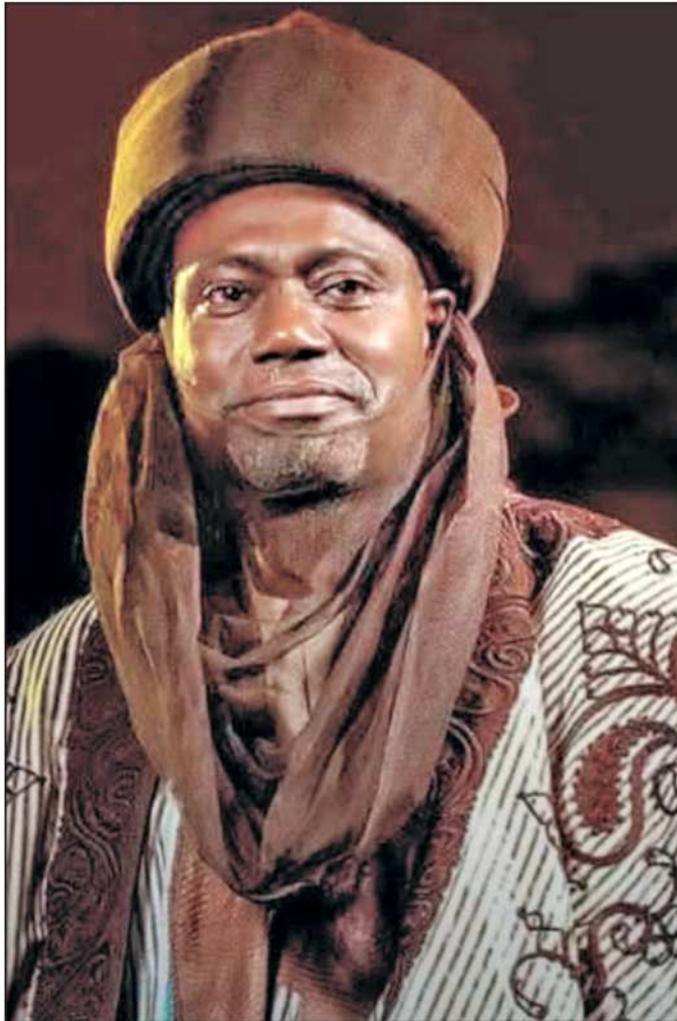
A retired Grand Kadi of Kwara State Shariah Court of Appeal, Justice Saalih Olohuntoyin Muhammad, has described the appointment of Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN as first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate as a wise decision from the Emir of Ilorin and Chairman, Kwara State Council of Chiefs, Dr Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari.

He observed that, considering the impact of the legal luminary in Ilorin Emirate, picking him for the prestigious traditional title was never a misplaced priority.

This is contained in a congratulatory message the retired jurist personally signed and made available to this medium.

Muhammad, a prolific writer, noted that the Kuliya Ngeri would forever be cherished for his invaluable contributions to the growth and development of Ilorin.

The retired Grand Kadi added that it is heartening that the new Ilorin Emirate honorary



chief combines professionalism with community service, saying that his profound impact on the Emirate would not be forgotten in a haste.

"This is to congratulate our own Professor Yusuf Olaolu, Ali SAN for distinguishing himself in all ramifications. His exceptional leadership quality in the temple of justice is well acknowledged. And this he has allowed to rub off on his community impact activities.

"Little wonder that our father, His Royal Highness, Maimartaba, Dr Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR resolved to

single you out for the prestigious appointment as Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate. This shows that your contributions to the development of Ilorin Emirate have not gone unnoticed.

"I'm of the firm belief that your choice for the appointment is meritorious and not misplaced if we are to count your profound impact. It is a known fact that Ilorin is growing in leaps and bounds. And if Ilorin Emirate is to be mentioned anywhere in the world, you will surely have a place.

"I want to therefore thank His Royal Highness for bestowing upon you this prestigious traditional title, and it is my hope that you won't rest on your oars in making the Emirate great.

"It is my prayer that the Almighty Allah grants you longevity of life and quality health to enjoy this traditional title as the first holder", the retired Grand Kadi said.





Traditional rulers should be saddled with roles in governance

– Oba Akinola, Olubosin of Ifetedo

Can you give us a brief background about yourself?

I was born in Ifetedo and I had a part of my early education there. Later, I was at the defunct Oyo State College of Education, Ilesha, and also attended the University of Lagos where I read Law and I attended the Nigerian Law School in Lagos.

Before I ascended the throne at Ifetedo, I was in the public service. I worked with the then Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation in Lagos. So, while in the service, I bagged a chieftaincy title in Ifetedo and in Ifetedo, we practice linear promotion.

In 2008, I was made Akogun of Ifetedo. In January 2011, I became the Otun of Ifetedo, and in January 2015, I was promoted to the position of Balogun of Ifetedo. My predecessor, His Royal Majesty Oba Isaac Adebare Olowosoki joined his ancestors in March 2018 and later in that year, precisely November 22, 2018, I was appointed the Olubosin of Ifetedo. Since then, to the glory of God,



His Royal Majesty, Oba Akinola Oyeta Akinrera, Latiiri I, the Olubosin of Ifetedo, is the paramount traditional ruler of the country home of Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate, and Baba Oba of Ifetedo Kingdom, among other well deserved titles. Ifetedo is the headquarters of Ife South Local Government of Osun State. In this exclusive interview, the monarch speaks on the personality of first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate, his contributions to Ifetedo and the role of traditional rulers in governance in the country among other sundry issues. Excerpts:

we have been there to move the Kingdom forward. That is, the support from my subjects has been very enormous.

How would you describe the support you have received from your subjects in the community?

The support I have gotten has been very enormous. My people both in Nigeria and in diaspora, have been very supportive because even right from my days as a chief or high chief, they have been supporting me, and I have been nursing the hope that one day I will become the Olubosin. Since then, some of them have been pledging their support that when I become the Olubosin, they will support me and I give glory to Almighty God that they have been living up to the expectation.

Can you mention one or two developments that have taken place since you came on board?

Before I became the Olubosin of Ifetedo, I can't deceive you, the behaviour of some youths in Ifetedo was very bad; there were a lot of them. So, they could do just anything they liked. For example, they used to harrassed potential investors; asking the potential business owners to give them money. But we have been able to rein them in, make some of them scapegoats, and thereby bringing peace to the community.

For any human society to progress, there must be security, safety and stability. In the absence of those things, there can't be any development. From there, we proceeded to establish what is known as Ifetedo Education Summit.

We had the first one in 2019 and we had another one in 2022, precisely on the 31st of August, 2022. And a lot of challenges that we face in Ifetedo were brought to the fore for discussion and the solutions,

recommendations were made and the necessary follow-up and actions were taken, and this has really helped us because the Ifetedo Education Summit has brought about more cooperation between the teachers and the parents. Because on those two occasions, we were able to make it abundantly clear to the parents that there was no way they could outsource their responsibilities to the teachers.

Yes, the teachers have a crucial role to play in the education of the child but the parents also have their own share of it. Because out of 24 hours that make up a day, the child spends only 8 hours with the teachers, the remaining 16 hours are spent outside the school with their parents.

We made them understand that there is a need for them to monitor the activities, the performance of their children so that they will know when to go to his or her school to meet the teacher and discuss. Until then, we were having cases of students leaving the house in the morning and they would just disappear into the street; they wouldn't get to the school and they would not go home. But that has been largely addressed.

And I'm delighted to inform you that it is impacting positively on the overall performance of secondary school students in Ifetedo, and again before I became the Olubosin, there used to be a lot of cases of unwanted pregnancies among the teenagers and luckily for me, my Queen, Olori Adetokunbo Akinrera, set up a foundation which focuses on the girl child. She mobilises her friends and colleagues who facilitate us from time to time. They always hold seminars, resource programmes. In fact, not just in

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Yusuf Ali, a special gift to humanity – Olubosin of Ifetedo



Ifetedo, she has extended it to girls in the whole Ife South Local Government Area. The last edition of that was on the 14th of February 2025. We got well-meaning people who engaged those girls, talked to them about their education and their future, educating them about the danger of teenage pregnancy, and I'm also happy that, that is also yielding positive results in the land.

Some traditional rulers are agitating that there should be a specific role given to traditional rulers in the nation's Constitution. What is your take on this and your advice to the political class as we gravitate toward another round of electioneering period?

As traditional rulers, we play a critical role in our polity. We are the traditional rulers and in some cases, we also play the role of religious leaders among our people. For instance, in Ifetedo, when it comes to the traditional religion, even to all the festivals in the town, we have a priest but myself as the Olubosin of Ifetedo, I am regarded as the chief priest.

Yes, I am the chief priest because there is no festival in my land that can hold without approval from me, and whatever role is expected of me to play in the celebration, I will play it.

Traditional rulers should be expected to be the chief security officers in their domains because in Ifetedo, for example, if a stranger comes into Ifetedo today, I will know. Because I must know, and I will know where he or she has entered into.

We have a very good structure to organize our people, and to also monitor what goes on among them because in my palace, I have what is known as Iwarefa. The Iwarefa is made up of six high chiefs who are involved in the day-to-day administration of the town with me.

Apart from them, we also have minor chiefs, we have the female chiefs; Iyalode and others like her. We have the palace. It is unlike what seems to be happening in the national space. We don't have any ungoverned space. I don't have anywhere in the entire Ifetedo land that has four political wards. I don't have any space where there

is no Ba'alẹ.

It is the Ba'alẹ that holds meetings with me. At least, if there is no emergency, the Ba'alẹ and other chiefs hold monthly meetings with me. So, we, as traditional rulers, are seriously involved in the task of providing our people with security, even though we don't have what it takes to really do it, because in the provision of security, intelligence gathering plays a crucial role, and there is no how one can do this free. Something has to be deployed.

And again, as traditional rulers, we also resolve disputes among our people, playing judicial functions as well. I think, to be honest, it is high time that the federal government of Nigeria defined those functions in the area of religion, politics and making justice among our people so that they could codify it and make it our official role in the government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It is long overdue.

Your Highness, what is your take on politicians?

I think that is a very serious issue, and it is not limited to any political party. For example, when you look at our political life as a nation, you would agree with me that Nigeria does not have any political party where there is no crisis, and the bottom line of the crisis is that it is their failure to abide by the provisions of the constitution of their own party, which they made voluntarily themselves.

The political party constitution was not made either by the National Assembly or

INEC. No! The members sat down and drew up the constitution of their party but yet, they find it very difficult to abide by it. So, if they do not abide by the provisions of their own party constitution, how do they now abide by the provisions of the constitution of the land?

This is a very serious thing and until that is addressed, there is no way our democracy will be able to take root; this democracy is yet to take root. There is a need for us to deepen our democracy, and how do we deepen our democracy? it is by all of us, the big and the small in the society. We submit ourselves to the provision of the law.

Yes, when we start to play our game according to the rule that we submit to the rule of law, you will see that our democracy will take root.

Your son, Yusuf Olaolu Ali was recently pronounced as the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate. How would you describe the traditional title given to him by His Royal Highness, the Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji (Dr) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari?

Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN is an icon, an enigma and a blessing from Almighty God to humanity in general and to Ifetedo in particular.

He is an illustrious son of Ifetedo. He has done a lot for us in Ifetedo. For example, during the regime of Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola as the Executive Governor of Osun State, he established Osun State University and sited the Law Faculty Campus in Ifetedo.

Before the state government started the building of the University itself, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, in his usual proactive manner, had commenced the construction of the first hostel ever in the Ifetedo campus known as Ali Balogun hostel.

That hostel really helped the pioneering students of the University and it saved us a lot of embarrassment, because we were overwhelmed that this is a university. We were wondering where the students will live.

Apart from that, annually, many years before the coming of Osun State University, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali has been giving scholarships to indigent students in Ifetedo. He is a very successful lawyer of international repute. I can also tell you that he is also a great

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'Parents should not outsource their responsibilities to teachers'

community leader. There is nothing we are doing in Ifetedo that Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali does not participate in. He will participate and support whatever project we are doing with funds.

You remember, I said it earlier that even before I became the Olubosin, some of the Ifetedo people have been promising me that when my time comes to succeed my father, they will support me. He is one of them, and I am happy that he has lived up to expectations.

On the 3rd of September, 2023, I was with him at his Ilorin residence, and we discussed a range of issues during our meeting. It was there that I reminded him of what he said earlier that I deserved a new house and he said yes.

He said, do you know what we are going to do? I said no. He said, do you want me to set up a Palace Implementation Committee? I said yes and we set up Olubosin Palace Implementation Committee, which I inaugurated on the 15th of December, 2023.

He has used his position, his influence, to assist me in organising the Ifetedo sons and daughters in Nigeria and diaspora and as I speak with you, I am very happy to tell you that we have gone far, even though we are yet to lay the foundation of the new Palace. I know that a lot of efforts have gone into it, and we have covered some ground.

He is highly respected in the town. So, whatever projects that he is involved in have to be important because you will never see him near any frivolities. He has no time for frivolities. He is a workaholic. We all know him for that, always focused, serious and very kind-

hearted, but very firm.

In the same 2023, I think it was around October, 2023, he just called me. He said the state of the General Hospital, Ifetedo was giving him some concern. He wanted the General Hospital in Ifetedo to render the same services that our people used to travel to Ondo, to Ile-Ife, to Osogbo, even to Ilorin, to obtain.

I asked, how are we going to do that. He said that he would want us to equip the theatre section of the General Hospital. I said that is going to be a very expensive project.

He told me he had discussed the idea with one of his friends, who is a medical doctor, and I know him whenever he is discussing any idea with you, I want you to know that he has done his own work about it, and that is why he is always successful in whatever he is doing. He can never be associated with failure. So, that was in October, 2023.

In November, 2023, I was elated when the Doctor in charge of the Ifetedo General Hospital phoned me that he wanted to come and see me. I said, okay, and he broke the news to me that they brought theater equipment to our General Hospital. I went there to see things by myself and as a layman, because I don't know anything about medicine, I asked the medical doctor in charge of the place. I said, I could see this equipment, it looked very new and nice to me can you tell me what we can achieve with this equipment.

The doctor explained to me that with this state-of-the-art equipment, what we cannot do in Ifetedo now is heart transplant and kidney transplant. He said that if the Osun State government should provide us with personnel now, we could do any other surgery in Ifetedo.

I'm sure it will interest you. I think in February this year, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali called me and said the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps Commandant in Ifetedo contacted him through a text message, asking for a motorcycle from him for the official use.

So, I said, okay, what is your opinion. He said, yes. He said he wanted to buy it for them, but there

was no way he would do such a thing without my knowledge. He also wanted to buy for the use of the Police, I said that is very kind of you. Please, if you don't mind, I want you to make it three so that we can also give one to Amotekun. He said, there is no problem. I think the third or the fourth day he sent the three motorcycles to me, which were presented to those agencies of government and they have been using them for their official use.

For example, our other sociocultural activities in the town, especially when we are having our annual Ifetedo Day celebration, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN will make sure that if he does not come personally, he will be represented and he will support us with funds.

It is in consideration of these activities that have made me, as far back as 2019 to give him the title of Baba Oba of Ifetedo. He is the King's adopted Guardian, If you want me to translate it.

For the very great honour of Kuliya Ngeri being conferred on him by His Royal Highness, the Emir of Ilorin, I want to really appreciate the Emir and the entire Emirate. I want to seize this opportunity to thank them immensely because Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali was not born in Ilorin but the Emir and his people have made the place very comfortable for him and by extension for us, because he is our son, and we have been benefiting immensely from his kindness.

If the Emir and his people had not made the place comfortable for him, if they had not accommodated him, he wouldn't have been where he is today. So, for deeming it fit and making our son the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate, the entire Ifetedo Kingdom is very grateful to him.

In the same vein, I want to congratulate our son, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN for this feat. I pray that God will endow him with very excellent health and long life.

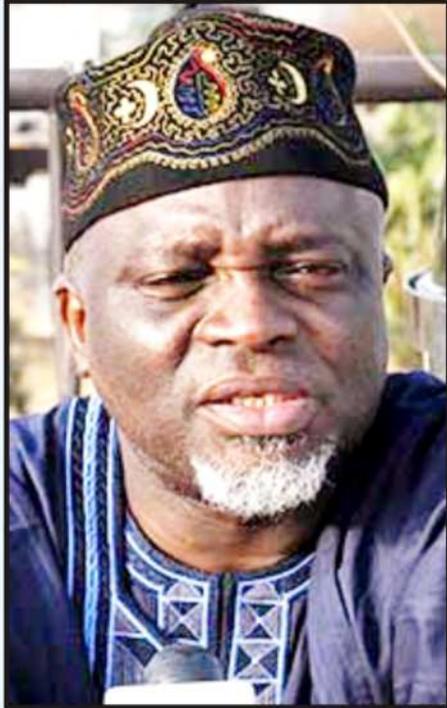
God will make all his children to be much more successful than himself, and he shall live long to enjoy the benefits of his labour. To everyone who will be coming from far and near to join us in the celebration of Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN as Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate on the 11th of April, 2025, I also pray for journey mercies for each and every one of us.

The programme will be successful, and all of us who are involved will also go well and return well to our destinations. I thank you greatly.





Kuliya title, beginning of more goodies to Yusuf Ali - Prof Is'haq Oloyede



Can you tell us about Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN and your relationship with him?

Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin, is a childhood friend. He had developed not only to become a strong pillar in law, he is also a philanthropist. He is selfless and committed to the development of his society. I know him to be religious, passionate about everything he does, but ethical in his activities.

He is an academic in his own right and he is also someone who learns from others. He is someone who can easily

Professor Is'haq Olanrewaju Oloyede the Registrar and Chief Executive Officer of Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), who is the former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, is also the Kuliya of Sokoto. Being a close friend of the legal giant, Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, the Professor Emeritus spoke to OUR EVENTS on the traditional title bestowed on his friend. EXCERPTS:

pick whatever is useful for him from the experience of others, and is committed to what he is doing.

I have known him for almost 60 years that we have been together. We lived together under the same roof for 10 years, and we have been very close. So, I thank Maimartaba, Emir of Ilorin for giving us a belief that it is a honour that is not only well-deserved but also well-given. You enhance the chieftaincy title in not only the Emirate, but throughout the traditional institutions in this country.

You have earned the same title of Kuliya. What is your advice to Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN as he also bagged the title in Ilorin Emirate?

Yes, I think I'm indebted to him in a way because he was made the Kuliya of Ilorin Emirate, and I believe that must have gotten the attention of my principal, His Eminence, the Sultan (of Sokoto). Just as the Emir of Ilorin gave both of us that of Ilorin. I believe that of Sokoto is also not only to me, but to both of us. Because both the Emir of Ilorin and His Eminence Sultan of Sokoto are allies and as a

result of that, I believe that both the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin and that of Sokoto are not just to one of us but to both of us.

He is my senior by being appointed before me, and I am his senior by being the Kuliya of the 'Source'. So, I can only advise him to be what he is and we will continue to do our best for the service of humanity.

Olaolu Ali has been known for his legal practice in the past years and you are so close to him. How would you describe his sense of humour and intelligence in the legal profession?

I have said it repeatedly that Yusuf Ali is very intelligent. He is a professional and very ethical about the practice of law, and I have no hesitation in following him on any path, because I know he is somebody who would never deceive anybody. So, Yusuf Ali is an embodiment of what is good.

I wish him many happy returns of good things that will continue to occur in his life, and I want to believe that the Kuliya is the beginning of more good things that will be attracted to him, Inshallah.





Yusuf Ali has made many lawyers millionaires - Head, Ghalib Chambers

As the Head of Ghalib Chambers, how would you describe your boss, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN?

I joined the office, precisely on the 2nd of September, 2002, and since that period, I have been in the chambers. I was once a junior counsel in the chambers, and by the special grace of God, I have been made the head of chambers now.

I have no regret being get associated with Mallam, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN. This is because I have gained valuable experience in this profession which have been very useful to me in all ramifications.

Professor Yusuf Ali, SAN, I call him a phenomenon, because there is nothing good you want to learn from him that you cannot acquire. He has taught me Law, and he has taught me how to behave and how to relate with people because I got to understand, through him and through his actions and behaviours that there is no one he cannot live with, irrespective of that person's behaviour, background, and whatever. Mallam Yusuf Ali, SAN is a boss, a father, and a role model that you can always aspire to be like.

He is very hard working and considerate. For me to have been with him since 2002, you don't need a soothsayer to tell you that the place is very conducive to me, and that is why I remained there till date. I pray that the Almighty Allah will continue to strengthen the bond and grant us long lives in sound health and good wealth.

Mallam Yusuf Ali is not selfish but selfless in the sense that hardly will you see any of the lawyers and staff in his chambers that God has not blessed with his or her own building, vehicles and talk of whatever that can make a human being to be grateful to the Almighty Allah. Like I said, he is not selfish and he is a live and let us live person. He always gets fascinated and always happy when he see you making progress in life.

In fact, when I compare him with some people who are of similar

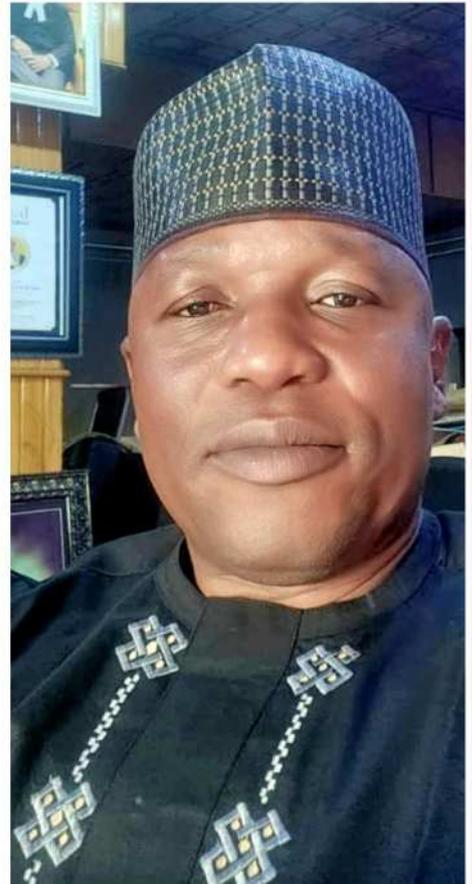
Yakub Dauda is the incumbent Head of Ghalib Chambers, the law firm of Yusuf Olaolu Ali and Co. In this exclusive interview, Dauda bares his mind on the character of Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate, his disposition to life and his philanthropic activities among others. **EXCERPTS:**

status there is no one who has surpassed him in this aspect. Mallam Yusuf Ali, SAN does not treat us like his staff or workers. He treats each and every one of us like his children or younger ones because he is the type, you can go and meet anytime anywhere, any place when you have any difficulty; it could be matrimonial, domestic and anything. He is always there to assist you and to give you advice.

So, he treats us like members of his family, and that is why I believe that those who are associated with him, work under him, or have one thing or the other to do with him, all of us are on the same platform, which we call and refer to as Ghalib family.

Like I said, he is a live and let's live person in the sense that I can boldly say that Mallam Yusuf Ali has made many millionaires among lawyers in Ilorin, Kwara State and in Nigeria. I will take my time to explain that sir.

Whenever he has cases, landmark cases, election petitions, Mallam Yusuf Ali will not say the case is given to my chambers and I will ensure that the case is handled by myself. He is the type that will invite lawyers from outside the chambers and co-opt them to handle cases with him and pay them handsomely at the end of it all. That is why I said he has made so many



millionaires among the lawyers.

To say he is a philanthropist will be an understatement, because we all know what he does. In fact, he may not like me to say this but I will do so. Recently, he gave me a Land Cruiser Jeep. On that day, like he always does, he calls me Akilapa. He said "go and look at the vehicle I brought to the office today".

I went downstairs but didn't see any vehicle parked in his parking space but I saw a strange car in the premises. I went back to tell him that I didn't see his car but I saw a particular car and the vehicle is huge. The next thing he asked me was, "do you like it?" and I responded that "yes I do" and he said he is gifting the car to me. I felt like I was dreaming. That is how he does his things.

I must tell you one thing, we have some senior lawyers who, when they see junior lawyers who are receiving salaries from them, do any job outside the office job, even

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Yusuf Ali was offered Ministerial Appointment twice but...

if that job will fetch that person, not more than N5,000, they normally get upset but Mallam Yusuf Ali is not the type.

Like I said in the book that was written to mark his anniversary the other time, there was a time when the former Governor of Ekiti State, Dr Ayo Fayose, had problems with EFCC; that was during his first tenure. I was one of the lawyers who used to go for his matter in Lagos then. In order to compensate me and some other people, the man gave me a personal brief that fetched me money. I informed my boss about it and he said there is no problem. I actually did the case and a penny was not removed from the money I collected from the man. He never said I should bring the money. He is just a man that one should aspire to be like.

Can you recall one or two landmark cases that your chamber had handled that remains historic?

There are many, but I would mention

that of (Senator Rashidi) Ladoja. The former Governor of Oyo State was reinstated after his purported impeachment that was in 2006. We have never had a situation whereby a Governor would be impeached and reinstated through legal battle. Although I was very young then but we all knew what happened in Balarabe Musa's matter during his term (as Governor of Kaduna State). But in Ladoja's case the provision of Section 188 of the Constitution was interpreted by the courts from the trial courts up to the Supreme Court. My boss played a significant role in the legal matter. So, it was a landmark case.

That was the first time in the history of this country that an impeached governor was reinstated by court.

As the Head of Chambers, have you ever had any misunderstanding with your boss?

There are some, I could remember during the Ngige and Uba saga when my boss was asked to handle the matter which required just a single appearance in court and would fetch him a huge sum as then. Due to the murky nature of the matter, my boss declined and some of us were not happy with him for turning down that kind of money but we later realised that he did that to maintain his integrity.

Another one is that I can confidently and authentically state that I am aware he had been offered Ministerial appointment twice, which he declined. What he said then was that he would not want a situation as a professional where the President or whoever is at the helm of affairs would be asking him to do what he believes is against the law. So, he said, he would rather remain the way he is than to have any confrontation with the authority.

When the issue was placed before us, our thoughts were that it was an opportunity for us but he said it goes beyond that. That he is not going to take it.

On the title of Kuliya Ngeri of

Ilorin Emirate, how did your chambers receive the news of the traditional title?

We were not surprised because of the meaning of the title given to him. Kuliya Ngeri is the echelon, the Zenith of law as far as the Ilorin Emirate is concerned. He is a reputable Senior Advocate of Nigeria, and he is respected all over the country. He has not gotten himself involved in any bad practice in his professional career. So, for him to have been given that, we believe it is honour long overdue. We are all happy that he was conferred with that honour.

What is your advice to him as the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate?

Can I even advise him? But I will only say that he should see this as another challenge and with the Almighty Allah on his side, he will succeed, and God will continue to be his guide and guard in whatever he is doing.

Of all the things you see your boss doing, particularly in the area of philanthropy, which of them did you marvel at the most?

I can't be particular about that because all what he has been doing are very beneficial to the masses and the downtrodden. For instance, we all know that he built a Trauma Centre at the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital. It cost him a fortune but there is no doubt that it is not money wasted because of the importance of such Trauma Centre to the public.

I have never had any reason to query him or to say he has spent so much money on any of his philanthropic activities, because they are always done to assist people and the masses.

How can you describe your relationship with other lawyers in the chambers?

Like I told you initially, I said there is even a platform called the Ghalib Family. Our relationship is very cordial. We relate with one another as if we are brothers and sisters, and we have always been cooperative in whatever we agree or we lay our hands on. That is just it. The relationship is very cordial.





'Yusuf Ali, a phenomenon with unlimited ability for kindness'

Can we meet you and who is Yusuf Ali to you?

I first studied History at the University of Ibadan. Then, I did International Relations at the University of Ife. I was there for a year before I got a postgraduate scholarship to come to England to do a Ph.D in War Studies and I finished my Ph.D in 1991, and I have been lecturing at King's College since then. So, that is me.

To talk about Professor Yusuf Ali, I knew him by reputation before I met him in person. His name first came into my memory during the impeachment saga of (former Governor) Rashidi Ladoja in Oyo State.

It was such a joy for me when we were both appointed to the Governing Council of Osun State University. He was the Chairman of the Council and the Pro-Chancellor, and I was one of the external members of the Governing Council. It was during this time that our acquaintance led to what I can now actually call a very deep friendship.

There is hardly any day we don't get in touch with each other, and he has been a big brother, a wonderful friend, and a highly respected colleague.

Now, who is this Yusuf Olaolu Ali? You have to indicate it. There are some individuals that you just have to ask yourself, where has this person been all through my life? Where am I just getting to know this person at this time? I think Professor Yusuf Ali belongs to that class. I was wondering why our path has never crossed up to the time we met at the Governing Council of the University.

He is a man of such diversified ability that you cannot really talk about him in a single straight way because he is just a phenomenon. He is not a man of middle things, he doesn't do things by half. Whatever he does, he does it comprehensively.

As I said, he is a man of such diversified dedication. I honestly don't know how I can define him. He is very kind and generous. He has assisted and lifted up many people and his ability to show kindness is unlimited but having said that, Professor Yusuf Ali has no curiosity value. What I meant by that is that he doesn't have to guess about anything that is on his mind. He comes out blunt, and he moves on. He is not diplomatic in the way he handles truth.

A biodun Alao is a Professor of African Studies at King's College, London. Before his coming to King's College, he taught for some time at the Obafemi Awolowo University. He studied in Nigeria and in England prior to his rise to the pinnacle of his career as an academic. He speaks on Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN in this interview. EXCERPTS:

He just jokes about it and no matter how close you are to him, no matter who you are, no matter how friendly, no matter the history of your relationship, if what you have done is not in line with what he believes, he is very blunt, and he does not consider the history of your relationship with him when he has to tell you the truth. He will not be diplomatic about it. He will tell you and those that are close to him know that about him.

He also enjoys when people disagree with him. That is the one thing many people don't know about him. He enjoys it when you disagree with him and that is the beauty of our friendship. We disagree more than we agree not on the issues of principle, but on academic issues.

When it comes to academic issues, we disagree more than we agree, both of us are very strong personalities who will argue his position very strongly. So, by the time we finish our argument, we would have been able to come up with something that is more concrete, and one that is mutually beneficial. On many occasions, when I disagree with his academic views, I still find his intellect very stimulating and challenging.

It is because of that we are able to just



recently publish a book together, which was published in one of the leading Press in England. It is a review on corruption in Africa. He is very brilliant, intelligent, articulate and blunt. He is undiplomatic when it comes to truth but, on the whole, he is one of Nigeria's finest and a complete and thorough gentleman.

You were once a lecturer in Nigeria, how would you describe lecturing in Nigeria and the environment in England, and you spoke about a book that you launched recently with Olaolu Ali about corruption in Africa. Can you talk about these two issues?

Yes, on the first one that you mentioned about lecturing in both places, yes. It has been my good fortune to lecture both in Africa, not only in Nigeria, I have been to

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'I see Yusuf Ali as one of Nigeria finest'

other countries in Africa and in the UK. The first thing I have to say is that it may be a bit difficult comparing the two, because the two societies are different.

What I have always tried to tell people is that there are far more brilliant people in Nigeria than many of us tend to acknowledge. There are extremely brilliant people some of the finest scholars I have ever met in my field are from Nigeria. They are from Africa but they have not been exposed to the type of opportunities that some of us here have been exposed to.

I have always said that there are many people in Nigeria that would have gone far ahead of many of us in England if they had been exposed to the type of opportunities that I have been exposed to. So, we should not be limiting ourselves by saying that things in Nigeria are bad. No, it is the society.

There are far more brilliant scholars than I am in Nigeria, but I have been undoubtedly aided by extraordinary good luck. That is all I just have to say. So, it is the good luck that we are talking about that has accounted for the so-called success that some of us that are outside Nigeria have attained, not only in England and America but all over. If people in Nigeria have been exposed to the opportunities that we have been exposed to here, they would have even done far better than many of us here.

I think it is very important that we say that. It would be foolishly egocentric to just paint the image that those of us who are here are better, we are certainly not. This is not a case of hypocritical modesty, I'm just telling you what is the truth. We are not better in any way, only that we have been exposed to more opportunities and privileges, and this is very important.

As regard the second question. The book that I co-authored with Professor Yusuf Olatolu Ali, I think it is important for me to tell you the history of the book. One of the hobbies that Professor Ali and I have in common is that we walk a lot.

Every day, I must walk for kilometres and I have been doing that for the past 20 years or thereabouts. So, every morning before we start our activities at the Council, we would have trekked for kilometres with our counter counting the number of kilometres we have walked.

So, it was during the course of walking one day that an idea came to us that, instead of us just talking about the corruption in Nigeria, corruption in Africa, why don't we just commit our ideas into writing and see whether some of the ideas we talk about would be helpful to future generations and that was how we came about it.

We decided on the topic, we allocated the chapters. I must admit that he completed his own writing long before mine. That is because I'm not as sharp as he is (laughter). But we put the book together and we approached leading publishers. We made up our mind that it would be published by a very good publisher, that would market it very well all over the world and the book has been published and it will be in the market very soon.

Why is corruption thriving in this part of the world and what do you really think is the solution?

If I tell you that you won't buy the book (laughter).. On a serious note, this is what we try to do in the book. There are standard ways of looking at corruption. We look at corruption through corrupt politicians, corrupt legislators, corrupt judiciary but corruption is far larger than that.

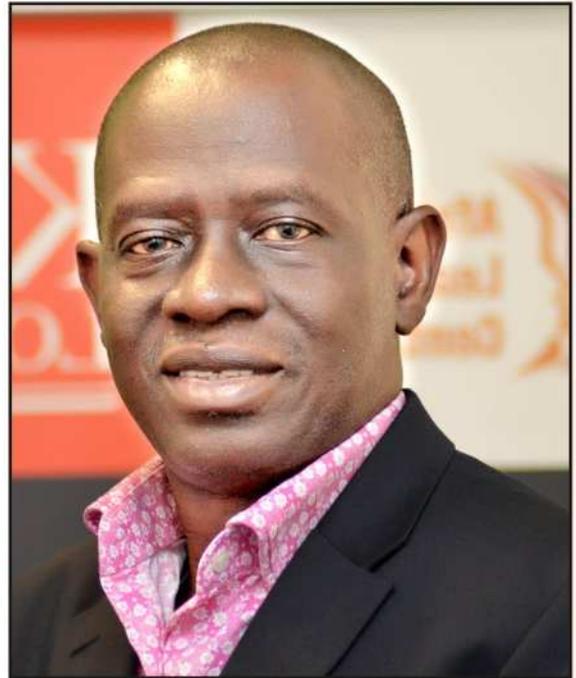
Corruption is something that has deeper ramifications. So, what we did in the book is that we looked at corruption from every angle. We identified political corruption and legislative corruption. We also looked at corruption in the universities. We looked at corruption in the society, every aspect of the society, especially the neglected aspect of the society where corruption is now thriving very high, very seriously.

So, these are the things we did and we came to the conclusion that corruption is not new. Corruption has been going on from time immemorial, even aspect of our culture shows that there are things that are inherently corrupt in our structure.

When you look at certain proverbs among the Yorùbá, you will see clear corruption. The Yoruba proverb says, If you have somebody in the position of authority, making judgment, he will manoeuvre the judgement in your favour

When you look at aspects of our culture, they are things that are inherently corrupt and it requires a complete overhaul of our attitude to life and the illiterate way in which we go about corruption in Africa or in Nigeria is ridiculous. You steal money from the public coffers and still have the confidence to be spending the stolen money in the same society.

Do you know that it is impossible for you as a person to spend 50,000 days on earth? You cannot spend 50,000 days on earth. By the



time you spend 50,000 days, your age is around 135 years. By the time you spend 35,000 days, you have spent 100 years.

The number of days since Jesus Christ died till today is not up to 1 million days. It is about 730,000 days. So, why are you accumulating several billions? The longest you can spend in good health is 35,000 days.

So, those are the things that motivate us to take a serious stance on corruption; are we really sane, are we talking about people that are sane in this system? This is serious madness. Nobody is talking about millions again in Nigeria, they are now talking about billions, trillions, to do what for God sake?

So, these are just the random things I can remember from the book. The book will hit the market around September this year.

When we met with Yusuf Ali SAN, he described you as the first black Professor at King's College. Can you tell us about it?

I'm Yoruba. I'm from Oluponna, It is about three kilometers from Iwo in Osun State. I did my primary and secondary education in Nigeria, and it may interest you that I attended Federal Government College in Ilorin. I had some of the most wonderful times of my life in the ancient city of Ilorin. So, I consider myself as an Ilorin person.

I'm sorry, but I will have to disappoint you. I will talk about myself at a particular time by the grace of God. But for now, all attention should be on my big brother, the first Kuliya Ngeri.

I wish him a very happy celebration and I wish him a very long life and sound health.



Kuliya Ngeri: Nobody more qualified than Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN - Alapansanpa

The Emir Ilorin gave Yusuf Olaolu Ali the title of Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin. As a bonafide son of the soil, what is your take on that and what do you have to say about the title holder?

The chieftaincy title given to Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN is a title that gives everybody a sense of belonging. Emir is fully aware of his efforts; philanthropic gesture, kindness and he recognised that by giving him the title.

Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN is a complete gentleman, a man of God, a man of virtue, a man that has consideration for everybody. He is a lawyer, a man who understands the meaning of law. Yusuf Olaolu

In an interview with this medium, the Chairman, Ilorin Emirate Durbar Committee and Danmasani of Ilorin, Engr Suleiman Oba Yahaya Alapansanpa, explains the personality of Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN in Ilorin Emirate.

Ali is a man that when you go to him, you see, you hear, you experience a lot of wisdom, knowledge and compassion. He is a man who is friendly to everybody.

I met him as far back as late 70s and early 80s when he was one of the champions of MSS and has not relented till today. He continues to do the will of Allah.

He continues to be a man that is well guided by his creator, Allah.

He has played a lot of roles. He has given a lot of courage to the community. And this is a man that our Emir, His

Royal Highness, Maimartaba, Alhaji (Dr) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, called "a golden fish in the ocean that cannot be hidden". That is why, with all what he has been doing, nobody is more qualified than him as the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate.

I thank Allah for him, for making him what he is. And may God in His infinite mercy continue to be with him, guide him, pilot his affairs and promote his cause.

You are the Chairman of Ilorin Emirate Durbar Committee. Has Yusuf Olaolu Ali played any role in ensuring the success of this committee since you took over the chairmanship?

He is one of the people that always reach out to us financially. Not only that, he will attend physically. Since 2018 that we started this, he has been sending us a very fat envelope, which I don't want to reveal here.

Now that he has been conferred with first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate, what is your message to him?

He should continue his good deeds. God will continue to reward him and his family.





Yusuf Ali's affiliation to Ilorin, a top-notch - Ilorin NBA Chair

Barrister Sulyman Muhammed Hassan Kosemani is the incumbent Chairman, Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), Ilorin Branch. A lawyer of repute, Kosemani works with Kwara State Ministry of Justice as the Chief State Counsel. He speaks on the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate in this brief encounter with him.

One of your members and a Senior Advocate of Nigeria was conferred with the title of Kuliya Ngeri by His Royal Highness, the Emir of Ilorin. How do you see the title and what do you have to say about Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN?

The title is a well deserved one for our revered Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN. He has contributed to the development of legal practice not only in Ilorin but throughout Nigeria. So, his contributions in terms of legal development cannot be over-emphasised. So, I can see that for His Royal Highness to confer on him the title of Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate, is a well-deserved one.

Another thing is that he has been in Ilorin since he commenced his practice as a legal practitioner, and since then, he has never relocated to another place. He showed his commitment to Ilorin Emirate. So, to now confer

that particular person a chieftaincy title in Ilorin Emirate, is a well-deserved one.

We have so many Senior Advocates of Nigeria that after the attainment of that position they relocate to another place. Mallam Yusuf Ali has not done that. His head office still remains



Ghalib Chambers at Wahab Folawiyo Road, old Unity Road, Ilorin up till now. Any other branches he has are subsidiary branches. So, this shows that his affiliation to Ilorin is top-notch and for him to now be conferred with that title is a well-deserved one and a round peg in a round hole.

As the NBA chairman, can you recall some unique things he has done for the association?

If I want to start counting, I will lose count. But one thing I could remember is that we have the NBA House we call it the Bar Centre. The construction of the NBA House was by Chief R.O. Balogun, SAN. That was around 2012 and I was a member of the Executive as the Financial Secretary. Due to lack of money then, we could not continue with the construction. I remember Mallam (Yusuf Ali, SAN) gave us the sum of N2million as far back as 2012 for the construction to continue.

Aside from that, we have a gym inside that NBA House, all the gym equipment that we are using in that gym was supplied and purchased by Mallam. Aside from that one, I remember there was a loan given to our members to buy gadgets; laptop, iPad over a decade ago. He gave us that money and it was N5million as a loan.

Whenever we want to have any programme, we run to him and he will support us. So, he is a foundation member of the Ilorin branch. He is our pillar and we associate with him and we are very happy for this chieftaincy title.



Wealth has not made Yusuf Olaolu Ali abandon people around him - Ex-SSG

Can you tell us about your relationship with Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin?

I'm close to Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN in the sense that he has a very broad and kind approach to resolving human issues. My daughter, the last of them, was posted to Ilorin for her Youth Service Corps. Before then, his late wife belonged to a family that I knew so well in Ibadan and we got on together fairly well. But when my daughter got that kind of posting, he took over the young lady as if she was his own first child.

The lady was living in his house, she was eating his food. He made available everything she would require throughout the service, to the extent that even after the lady finished the service she was very reluctant to leave Ilorin, and all these is simply because we were quite familiar and having very good relationship. But it is not as if I have done anything worthy to him.

You wouldn't believe that today that daughter of mine, ranks amongst his own children. In fact, she was the first to be told about the turbaning ceremony. She was the one who told me before Yusuf Ali himself considered it necessary to invite me.

So, my daughter, Rasheedat Ajibola, has become part and parcel of the family and she had no hesitation at all in taking responsibility for the occasion. That is typical of Yusuf Ali for you. It is not an isolated case, even those who pass through his chambers are always wanting to stick to the chambers because of his large heart and of course you know that he is very intelligent and brilliant, and he shares those qualities with anybody who moves with him.

More importantly, he does not forget anybody simply because he is now well-to-do. He takes along anybody and places at their disposal anything they will require. As a matter of fact, my own personal opinion is that originally, God wanted to create him as one of the

Oladiti Oladapo, a close associate of Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, is a pensioner, who retired as Secretary to the Government and Head of Service of Oyo State in 1997. He speaks to this medium on the legal luminary, Yusuf Olaolu Ali. EXCERPTS:

Apostles of God.

He exhibits all those qualities of the well-revered Apostles. I'm only praying that God Almighty will bless him with long life so that he will have the opportunity to share with human beings the very good qualities he has.

If I were a very brilliant person, maybe I would have been able to write a good book, which people would understand. But I'm just an ordinary civil servant, I'm only used to pushing files forward.

As a former Head of Serv

ice and former SSG in Oyo State, can you compare the Civil Service during your time with what is obtainable today?

It is not fair to say the Civil Service of today is good or bad against the past or that it is this or that, what we should say is that governance itself has gone haywire. Most of what used to be the landmark for making decisions and implementing government policies are no longer respected.

More importantly, the political hierarchy who are normally the boss have virtually thrown caution and care to the winds, with the result that anybody who does anything good will be applauded as a surprise not because that is what is expected of him. That was not the case in those days.

In those days, there were standard rules which you cannot bend. There are ways of implementing decisions of government. As a matter of fact, as a civil servant at the senior level, you are supposed to be the watchdog for ensuring not only implementation but enforcement and fair execution of whatever decision the government has taken.

Of course at that time, civil servants had the opportunity to point out to the political boss the right and the wrong, the way things should be done and the best way to ensure that services are rendered in a way that will please the citizenry.

I think if we are going to just keep making a mockery of issues, we will keep on blaming the civil servants for all the wrongs. Civil servants are no longer the kind that the British wanted us to be. So, in saying the obvious, we will say that they are no longer good but don't let us go that way.





Yusuf Ali has never turned down support for his alma mater - Oloye Rear Admiral Akintola (retd)

Can we meet you?

I am Rear Admiral Abdullateef Akintola (retd). I am the Magaji of Balogun Ibikunle Royal Family and the Aare Ago Balogun of Ibadan land. I am also the President of Ibadan Boys High School Old Boy Association. I have known Yusuf Olaolu Ali, Senior Advocate of Nigeria for a long time. We were in school together.

I am always happy for his success. I happen to be their Senior Prefect while I was in school, and I have been following his progress in life, very enviable and I pray that he will continue to soar and by the Grace of God, he will continue to move from strength to strength.

He has been a financial pillar to us in Ibadan Boys High School, and it takes a lot of initiative. There are activities that require a lot of financial input, and he has never said No to any of our requests. I pray that God continues to give him more success both personally and in his Chambers.

You are used to the traditional institution. Now that Yusuf Ali has been given this title by the Emir of Ilorin, what is your advice or message to him?

I called him recently to ask what the meaning of the title, Kuliya Ngeri is. He said it is the Zenith of the law profession and I said to myself he has not reached his Zenith. That is why I prayed that he will continue to move from strength to strength.

Most of the advice I'm going to give him, I have given him over the years. He has actually been doing it. He doesn't underrate people. Even though his level is very high, he is very friendly. I will advise him to continue on the path he is threading. Helping people, advising people, and directing people on the right path and by the Grace of God, he will continue to soar.

You are of the traditional institution and also formerly in government as an Admiral. Do you think the government should

In this interview, Oloye Rear Admiral Abdullateef Akintola (retd), Magaji of Balogun Ibikunle family, the Aare Ago Balogun of Ibadanland and President of the Ibadan Boys' High School Old Boys Association, bares his mind on Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, traditional institution and antidote to the raging insecurity in the land. Excerpts:

give a specific role to the traditional institution, which should be embedded in the Constitution?

That reminds me. When the former Chief of Defence Staff came to address us in the South West, I told him that the traditional institution should have a role in governance, I believe that with time, they will listen to us.

It is not the little money we are being given that we want, what I'm advocating is for involvement of the traditional councils. From my experience in the traditional council, our people don't like taking cases to the police.

I am the Magaji of my family, and my

family happened to be the biggest family in Ibadan land, Balogun Ibikunle family. So, I attend to a lot of issues on a daily basis. They prefer to bring issues to us than to take it to the police and then we know our people more than the police, we know what they can do, we know the antecedent of the family.

So, it is going to help the government extensively. It will reduce crime rate and by extension to have peace and security all around Nigeria, particularly in Ibadan where I reside. When I was made the Magaji of my family, I discovered that each time I went out, people would come out and physically accost a two star General.

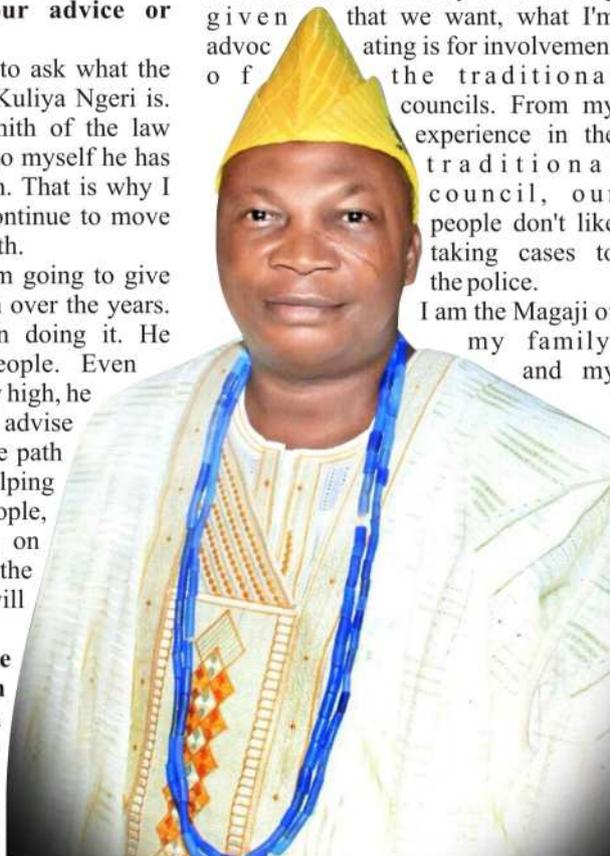
I discovered that the place happened to be an ungoverned area. So, what I did was to bring security closer to them. You should know how volatile Ibadan can be. At times in the middle of night, I will receive a call that something had happened. What I did was to bring NSCDC to the area. We built a house and equipped it for them and that has brought crime rate to the barest minimum.

We also realised that the major problem the youths have is unemployment; they don't have something keeping them busy. What I did was to bring some money and organise a cooperative society and tell them anyone who needs money for their business should go there to get the money and pay little interest and it has helped tremendously. People have started working and they are now busy.

Even some of my people who are buying into that vision are putting their money into the cooperative to support me and the money keeps increasing and people are happy.

Apart from the NSCDC officers who are in the area from morning till evening, we also have vigilantes that patrol the whole place in the night. I put some solar light all over the compound to light up the place at night, and It is a very big compound. If you know the place, it is the largest family in Ibadan, Balogun Ibikunle.

It is not always about the kinetics of putting in soldiers and civil defenders in the area, rather you can empower the people financially and see what they can do. I'm really impressed by the results so far.





Yusuf Olaolu Ali, an embodiment of goodness - Oba Adelodun, SAN

It is not in doubt that you are a close associate of the new Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin, Yusuf Olaolu Ali. How would you describe him?

I have known Yusuf Ali since 1983 when we were students at the Nigeria Law School, Lagos and by the grace of God, we were called to Bar on the same day in July 1983. We had our youth service together here in Ilorin, and as Allah wills it, we have continued to relate very closely, over the years, such that today, some people refer to us as twins, some call us Taiwo and Kehinde, just to underscore the fact that we are quite close.

So, among the people that can claim to know him, I can modestly signify as one of such and so, I can tell you from my very close relationship with him over these years, he is a special breed.

Yusuf Ali, SAN, the new Kuliya Ngeri is a special breed, he is a man endowed with very rare virtues. He is very humble and nice to a fault. He is very slow to anger, things that will make an ordinary person flare up, he takes them in his stride.

He is very caring to his family, immediate and extended. He is a cheerful giver, a philanthropist. If you weigh his philanthropy on a scale, you will realise that he surpasses many people that we know as philanthropists but you don't know because he doesn't carry it on his head.

He is concerned about the welfare of others. He carries his colleagues along as he rises. He doesn't leave his colleagues behind. He is concerned about the welfare of others, the adjective to capture the personality of Yusuf Ali is very rare. That is why I said he is a special breed; an enigma. The more you relate with him, the more you continue to be astounded, wondering how a person reason or act like he does. He is simply an embodiment of goodness.

His empathy for others is unbelievable. So, when this recognition came, for me, it was not surprising. I saw it coming. I'm not Nostradamus, the man who saw tomorrow. But I knew, given the trajectory of his life, that this will come, it was just a matter of

Alhaji Abdulkadir Adebayo Adelodun, SAN, popularly known as Oba Adelodun, is a close associate of Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN. He is a legal practitioner and a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, who is into private practice in Ilorin with his law firm named Adebayo Adelodun & Co. He speaks to OUR EVENTS on all that he knows about the new Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate. EXCERPTS:

time. So, among the people that are not surprised by what has happened to him, I am one of them.

Like I said, I have watched him very closely and I have seen these very rare traits in him. He is a friend of the Emirate and he contributes to the Emirate much more than a lot of people over the years. It will be difficult for anyone to say that he is not from the Emirate because his contribution to the Emirate is probably more than wherever you want to ascribe him as having come from, and historically, I know for a fact that he has some roots here around this Emirate too. So, I am again not surprised.

He is a friend of the Emirate, he is a friend of the palace, he is a friend of the

community, he is a friend of the city. If Yusuf Ali is among the chiefs, he is at home. If he is among the Mallams, he is at home. If he is among the intelligentsia, he is at home. Anywhere you see him, he is just a round peg in a round hole.

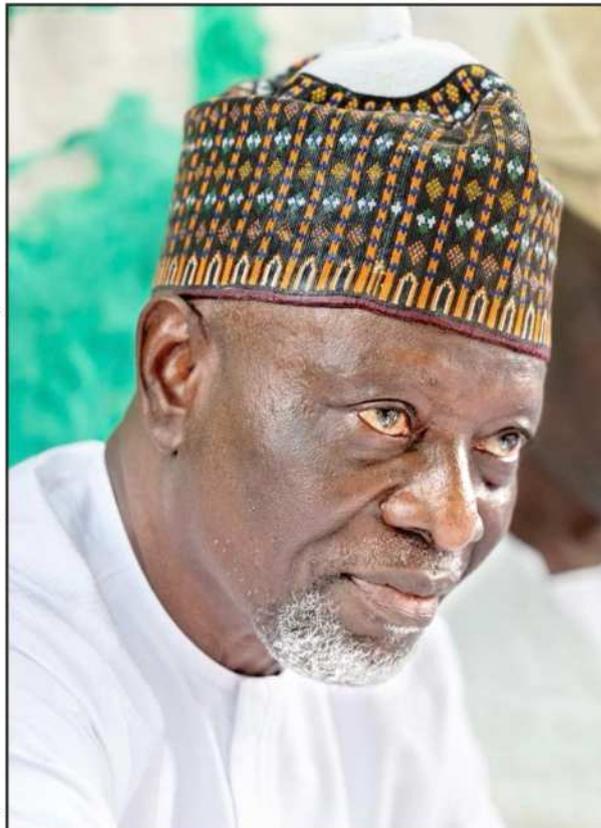
Believe me, this is a befitting recognition. It is said that a Prophet is not recognised in his own enclave but what is happening to Yusuf Ali is great in the sense that he is one such Prophet, who is being recognised in his enclave now; in his environment, and I say kudos to His Royal Highness, Maimartaba for deeming it fit to bestow this very prestigious title on Yusuf Ali.

You must have had a disagreement with Yusuf Olaolu Ali at one point over the years, maybe over an idea or principle, can you share such a moment with us?

Our relationship is a very unique one because our togetherness recognises and appreciates our individuality. Yes, we are together, we are very close, yet we retain our individuality both in person and in profession. He is Yusuf Ali, I am Oba Adelodun. In many respect, we don't behave the same way. I don't think I have his own kind of patience.

Sometimes, he will want to handle something one way I will tell him I am not doing it that way, and he respects my own way and thinking. I respect his own thinking too. So, when we have that kind of divergence, he does his own thing his own way and I do my own thing my own way. If he says he wants to relate with somebody in a way and I say no I don't like that, he doesn't begrudge me, and I don't begrudge him.

We concentrate on the things that



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'...he has very rare virtues'

bind us together and not the kind of thing over which we have a disagreement and on a professional note. But that is particularly more poignant, in the sense that over the years, we have crossed paths many times, even as young lawyers and even at our present stage, we cross paths a lot. Going back then even when we were young, when we were supposed to be exuberant, we were never exuberant. We would go to court in the morning. We would do our case, fight each other and shout at each other. But as soon as we come out, we enter my car or his car to go and eat at a canteen.

It was very clear, our professional life stopped in court. We continued our friendship thereafter. In the early days of election petition, we would go from here to Akure, Ondo State. He was for (former Governor Olusegun) Mimiko and I was for (former Governor Olusegun) Agagu. We would enter the same car from Ilorin. When we get to Akure, I would get out of his car and enter my own car because we stayed in different hotels. In the morning, we would meet in the court. He is sitting down with the petitioner and I am sitting down with the respondent, and you can trust that we will give it our best. He will do his own to the best of his ability, I will do my own to the best of my ability. We will shout at each other but as soon as we leave the court, the next thing is for us to go and eat together at any nearby restaurant.

We will decide if we are traveling back to Ilorin in my car or his, and it has been like that over the years, and God has been very kind to us and has given us that level of maturity to appreciate the fact that as friends, we can do our work effectively and serve our clients efficiently and effectively without compromising our personal relationship.

We didn't design our relationship. We met each other at the law school. I came from Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) and he came from University of Ife. So, when we came, we heard that the majority of the products from Ife came with a 2:1 and first class while most of us came with a 2:1 and 2:2. So, they said they are very brilliant.

Ali was sitting somewhere and somebody pointed at him and said that guy is one of the most brilliant ones. So, I told my friend, let us go and arrest that guy. So, we went to where he was sitting. I said good afternoon and he responded. I introduced myself as Adelodun Oba and my friend is Yomi we are from ABU. I told him his people have told us that he is very brilliant but I'm here to tell him that this place is a

leveller. It is here where we will do the same exam that we will know who is brilliant and who is not. He couldn't utter one word. He was looking at us and we parted that day.

As it turned out, he was in Ilorin for his youth service and I was there in Ilorin as well. Then the result came out at that time. There was neither Mobile Phone nor social media; there was nothing. So, it was **Daily Times** that would come very early in the morning by 5.30am. We met at the vendor stand at Taiwo Road.

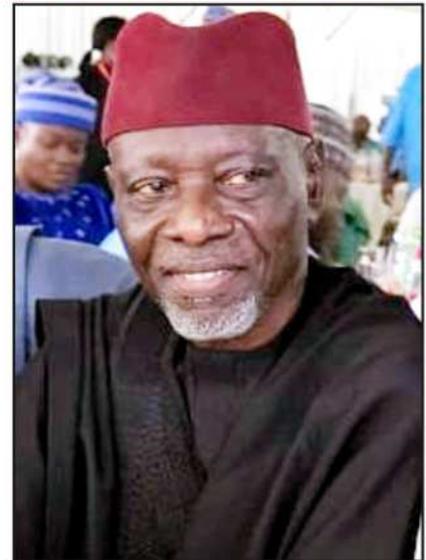
Yusuf Ali was there, I was there, the former (Chief Judge) CJ (of Kwara State), Justice Suleiman Durosinlorun Kawu was there among others, and fortunately, we both passed with 2:1. That is the way we started our friendship. We managed to keep it and Allah has helped us to manage it. Of course, there will be occasional issues but nothing that has been very fundamental.

Like you said, I know him so well and over these years, the fact that he is a special breed has always been manifested today. Yusuf Ali is an unelected leader of the 1983 wigs. We never sat down to say we want to vote the leader but by his attitude he has assumed the role of automatic leader, and that is the set that boasts of many Supreme Court judges, many SANs, many captains of industries. That is a very unique class and today Yusuf Olaolu Ali is probably the leader of that set. That is to tell you he is a special breed. He is a blessed man.

You are from Ilorin and a Senior Advocate but Yusuf Ali is not from Ilorin. How do you people from Ilorin, particularly in the legal profession that have attained the position of SAN, take this appointment given to Yusuf Ali by the Emir of Ilorin?

Talking for myself, looking at it from the perspective of merit. Does this man merit what has been given to him? The answer is yes. If he has merited it for God's sake why not? This is honorary chieftaincy title, it is not traditional. So, there is nothing that says that it has to be given to an Ilorin person per se. The Emir has the prerogative to look around his community and see who has contributed to the development of his community. It doesn't matter where the person comes from.

The corollary of what I'm telling you is this. Can we say because somebody is from Ilorin and that person has made a very negative impact on the society, will



that person be recognised because he is from Ilorin? No. So, if somebody is not from Ilorin and has made a tremendous positive impact on the community, then he should be recognised.

So, for me, like I said, this elevation is well deserved. In fact, it just shows that His Royal Highness gives honour to whom it is due. Honour has been given to whom it is due by this recognition that is given to Him. Even his worst enemy would not doubt the fact that Yusuf Ali is deserving of what has been done to him. I doubt that anybody would say such because he is not from Ilorin or from wherever.

Have you ever been honoured with a chieftaincy title?

I am Otunba Bamofin of Ahogbada land.

With this honour that the Emir has bestowed on Yusuf Olaolu Ali, what is your advice to him?

My advice is very simple. No reasonable person will change a winning formula, only a mad fellow will see a winning formula and now change it. The entity you know as Yusuf Ali today is a winning formula. So, he should stick to being that person. He doesn't have to change. He just needs to continue to do what he is doing. Let him continue to be who he is, let him continue to just be humble; be his humble self, do what he does best.

He should avoid what he avoids, hate what he hates, like what he likes, do what he does and that is all. Because everything that he is today is a winning formula. In his profession, out of the profession, in the community, wherever Yusuf Ali is, he is a special breed like Allah has made him.

For him, I will just say which of the favour of Allah can one deny? None.



Prof. Ali is an asset to Kwara, humanity - Adekilekun

Kindly tell us a bit about yourself?

I am Abdullateef Adekilekun. I am the Wazeer of Yoruba land with League of Imam and Alfa. I'm the Grand Mufti of Ede and also the Zonal officer for the National Board for Arabic and Islamic Studies (NBAIS) with Headquarters in Kaduna.

I have known Professor Olaolu Ali for about four decades; since he left Obafemi Awolowo University around 1983. I know him to be very reliable, a learned scholar and a philanthropist. He is a strong member of Islamic Welfare Foundation. He had the honour of training my son, Barrister Mubarak Adekilekun, now a Professor, I became closer to him when my son was under his tutelage as a member of his Chambers.

Alhaji Olaolu Ali is highly religious and faithful. When he tells you yes, then it means yes and when he says no, then it means no. He is an asset to Kwara State, and he has contributed immensely to the development of the people of the state, especially for the upliftment of

An elder statesman, Alhaji Abdullateef Adekilekun, in this brief interview, commented on the personality of Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN and what he represents, describing him as an asset. Excerpts:

Islam.

He is recognised by the community through the IEDPU. He is recognised by the Palace, which is evident as he is now a title holder, and I want to seize this opportunity to congratulate the Ali family in Ilorin, Ibadan and Ifetedo in Osun State.

He was the chairman, Governin g

Council of Osun State University, and notably the university witnessed tremendous progress during his tenure as the Chairman of the council. The Faculty of Law was established and they also started a Department of Islamic Law, which was the first of its kind in the country as the first University in Nigeria to have a separate department for Islamic Law, which was sited at Ifetedo Campus.

Olaolu Ali has contributed immensely to the elevation of many lawyers to the status of Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) and I pray my son, Professor Mubarak Adekilekun, becomes one of them.

My son, Professor Mubarak and Professor Olaolu Ali co-authored a Book and over N20million was used to publish the Book overseas, and during the launching, the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Senator Kashim Shettima, was present as well as the Minister of Justice and many other people. So, Mubarak is very close to him. I want to thank Olaolu Ali for contributing so much to my progress through my son. I want to congratulate his friends, NBA as well as the Muslim Students Society of Nigeria (MSSN).

Now that he's been conferred with the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate, what is your advice to him?

I want him to continue where he has stopped. The people are expecting more from him now, because he is a man of integrity. I will advise that he continues in that line and give back to the community that has honoured him.



Yusuf Ali, our pride in Ifetedo - IPU President

How would you describe your community?

Ifetedo is a peace loving town with well blessed people. Ifetedo is a town that is accommodating to a lot of people from different towns like Ikirun, Oyan, Iwo and some other towns.

We spoke to Kabiesi and we really commend his efforts in uplifting your community. What do you have to say about the Kabiesi?

He is a gentleman, a man of vision and he loves us and the entire town loves him as well. Unlike some Obas that will sit down and ask his community to bring things to him, he is an upright man and he retired at a reputable company.

Let us talk about Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, who is your illustrious son in Ifetedo and a member of your association. The Emir of Ilorin announced him as the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin. How would you describe the honoree?

Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali is a thoroughbred of Ifetedo. He stayed in Ifetedo from his early age till the time he graduated from University of Ile-Ife. He is well known in the community, he accommodates a lot of people. He is a philanthropist in the town.

He has contributed a lot to the development of the town, in the areas of religion, health, education among others.

What he did in Ifetedo is second to none.

When we think of other prominent sons and daughters that we have in the Ifetedo, he is a bonafide son of Ifetedo. He doesn't discriminate, He loves all and the entire community loves him. There is no time he came to Ifetedo

Bishop Adepoju Albert Adewole is the National President of Ifetedo Progressive Union, the apex sociocultural group of the country home of Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate. Adewole ventures into petty business after his retirement from service. He is into livestock and poultry business. OUR EVENTS CREW engages him in this interview.

that you will not see hundreds of people rallying around him. With that, he is a pride to us and for being honoured by the Emir of Ilorin, it is something that is highly recognised, highly valued, because he has stayed more than 30 years in Ilorin and the Emir himself recognises his importance in Ilorin, and that is why he is giving him that title.

There is nothing we want to say about him, he is a gentleman. When you see him chatting with people, you will

I be laughing, because he has never hurt any human being. He is an icon within the town.

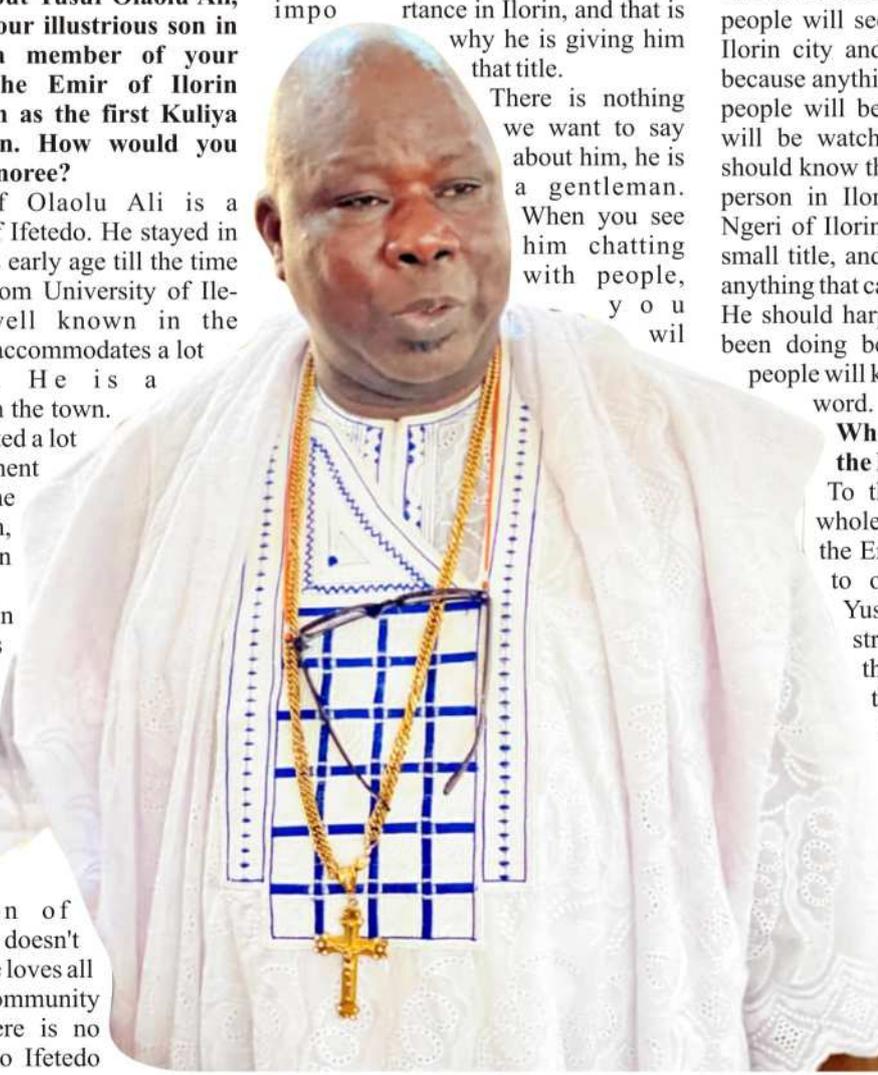
What is your advice to him with the conferment of the traditional title on him?

My advice to Mallam Ali is to continue living the way that he has been living and to continue living in the way that people will see him as a light within Ilorin city and as a light in Ifetedo, because anything that he is doing now, people will be looking at him. They will be watching him, and then he should know that he is not an ordinary person in Ilorin as the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin, and that title is not a small title, and then he should not do anything that can tarnish his image.

He should harp more on what he has been doing before in Ilorin so that people will know him as a man of his word.

What are your words to the Emir of Ilorin?

To the Emir of Ilorin, the whole town is appreciating the Emir, for giving that title to our own son. Mallam Yusuf Ali is not the only stranger in Ilorin nor is he the only legal luminary in the city. But for giving him that title, we are giving kudos to the Emir, because that title is not a small title, and for recognising a stranger within his domain, and giving him that honour, we recognise the Emir and we say a very big thanks to him.

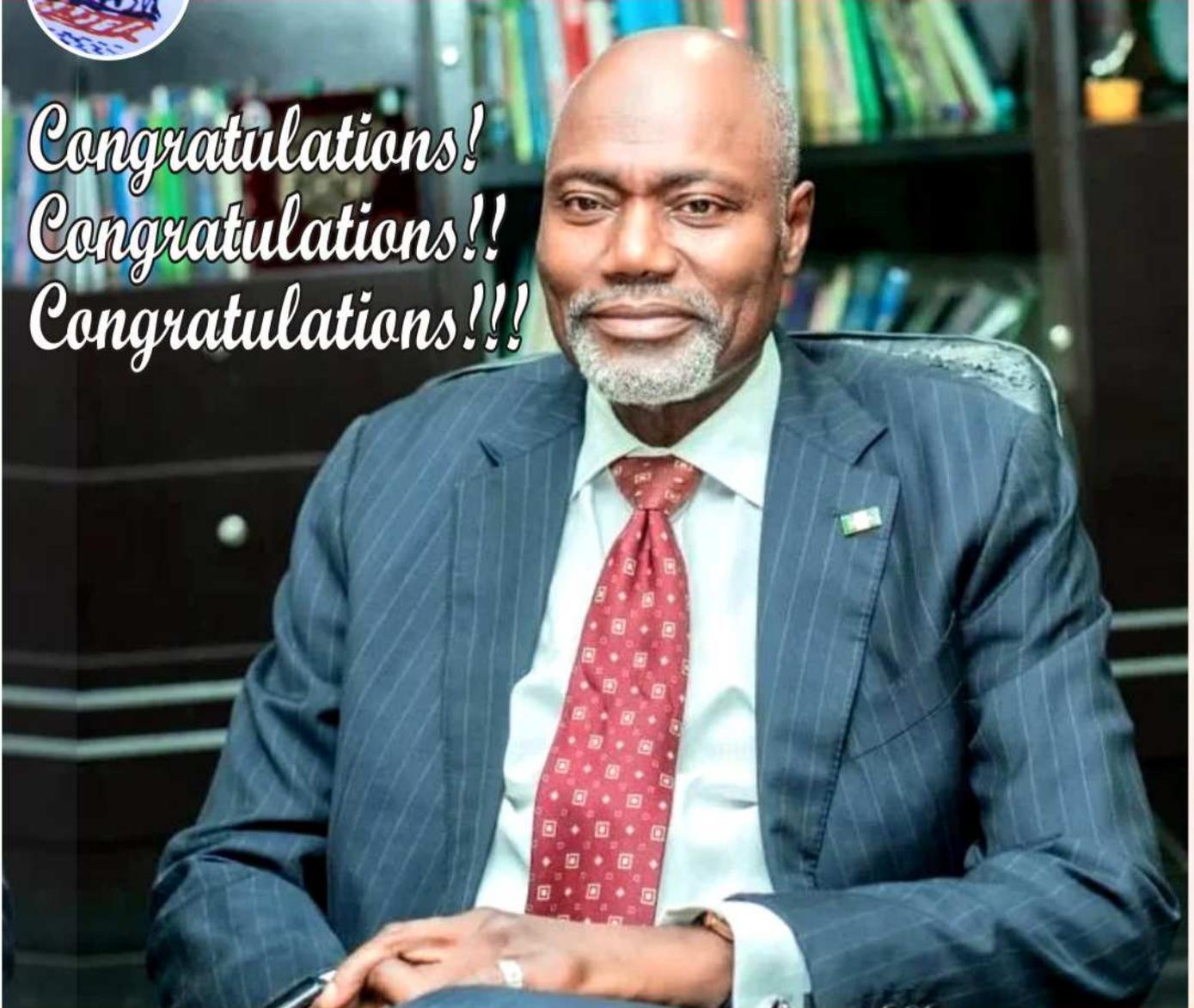




IFETEDO PROGRESSIVE UNION (IPU)

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, IFETEDO, OSUN STATE

Congratulations!
Congratulations!!
Congratulations!!!



Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN
1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate



Bishop Albert Adepoju
 National President IPU

Ifetedo Progressive Union National and Olúbòsìn-in-Council on behalf of all sons and daughters of Ifetedo Kingdom felicitate our illustrious son and philanthropist, Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, on your installation and turbaning as the 1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate by His Royal Highness Alhaji (Dr) Ibrahim Sulu Gambari, CFR, the Emir of Ilorin.

We also appreciate the Emir of Ilorin and the entire Ilorin Emirate for this kind gesture, Ifetedo home and in Diaspora is grateful to you. Ilorin will continue to move forward. Thanks so much. Jazakum laha Khaeran.

SIGNED



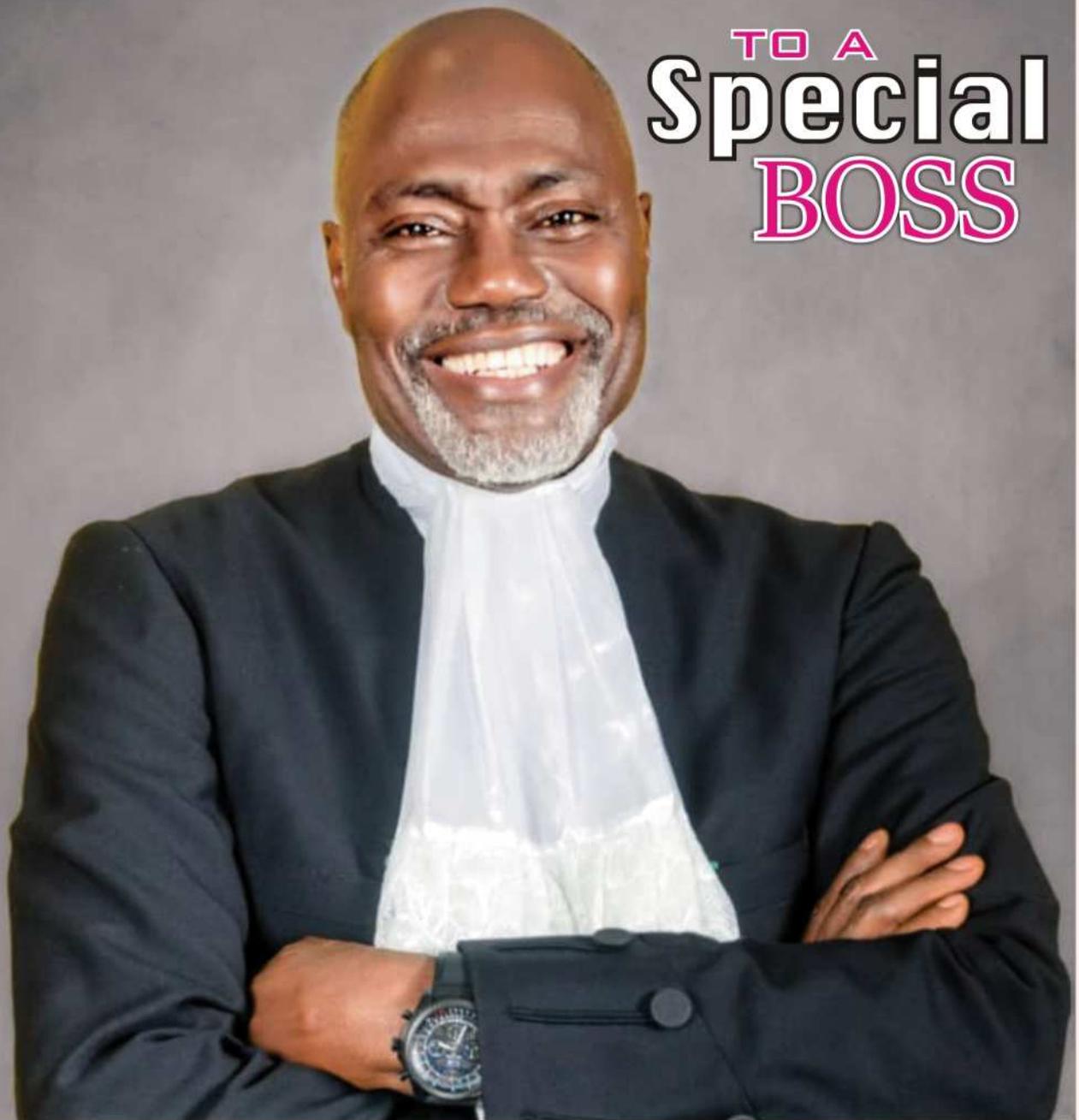
Alhaji Tiamiyu Adeoye
 General Secretary IPU

Alhaji Tiamiyu Adeoye
 General Secretary IPU



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

TO A
Special
BOSS



It is with great joy and happiness that we received the appointment of our Principal, Mentor, Father and Leader, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN as Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate.

As mentees under your guidance and guardianship, you have demonstrated true essence of leadership, for your personality is rare among the frontline Learned Silks.

Indeed, the list is endless to identify you as a teacher, counselor, philanthropist and compassionate leader in all ramifications. You made us understand that leadership is seeing humans through the eye of meekness and understanding, that is why you have continued to tick right boxes in your services to the Almighty Allah and humanity.

On behalf of Ghalib Chambers team and Ghalib family, we express our profound gratitude to the Emir of Ilorin and Chairman, Kwara State Council of Chiefs, Maimartaba, Dr Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, for the confidence reposed in our principal and honour done him with the coveted traditional title.

CONGRATULATIONS SIR!!!

SIGNED
YAKUB DAUDA,
Head of Chambers, Yusuf Ali & Co, Ghalib Chambers





UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN



Felicitation

On behalf of the Council,
Senate, Management and staff
of the Better-by-far University,
I hereby congratulate

Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN

on your appointment and turbanning
on Friday, April 11th, 2025 as the first

KULIYA NGERI OF ILORIN EMIRATE

by the
EMIR OF ILORIN and CUSTODIAN OF THE ALIMI STOOL,
HRM (Dr) IBRAHIM SULU-GAMBARI (CFR)

This is indeed a well-deserved honour for an indefatigable icon of community development, a consummate legal luminary, and a passionate philanthropist.

Congratulations!

Signed
Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN
Vice Chancellor



AL-HIKMAH UNIVERSITY, ILORIN
THE 1ST ISLAMIC FAITH-BASED UNIVERSITY IN NIGERIA

FELICITATIONS!!!

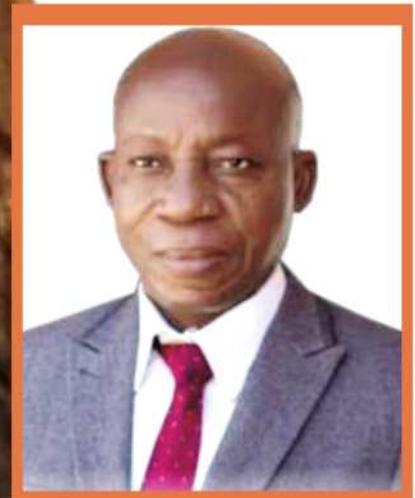
On behalf of our Founder & Chairman, Board of Trustees, Alhaji Chief (Dr.) AbdulRaheem Oladimeji, OFR, FNAEAP, fspsp, Governing Council, Management and Staff, we felicitate with our distinguished member, Board of Trustees, Professor Yusuf Ali, SAN, FCIArb on your turbaning as the 1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate on Friday, 11th April, 2025.

That His Royal Highness, the Emir of Ilorin and Chairman, Kwara State Council of Chiefs, Maimartaba, Dr. Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, has found you worthy of this honour, is an attestation to the quality of your personality and professional calling. We are glad that you have remained a Great Ambassador of the legal profession.

May Almighty Allah (SWT) grant you sound health, long life and prosperity to enable you make more impact in His service and that of humanity. Ameen.

SIGNED

Professor Noah Yusuf, fspsp
Vice-Chancellor





KWARA STATE POLYTECHNIC, ILORIN

Hearty Congratulations TO THE **1st Kuliya Ngeri** OF ILORIN EMIRATE



The Rector, Engr. Dr. Abdul Jimoh Muhammed, on behalf of the entire Kwara State Polytechnic Community Heartily Congratulates Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali (SAN) on the momentous occasion of your turbaning as the 1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin by the revered Emir of Ilorin and Chairman, Kwara State Council of Chiefs, His Royal Highness, Dr. Ibrahim Zulukarnain Gambari, CFR.

This recognition is a testament to your exceptional contributions to the legal profession and your unwavering commitment to justice, education, and the betterment of the society.

As you embark on this prestigious role, the entire Polytechnic Community wishes you great success in your service to your community, motherland and humanity. Your unparalleled expertise, wisdom and dedication will undoubtedly inspire many and positively impact the lives of countless individuals.

May your elevation lead to meaningful change, set a benchmark for future generations and bring more prosperity and blessings to Ilorin Emirate, Kwara State, and Nigeria at large.

**Congratulations once again
on this well-deserved honour.**

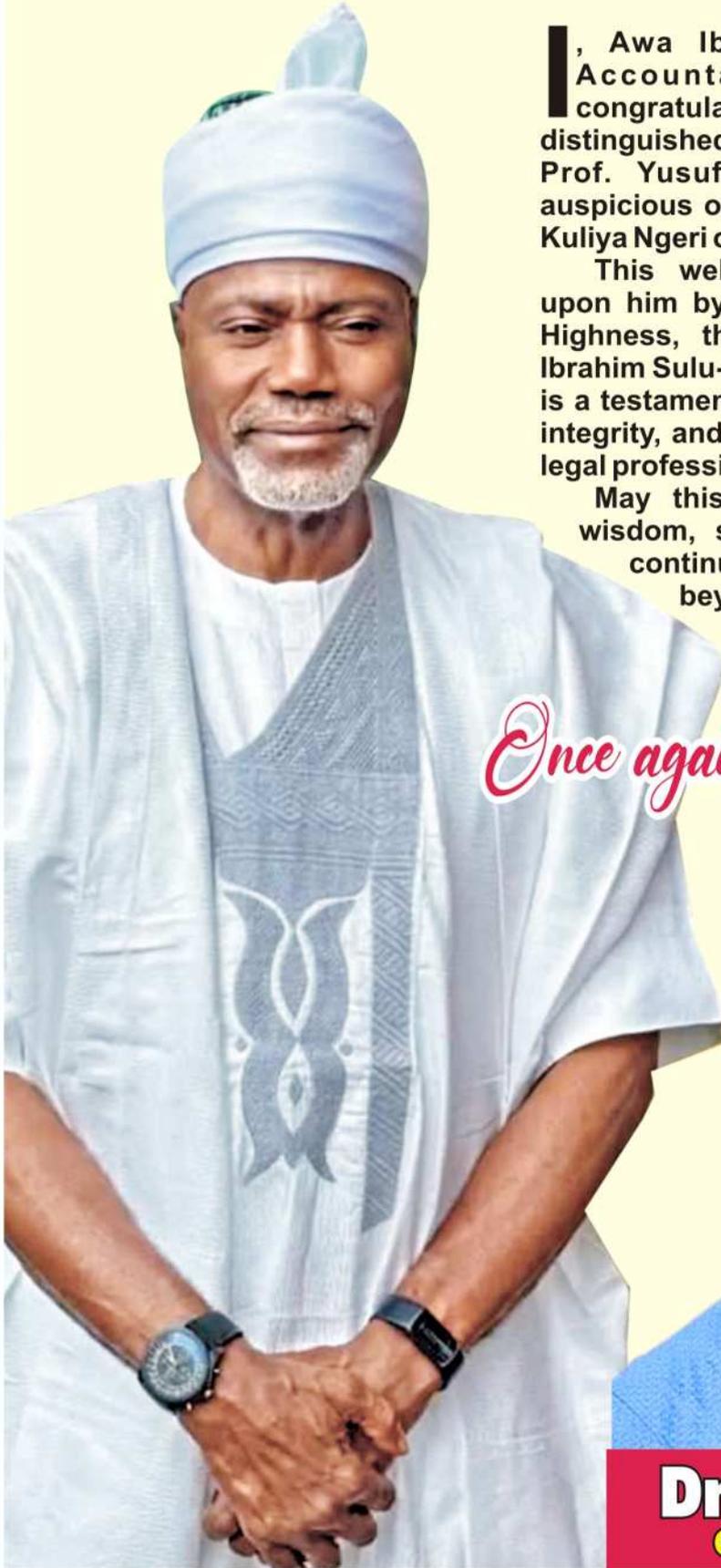
SIGNED

Engr. Dr. Abdul Jimoh Muhammed,
Ph.D (Ife), Ph.D (Wits), FNSE, FNIMechE, COREN, FIDPMN
Rector, Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin





FELICITATIONS!!!

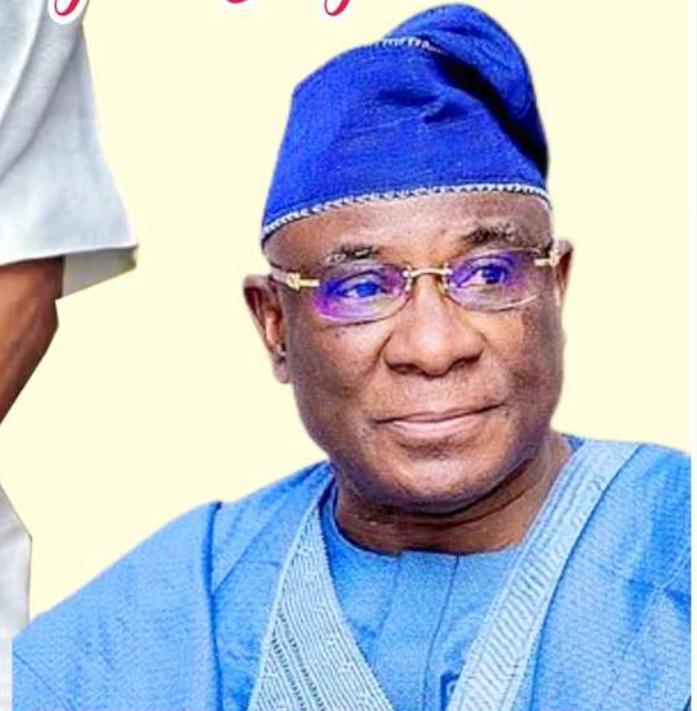


I, Awa Ibrahim, a proud Chartered Accountant, extend my warmest congratulations to my brother and a distinguished Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali (SAN), on the auspicious occasion of his turbaning as the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin.

This well-deserved honour, bestowed upon him by our revered father, His Royal Highness, the Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji (Dr.) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, on April 11, 2025, is a testament to his unwavering dedication, integrity, and invaluable contributions to the legal profession and the Ilorin Emirate.

May this new title bring him greater wisdom, strength, and opportunities to continue serving our community and beyond. Wishing him success and Allah's continued guidance in this noble role.

Once again, Congratulations!



Dr Awa Ibraheem
Chairman, Oak Pensions

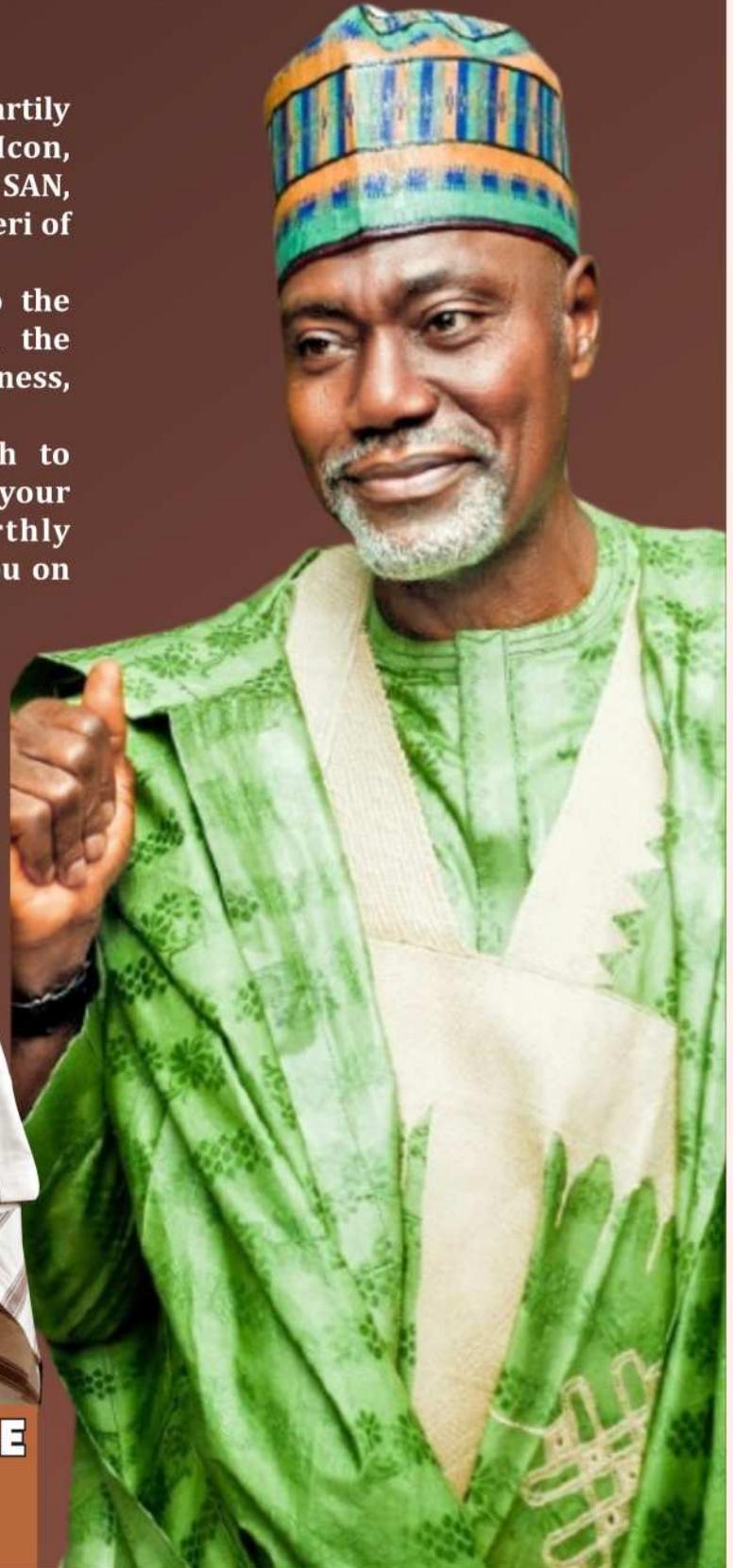


Felicitations!!!

On behalf of my family, I heartily rejoice with our Legal Icon, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, on your appointment as Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate.

Your pick is an attestation to the qualities that stand you out in the Temple of Justice including astuteness, integrity, piousness and humility.

I beseech the Almighty Allah to continue to bless and enrich your wisdom throughout your earthly sojourn. Once again, I felicitate you on this meritorious traditional title.



**ENGR SULEIMAN BOLAKALE
KAWU AGAKA, FNSE**
Dan Iya of Ilorin Emirate



CONGRATULATIONS!!!



I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, a towering figure of our era, distinguished not only in the realms of law and justice but also in the rare calling for advocates, community development and service.

Your turbaning as the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin by our esteemed father and revered Emir of Ilorin, Alh. (Dr.) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, is a testament to the remarkable milestones you have achieved. Your unwavering commitment to advancing law, education, and community welfare continues to inspire countless individuals, and this honour further solidifies your legacy as a beacon of excellence and integrity.

It is my privilege to consistently align myself with you, and I am confident that you will bring even greater distinction to this prestigious title. I sincerely pray that Almighty Allah blesses you with wisdom, strength, and robust health to discharge your **n e w** responsibilities with exceptional grace.



**Congratulations,
once again, sir!**

SIGNED

Prof. Ali Babatunde Ahmad,
Former Speaker, Kwara State House of Assembly



Kuliya Ngeri: Ilorin stands still for Yusuf Olaolu Ali

...Shettima, Gobs, Ministers, others in attendance

By 'Lanre Ahmed

The Palace of the Emir of Ilorin, Dr Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, was filled to the capacity, on Friday, 11th April, 2025, when the Ilorin based legal giant, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), was formally installed as Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate.

From the entry gate to the palace of the Emir, it was a bumpy ride as family, friends and well wishers from different walks of life, in their exotic vehicles, competed for designated spaces in the parking lot while human traffic was also observed at the main gate housing the ancient palace of the first class monarch.

Security personnel comprising operatives of the Department of State

Service (DSS), Police and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) had hectic time before allowing guests and others alike access to the venue of the ceremony.

Vice President, Senator Kashim Shettima; Borno State Governor, Professor Babagana Zulum; Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq; Attorney General of the Federation, Prince Lateef Fagbemi (SAN); and Registrar, Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), Professor Ish'aq Olanrewaju Oloyede, were among the dignitaries that attended the official turbaning of Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali.

At the event, Ali was turbaned to the admiration of eminent citizens in attendance.

The ceremony held at the Palace of

the Emir of Ilorin and Chairman, state Council of Chiefs, Dr Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, where the Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Engr Yakubu Danladi Salihu, represented Governor AbdulRazaq.

In attendance also were Mutawalli of Ilorin, Dr Alimi AbdulRazaq; Dr Wale Babalakin (SAN), Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Professor Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN; Court of Appeal and Federal High Court Judges, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Abuja, Professor AbdulRasheed Na'Allah; Chief Registrar, Supreme Court of Nigeria, Mr Akanbi; Chief Registrar, Federal High Court, Mr. Suleiman Amida Hassan; Director

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Kuliya Ngeri: Ilorin stands still for Yusuf Olaolu Ali

Institute for Labour Studies, Comrade Issa Aremu; immediate-past Chief Judge of Kwara State, Justice Suleiman Durosinslorun Kawu; Zanna of Ilorin, Engr 'Lanre Sagaya; an oil magnate, Hajia Muinat Bola Shagaya; Seriki Gobir of Ilorin, Alhaji Yakubu Garba Gobir; and Group Managing Director of KAM Holding Limited, Dr Kamoru Yusuf.

Former Kano State Governor, Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau; Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Mr Adegboyega Oyetola; Ciroma of Ilorin, Alhaji Abubakar Bature Sulu-Gambari (SAN); founder of Al-Hikmah University, Alhaji AbdulRaheem Oladimeji; retired Grand Kadi of Kwara State, Justice Idris Haroun; and Grand Mufti of Ilorin, Sheikh Faruq Onikijipa also attended the event.

Others included Professor Wale Sulaiman, Professor Olu Obafemi, Dr Wale Babalakin, Barr. Oba Adelodun (SAN), Barr. Kehinde Kolawole Eleja (SAN), Federal Permanent Secretary, Dr Shuaib Belgore; Air Vice Marshal Ayinla (rtd), Engr Suleiman Oba Yahaya

among many others.

In his remarks, the Emir of Ilorin said Yusuf Ali earned the traditional title bestowed on him through a dint of hard work.

The monarch recalled how the legal luminary stood firmly behind the Ilorin Emirate leadership when it was tough, adding that he fought on the side of the Emirate to ensure that it does not fall cheaply to the hands of mischief-makers.

Sulu-Gambari noted that the appointment of Ali as Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate is to recognize his efforts and contributions to the development of the ancient city.

With the appointment, the Emir told the Ilorin based Senior Advocate of Nigeria that he has become number one Adviser to him on legal matters.

He urged the honoree to continue to do what he knows how to do best so as to further earn him additional accolades and endorsement from the ancient city.

"Let me announce publicly to all of us present that Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN you earned the title of Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate through hard work, because he stood with the Emir of

Ilorin when the going was tough. He fought for the Emirate in a manner that the Ilorin Emirate would remain strong.

"We also consider him for the title due to his contributions to the development of our Emirate. We recognise his efforts. He should endeavour to relate this to his children and unborn children", he said.

In an emotionally charged response, Professor Yusuf Ali (SAN) expressed deep gratitude to the Emir and all who honoured him with their presence.

"I am overwhelmed by the presence of the Vice President and members of his entourage and all the eminent personalities that have come from far and near to honour me.

"I thank the Emir for the honour done me and assure him of my continued support for Ilorin Emirate," Ali added.

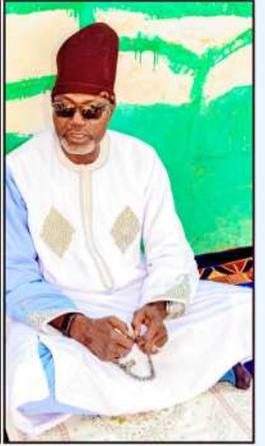
The ceremony climaxed with the reception held at Atlantic Events Centre where eminent dignitaries including Oloyede took turns to heap praises on the Emir of Ilorin for recognising Professor Yusuf Ali with the coveted traditional title.







PRE-TURBANING PHOTOS



TURBANING PHOTOS





POST TURBANING PHOTOS



POST TURBANING PHOTOS





POST TURBANING PHOTOS

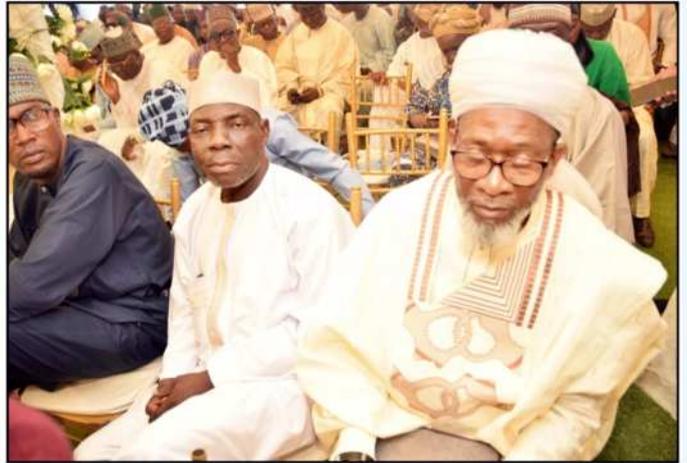
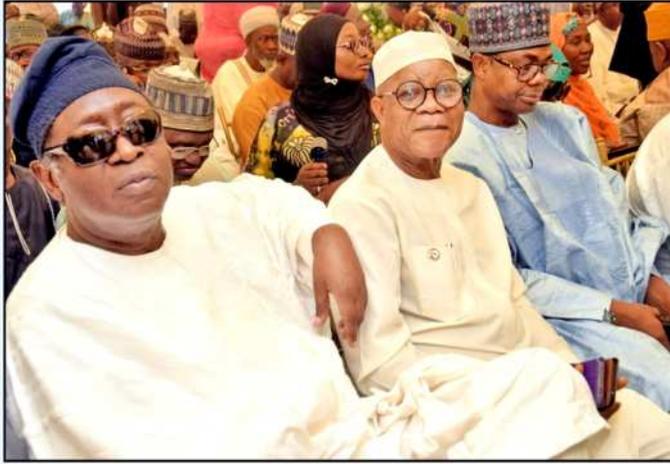


TURBANING PHOTOS

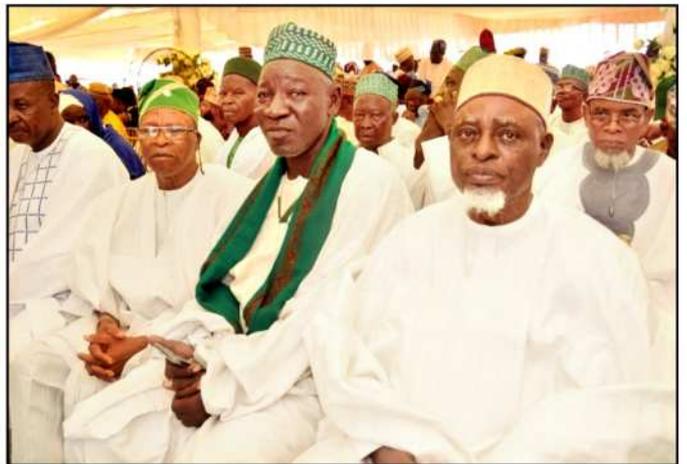
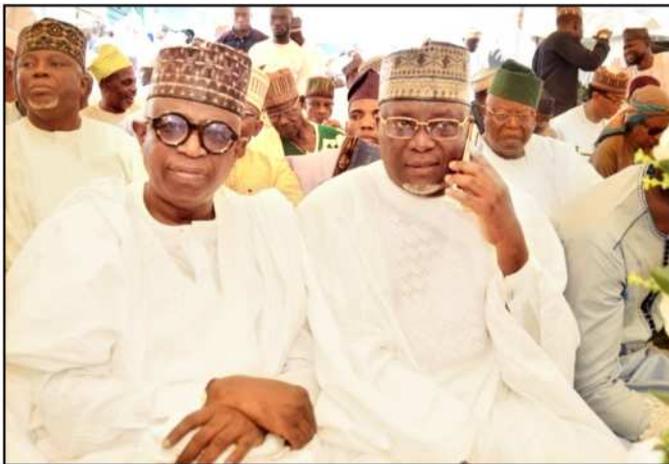
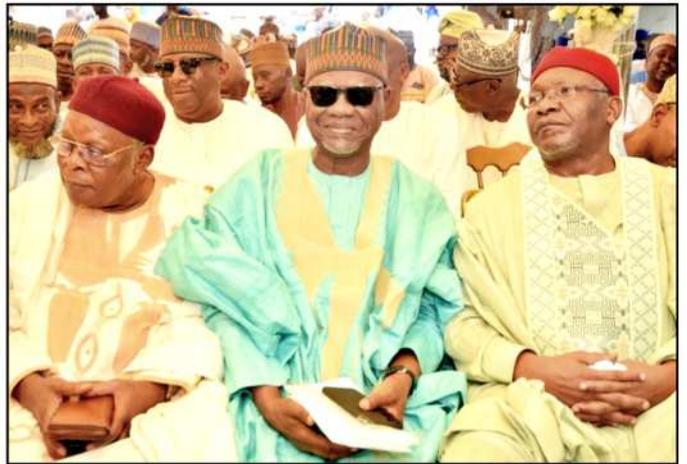




TURBANING PHOTOS



TURBANING PHOTOS





RECEPTION



RECEPTION





RECEPTION



RECEPTION





RECEPTION





FELICITATIONS!



Prof. Yusuf Ola-Olu Ali, SAN
1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate

The Chairman, Ilorin Emirate Durbar Committee, Engr. Suleiman Oba Yahaya Alapansanpa, FNSE, the Danmasani of Ilorin, on behalf of entire executives and members of the Committee, warmly congratulates Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, on his well-deserved turbaning as the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin by His Royal Highness, the Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji (Dr) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, on the 11th of April, 2025.

This historic recognition is a testament to your unwavering commitment, distinguished service, and immense contributions to the Ilorin Emirate and beyond. Your dedication to the development of our community, through education, philanthropy, and advocacy, continues to inspire generations.

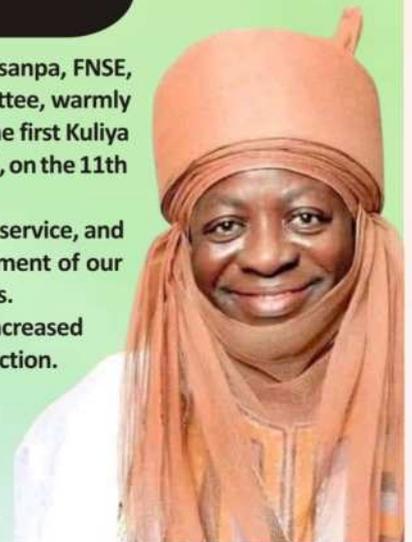
As you assume this revered traditional role, we pray that the Almighty grants you increased wisdom, strength, and guidance in discharging your responsibilities with honor and distinction.

May your leadership bring even greater progress and unity to the Ilorin Emirate.

Once again, congratulations on this remarkable milestone.

SIGNED:

Engr. Suleiman Oba Yahaya Alapansanpa, FNSE,
Danmasani of Ilorin and Chairman, Ilorin Emirate Durbar Committee





HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS

The Proprietor Management Staff and Students of Darul Qalam felicitate the 1st Kuliyan Gari of Ilorin Emirate on this auspicious occasion.

Congratulations,
Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN.

SIGNED

Prof. Badmas Lanre Yusuf, MNAL, FISN
Chief Imam Hilal Jumaat Mosque, GRA, Ilorin.
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HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS!



On behalf of my own generation in the Muslim Students Society of Nigeria (MSSN), and the entire Muslim brothers and sisters in Egbaland, Ogun State, I wish to Congratulate our highly celebrated and revered brother, Professor Yusuf Ola-Olu Ali SAN for his well- deserved coronation as the first Kuliyan Geri of Ilorin Emirate by His Royal Highness, Emir Ibrahim Gambari, CFR, the Emir and Paramount Ruler of Ilorin Emirate. A man of several other firsts.

Professor Ali is a man of uncommon intellect, mettle, capacity and character to succeed and excel on the new role.

Our profound gratitude goes to His Royal Highness, Emir Sulu-Gambari and the entire people of the Ilorin Emirate for the gesture.

May your expectations be fulfilled.

SIGNED

Alhaji Najeem Jimoh, FNGE
Balogun Adinni of Oba
Arowosadinni of Egbaland.



CONGRATULATIONS!!!



Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN
1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate

I, Oloye Rear Admiral Abdullateef Akintola (retd), the Aare Ago Balogun of Ibadanland and President of the Ibadan Boys' High School Old Boys Association (the esteemed secondary school attended by Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali), extend my heartfelt congratulations to my childhood friend and brother, Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, on his historic turbaning as the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin by our revered father, His Royal Highness, Alhaji (Dr.) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, the Emir of Ilorin, on the 11th of April, 2025.

This prestigious recognition is yet another feather in your already illustrious cap, and a well-deserved honour that reflects your unwavering commitment to service, scholarship, integrity, and the promotion of cultural heritage. Your elevation to this noble title is not only a personal milestone, but a source of pride to all of us who have watched your journey from humble beginnings to national eminence.

As you take on this new mantle of leadership in the traditional institution, we pray that Almighty Allah (SWT) continues to grant you wisdom, strength, and divine guidance in the fulfillment of your duties. May your reign as the Kuliya Ngeri usher in unity, progress, and prosperity for the Ilorin Emirate and beyond.

Once again, congratulations, my dear brother. We celebrate you now and always.

SIGNED

OLOYE REAR ADMIRAL ABDULLATEEF AKINTOLA (RETD)
Aare Ago Balogun of Ibadanland
President, Ibadan Boys' High School Old Boys Association



Starlink Global & Ideal Ltd.

Plot 106/108, Oshodi-Apapa Expressway, Aswani, Isolo, Lagos State

I, Adeniji Murthada Mofolasole Adeyemi,
CEO, Starlink Global & Ideal Ltd.,

Heartily
Congratulate

Professor Yusuf
Olaolu Ali SAN

on the conferment of

The first
Kuliya Ngeri

OF ILORIN EMIRATE

by

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, ALHAJI (DR.)
IBRAHIM SULU GAMBARI CFR
EMIR OF ILORIN

May Almighty Allah prosper him more
and reward his strides with long life here
on earth and Aljanah in the next world.

SIGNED

Mallam Adeyemi Murthada Adeniji,
Chief Executive Officer,
Starlink Global & Ideal Ltd.,





HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS

TO A
Childhood
Friend



I, Alhaji Engr. Lekan Ladejo, a childhood friend and proud old student of Ibadan Boys High School, extend my heartfelt congratulations to Prof. Yusuf Ali on your well-deserved turbaning as the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin by our revered Emir, His Royal Highness Alh. (Dr.) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, on the 11th of April, 2025.

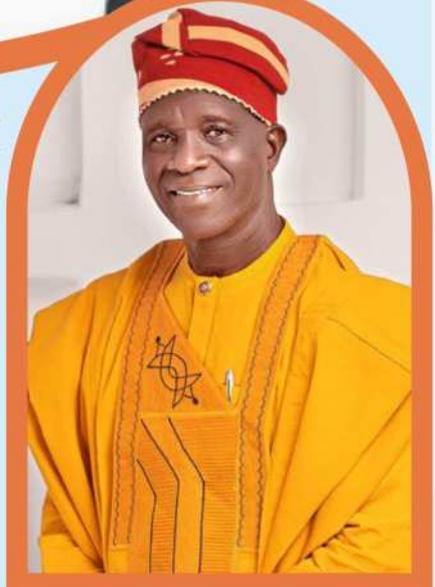
This historic recognition is a testament to your unwavering commitment to excellence, service to the community, and dedication to upholding the values and traditions of our beloved Ilorin Emirate. May this new role bring you continued wisdom, strength, and favor as you contribute to the growth and unity of our people.

We pray that the Almighty continues to guide and protect you, granting you the grace to fulfill your responsibilities with honor, dignity, and distinction.

Once again, congratulations on this noble achievement.

SIGNED

Alhaji Engr. Lekan Ladejo

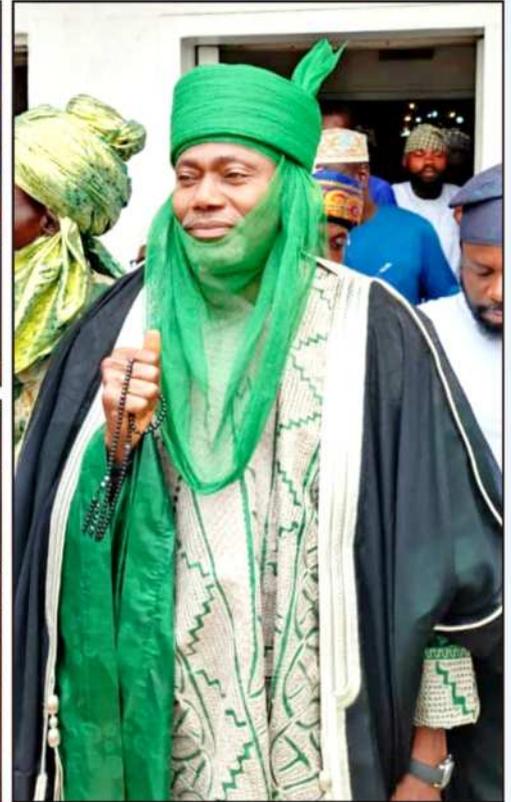


PRE-TURBANING PHOTOS

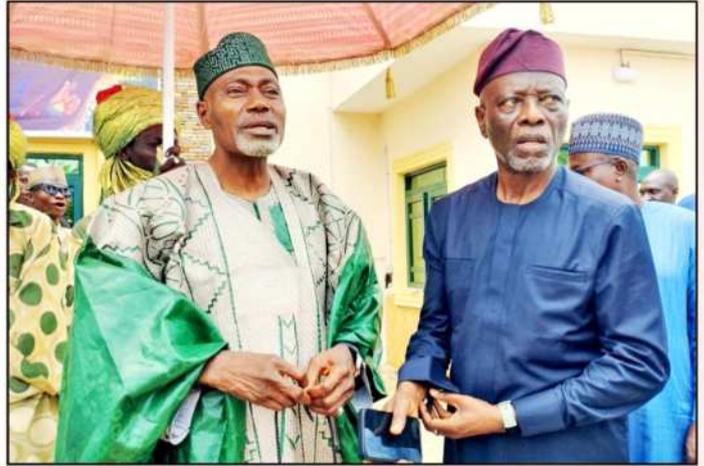




THANK YOU VISIT TO MAI-MARTABA

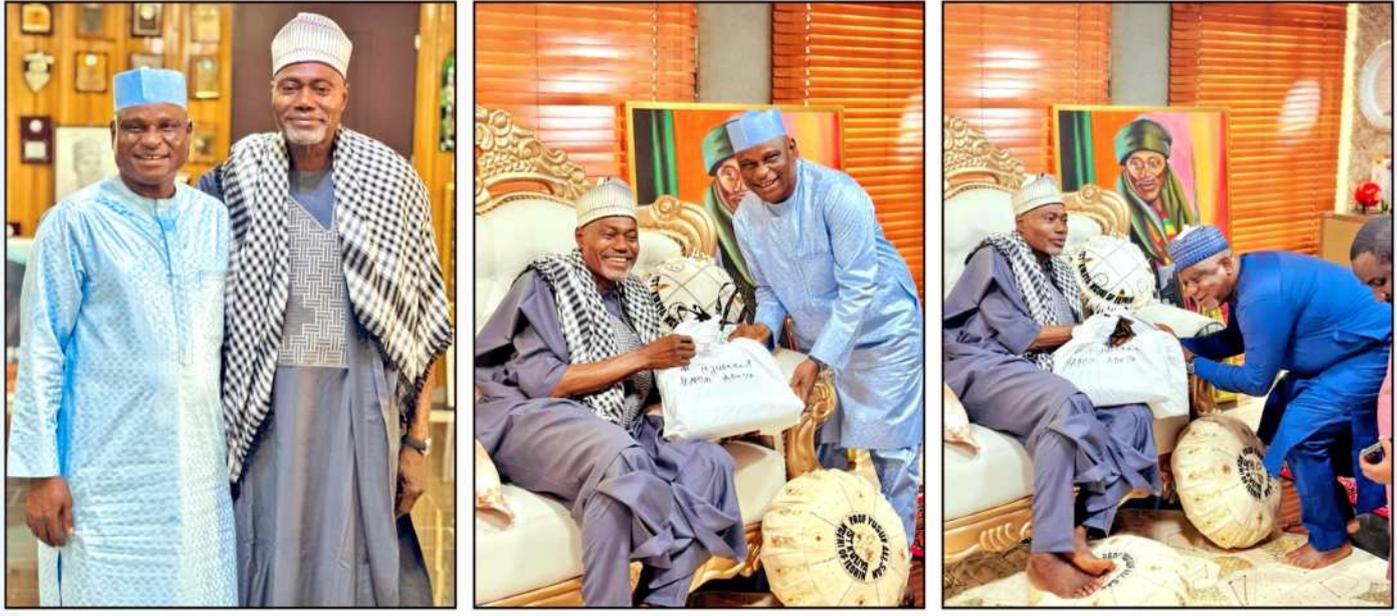


THANK YOU VISIT TO MAI-MARTABA





POST TURBANING VISITS







My father has insatiable appetite for people's success - Yusuf Olanrewaju Ali (Jnr.)

Can you introduce yourself and share your feelings about the title bestowed on your father?

My name is Yusuf Ali, I am the fourth child of Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate. The overwhelming feeling I have for him regarding his turbaning is gratitude. We thank God for him for a life well spent, and we are grateful to Allah that he is alive, to receive his flowers and the reward of his good deeds, which obviously were not motivated by human validation but solely for Allah's sake.

We thank Allah for sparing his life and granting him guidance to enable him to be a valuable member of the Ilorin community and the Nigerian country at large.

Although he is your father, do you have any advice for the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin given that people look up to him?

My advice to him is that he should continue doing what he has been doing. Many believe that this is a title that is not only well-deserved but long overdue considering his contributions, all by Allah's grace.

I urge him to remain steadfast, pray for divine guidance, and maintain pure intentions because ultimately we are all wayfarers. While human recognition is commendable, our ultimate reward lies with Allah. May he keep serving sincerely, and may Allah's blessings continue to abound in his life and in the hereafter.

What is unique about your dad?

While all humans are unique, some stand out more, and my father is one of them. His defining traits include discipline, honesty, forthrightness, and commitment to humanity's progress. He is a father and mentor to many. Anyone who has interacted with him knows he has an insatiable appetite for helping people succeed. His generosity extends even to fellow lawyers who might otherwise be competitors. He firmly believes in Allah's will and does everything possible to uplift others, trusting that Allah is the ultimate decider of destinies. This mindset has enabled him to impact countless lives profoundly. He has a big heart and willing to sacrifice for everybody's

Eng. Yusuf Olanrewaju Ali, the son of first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate, in this interview, speaks on the uniqueness of his father, cherished memories of his late mother and more.

development.

How do you and your siblings relate with each other and your father?

Allah said He is the one that puts love in the heart of people and ultimately, we are all strangers. We met in this world and thanks to the blessings of Allah, we have been able to live harmoniously. Obviously, it has taken a lot of sacrifices.

My father has been a single parent for the 21 years or so, and he has done a lot to keep the family united.

Our bond is rooted in Islam, which teaches us to uphold family ties. We pray Allah strengthens this unity, helping us support one another in achieving success in this life and the hereafter.

What do you miss most about your late mother?

I had the rare 'privilege' of being relatively young when she passed away and I say 'privilege' because it meant that the quality of the bond I had with her was not as deep as what my sisters that were older had with her in terms of the quality of the relationship.

With her, for me, it wasn't a very deep

relationship. She was a loving mother who provided for my needs, though our bond wasn't as deep as it might have been had I been older. Obviously we miss her wise counsel.

She was open-hearted and impacted many lives. So, we miss all of that, but we take solace in the fact that Allah is the best planner and ultimately, as a wise man once said, the day you pass away is your best day, really.

And so, we take solace in the fact that Alhamdulillah, she was on the path of Islam to the very end. We pray Allah have mercy upon her and all of us that she left behind be guided aright and then unite all of us in Al-Jannah, in the hereafter. Amin.

Can you tell us more about yourself?

My story is a simple one. My name is Yusuf Ali, I was born over 30 years ago, as I said, the last son of my parents. I attended primary school in Ilorin and had my secondary education at the Adesoye College, Offa.

I was in the UK for almost 10 years. I had my first degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Manchester, and my Master's and Ph.D from the University of Cambridge. In 2017, I returned to Nigeria and started my career in management consulting before my foray into public service.

Since 2019, I have been working for the government. I was a Special Assistant to the Vice President on Power Sector Reforms and then in 2022, I was nominated by His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, to serve as a Commissioner at the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission. I was subsequently cleared by the Senate and I resumed that job in March of 2022, a position I am privileged to hold till today. I have been married for about six to seven years and blessed with three kids. Alhamdulillah!





Prof. Ali, a giant whose footprints you pray to walk in - Oniyide

Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN has been turbaned as the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate. What are your thoughts about him?

My name is Dr Taiye Oniyide. I am a Senior Advocate of Nigeria. As for my impression of Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, that is no simple task. In summary, only notable figures can truly speak about him because he has larger-than-life personality. He is a great man by divine providence and intervention and blessing.

Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali is a man of wit.

He is a man of timber and calibre. Let us leave God to where He is. But for me, I don't know what words are best describe Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali. He is humble, kind, benevolent and approachable. I'm short of words. I don't know what words to use to describe him.

He is a father figure, a mentor, and he is worth emulating. Those are the people you call giants whose footprints you pray and wish to walk in. I have known him even before I became a lawyer, not to talk of after I became a lawyer. He has never proven me wrong. He is one of the mentors that I have and I look up to, the kind of person that you put in a glass house. That is him.

So, that is why I said I'm short of words to describe him. He is everything good that is beyond human comprehension by the grace of God. That is all I think I should just say.

Now that he has added another feather to his cap, what is your advice to him?

My advice to him is just simple. What got him there are these qualities

A mentee of the learned silk, Dr Taiye Oniyide, SAN tells OUR EVENTS his insights about Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN in this special interview, as part of activities for his official turbaning as Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate. Excerpts:

I just mentioned to you. It is because he is like that he is, by the grace of God, the first Kuliya Ngeri. My advice to him is not advice. It is just for him to continue the way he has always been. That alone is enough.

The sky is no longer Oga's limit and what he has been doing

g h a s become a way of life. So, I don't see h i m e v e n lookin

back, to him, it is nothing. That is why I said I don't know how to advise him again because he lives that life, that is his way of life, it is just for him to continue the way he has been. I'm not sure there is anything more he can do that can be better than what he has been doing, because Oga is just simply a man of honour and integrity.

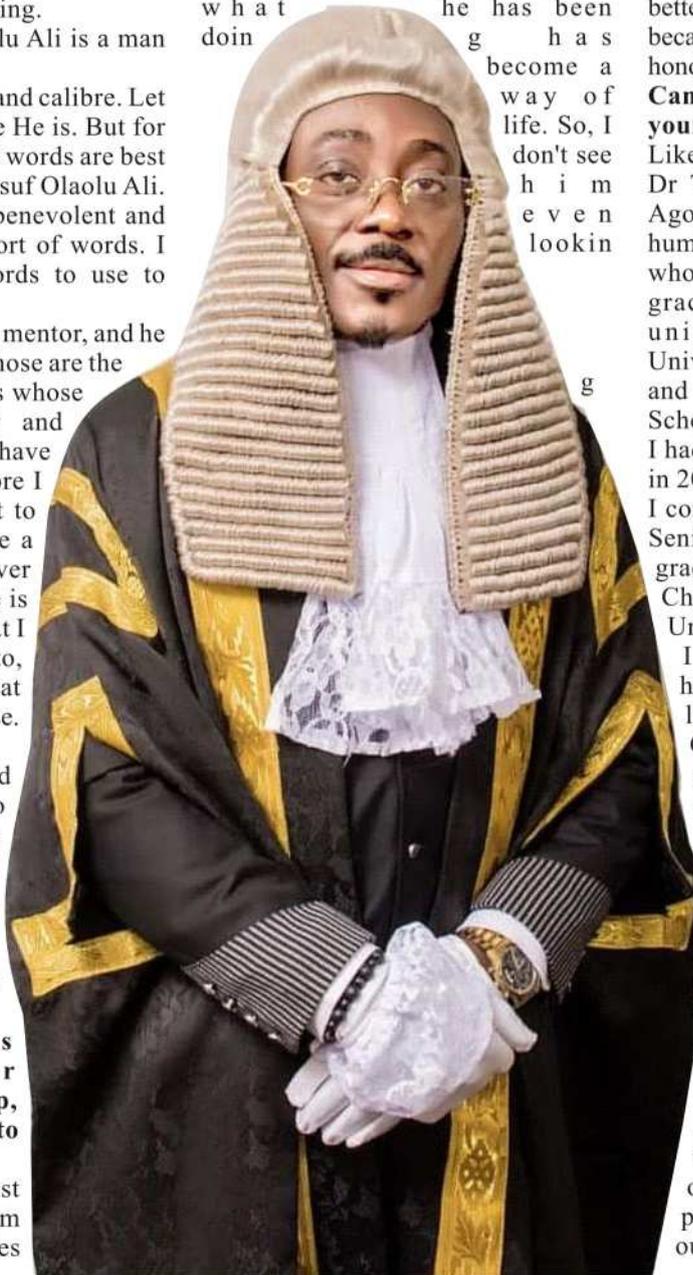
Can you tell us a little about yourself?

Like I have mentioned earlier, I am Dr Taiye Oniyide, I am from Oro Ago, Kwara State. I am a man from a humble background and beginning who God has gifted today by the grace of God. I obtained my university degree from the University of Ilorin in the year 2001 and then I proceeded to the Law School and I finished in 2003.

I had my Masters from OAU, Ile-Ife in 2010 and my Ph.D in Ilorin which I completed in 2013 and I became a Senior Advocate in 2024 by the grace of God. I am a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators of United Kingdom.

I am a family man to the core. I had the majority of my practice life with Messrs Bayo Ojo and Co. I headed the Ilorin office for several years before pulling out to be where I am today. I own Taiye Oniyide and Co. My office is located somewhere along Herald Road.

I'm in practice and my core area is in litigation. I'm also an expert in Alternative Dispute Resolution, ADR. That is my area of specialisation and that is why I'm a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. I do arbitration, I teach arbitration within and outside the country and I also practice arbitration within and outside the country.





Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN is my godfather - Mohammed Adelodun

Can you briefly introduce yourself and share some key details about your background?

My name is Mohammed Adelodun, a proud son and indigene of Ajikobi Compound, Ilorin. I am a lawyer and a Partner at Y.C. Maikyau & Co., a legal firm headquartered in Abuja, with branches in Birnin Kebbi and Sokoto.

Who is Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali (SAN) to you, both personally and professionally?

Personally, Kuliya is a father and godfather to me. Professionally, he is a role model, one whose career and values continue to inspire me.

How significant is the turbaning of Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali (SAN) as the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin?

This turbaning is deeply significant, not just because it is the first of its kind, but because it is well-deserved. The title is both fitting and symbolic, recognizing an individual whose contributions to society are vast and impactful.

What is your perspective on conferring such an esteemed traditional title on a non-Ilorin indigene? Does this reinforce Ilorin's reputation as an inclusive city?

Ilorin has always been a melting pot of cultures and people. The city's history, from a small hamlet to a flourishing metropolis, stands as evidence of its openness. While Ilorin's inclusivity is well known, symbolic moments like this serve as reaffirmation of our values. This title is yet another testament to our enduring tradition of welcoming all who contribute meaningfully to our society.

How has Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali (SAN) contributed to the development of Ilorin and its people?

His impact is multifaceted. Through his law firm, headquartered in Ilorin, he has mentored and nurtured countless legal professionals, many of

In an interview with Our Events magazine's Mahmood Alaya, Barrister Mohammed Adelodun discusses the remarkable legacy of service, mentorship, and philanthropy of Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN. He reflects on the significance of Prof. Ali's turbaning as the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin, a prestigious honour conferred on him by the Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji (Dr) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR. Excerpts;

whom have gone on to successful careers. His philanthropy has touched many lives, from scholarships to charitable donations. His presence, friendship, and continuous engagement with the community have made him a pillar in the city's progress.

In the legal profession, do you consider Kuliya Ngeri a role model or mentor for young lawyers? If so, how has he inspired the next generation?

Absolutely. He has instilled values of hard work, consistency, and ambition in countless young lawyers. His career stands as proof that one can reach the pinnacle of the profession while maintaining integrity, an increasingly rare quality today.

Beyond law, how has Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali (SAN) impacted other sectors, such as education, philanthropy, and community development?

His philanthropy is well-documented. Beyond his investments in human capital through his firm, he has made significant contributions to hospitals, funded academic excellence awards, and supported numerous careers. His generosity is exemplary.

What lessons can aspiring legal practitioners and professionals learn from his career and leadership style?

Integrity, persistence, consistency, and hard work. He is also a man of humility, forthrightness, and strong faith qualities that define true leadership.

What does this turbaning mean for the unity and inclusivity of Ilorin's traditional and cultural institutions?

Ilorin's history is filled with examples of inclusivity. This event is another reminder of our tradition of embracing those who contribute positively to our society.

What message do you have for Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali (SAN) on this remarkable achievement?

To continue his service to others with humility, gratitude, and fear of God, to whom all honour and compliments are due.



JUMMAH SERVICE AT CENTRAL MOSQUE





JUMMAH SERVICE AT CENTRAL MOSQUE





Wealthy individuals should emulate Yusuf Ali's philanthropy - Ibrahim Abdullahi

You are a childhood friend to Olaolu Ali who is being turbaned as the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate. How would you describe him?

I got to know Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN way back in 1980 and that is about 45 years ago. He was a very committed and dedicated Muslim youth, who contributed greatly to the emancipation of the youth generally, irrespective of religious or ethnic background.

We participated in several activities as members of the Muslim Students Society of Nigeria across the country, that is both North and the South, and I saw him since that time as a very dedicated person. That if such a person gets to leadership, the nation will be better for it. He demonstrated it more when he graduated from the University of Ife, and as a young lawyer, he contributed immensely to the development of our society.

He served in Kwara State and started with Gboyega Awomolo Chambers, and later in 1994, he established his own Chambers called Ghalib Chambers. I can say in the whole of Northern Nigeria today, he has the biggest chambers with numerous lawyer

In an interview with OUR EVENTS, the National Coordinator, Muslim Media Watch Group of Nigeria (MMWG), Alhaji Ibrahim Abdullahi, shares his insights on the traditional title of Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate bestowed on Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali. The honorary title was at the instance of the Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR.

s serving in Ilorin, Abuja and Lagos. What fascinates me about him is his kindness, humility, generosity as well as the welfare of the less privileged. I pray that Allah keeps his life longer than he desired, in sound health, more wealth and more acceptance of his prayer by the Almighty Allah.

How did you feel and what was your reaction upon him being announced as the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate?

I felt that Professor Yusuf Ola

olu Ali, SAN had gotten to the zenith of his profession, having established a chamber here in Ilorin, Kwara State which spread to Lagos and Abuja in the last 31 years. So, making him Kuliya Ngeri shows clearly that he has reached the ivory tower of legal profession and somebody like him is good for His Royal Highness Maimartaba Sarkin Ilory as his Advisor on Legal Matters.

So, it is a well deserved position, which has been given to someone who highly merits it. I pray he lives longer, even longer than he desires so that he could contribute more to the development of the Nigerian society.

At this point, I must appeal to those who are wealthy in the society. Yusuf Ali is not the wealthiest person in Kwara or in Osun or in Oyo State today but if you measure his contribution to the development of the people, irrespective of ethnic or religious background, you will see that he towers among them all, and no one is likely to have beaten him to it except the politicians who use public money to provide services

to the people, to take care of people, those who are doing it. But among the individuals who have reached the ivory tower of their profession or who are great in their various disciplines, Yusuf Ali towers among the people in the

Turn to Page 118





'Wealthy individuals should emulate Yusuf...'

North Central State and I pray to the Almighty Allah to spare his life.

My appeal to these people is that they should emulate Yusuf Ali. The tradition that we know in Islam, which Almighty God has emphasised for us that no matter how wealthy you are, the one you spend for the people, their welfare, their greatness and for relieving them of their hardship is the one that will benefit you.

But the one you are keeping to yourself might not benefit you because after your death, your children and those who are entitled will inherit it. As wealthy as you are, continue to spend it for the welfare of the people. Yusuf cannot count the number of people who have benefited from his scholarship awards. He can't remember the number of hospitals he has built facilities just like the government is doing. He has done it for a number of hospitals to take care of the people.

Do you even want to talk in terms of schools, lecture theatres and all for educational development. His intervention has benefitted those who have had the opportunity of their children being able to

acquire education even though they are poor. He took over the responsibility and he is still doing it up to today.

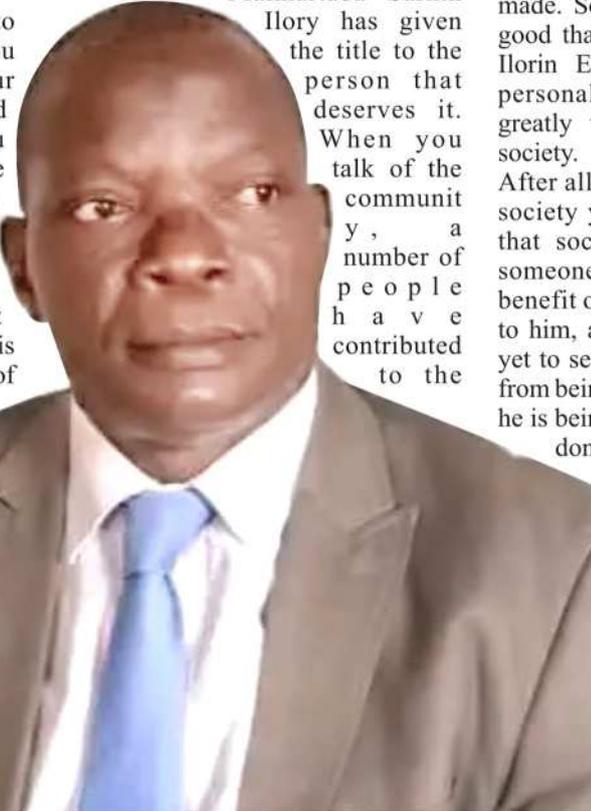
You will wake up every day to see Yusuf Ali doing one thing or the other. The one that is of special significance to me is that if he knows you and even if you don't know him, once you get to the top or you are called to a place to serve, Yusuf Ali will organise special reception for you where prayers will be delivered so that you serve well and on that occasion sermon will be offered to guide on what the honouree should do while in offices so that people could learn from that and do it the way he is doing it too.

He will let them know that those that are appointed into positions, they are

not to serve themselves but to serve the people and serve God with those offices.

What would you say about the Emir of Ilorin for recognising a non-indigene who had contributed to the development of Ilorin Emirate because some might say such a position should have been reserved for an indigene of Ilorin?

I would say that His Royal Highness, Maimartaba Sarkin



Ilory has given the title to the person that deserves it.

When you talk of the community, a number of people have contributed to the

not, what he has made as contribution as an individual remains much greater than what some indigenes of the Emirate have contributed. Perhaps they were not as well blessed financially like he is blessed.

But I can say that there are some who are in other professions too and who are from Ilorin, although not living in Ilorin, that have not made 10 per cent of the contribution Yusuf Ali has made. So, the Emir is rewarding the good that Professor Ali has done for Ilorin Emirate. He is rewarding a personality who has contributed greatly to the development of our society.

After all, when you contribute to the society you belong to, it is those in that society that will benefit. For someone who has done that, the benefit of what he has done should go to him, and in this circumstance, I'm yet to see what Yusuf Ali will benefit from being made Kuliya Ngeri. Rather, he is being recognised for what he has done. With the title, much more is

expected from him. What Yusuf Ali will benefit is smaller than what the community will benefit by making him Kuliya Ngeri.

So, the Emir of Ilorin is an international traditional ruler, who is well exposed, educated. He is a man of high integrity and humility. He is a wonderful leader, who has done what the community

expects him to do in that regard.

Does the Emir need to be commended for this?

We have to commend the Emir of Ilorin for what he has done for Professor Yusuf Ali, and we urge him to continue in that manner; to reward those who are contributing to the greatness of Ilorin Emirate regardless of where they come from. After all, we have many traditional chiefs in the Emirate, up to 50 of them. So, if one or two are from outside Ilorin, there is nothing bad about it.

More people like Yusuf Ali who are not from Ilorin should benefit if they have made contributions to the welfare of our people and relieving them of their hardship.



Yusuf Ali predicted I will be great in life - Omipidan

Who is Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN to you?

I have known Yusuf Olaolu Ali since 1997 when I was a 300 Level Student (in the University). He met me alongside Professor M.T AbdulRazaq. We were to see the then Military Administrator of Kwara State, Abdurashheed Sekoni, and he asked me the level I was. I responded that I was in 300 Level. He said that since I had started to relate with elderly people at my young age, then I am going to be great in life.

From there, he's been very wonderful and has done so much for me. When I was in Malaysia for my Ph.D, gave me a substantial amount of money.

When I returned to Ilorin briefly and I met him in the presence of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, he asked me if I was planning not to come back to Nigeria again. I tried to evade the question but the VC insisted I respond to the question. So, I confessed that yes, I was planning to stay back in Malaysia.

He advised me to return to Nigeria to contribute my quota to the country and persevere with the systemic struggles of Nigeria rather than slave away in a foreign country.

From then on, Professor Egbewole who was then the Dean of Faculty of Law continued to monitor my progress and after completing my two years at the International Islamic University of Malaysia as the best PhD graduating student, I

returned home and I even resumed

academic activities one year before the expiration of the Three Year Study Leave I was given and opportunity came calling.

Since 2012, I have been

Bashir Adeniyi Omipidan, a Professor of Euthanasia Law and Medical Ethics, University of Ilorin, and Founder and Initiator, Euthanasia Prevention Initiative, in this interview with OUR EVENTS TEAM, speaks on the appointment of Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN as Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate. Excerpts:

part of Mallam's legal team to election petition matters across Nigeria, and I can tell you that I built my house in three months. Thanks to Allah and Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali. I took him there.

I always tell everyone, especially my family that my rise to stardom as fast as it is till date, I give the glory to the Almighty Allah and Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, the Kuliya Ngeri, and I want to conclude by saying that I leave him to God who will reward him accordingly.

He merits what he has been given, he deserves it. He is a philanthropist par excellence and honestly I don't know how to describe

him because he has raised me beyond my imagination. Allah has used him to do so much for me and if I come across anyone who asked me to give him money, then I will not be imbibing the value Yusuf Olaolu Ali had been exhibiting.

I thank Allah for his life, I thank Allah that he is being turbaned in Ilorin and he is from Osun State, it shows his contributions. As small as I am, I can say very much about his relationship with the Emirate and with the present Emir and even with the father of the current Emir who was the 9th Emir, so many years ago.

He merits the honour and for His Royal Highness Maimartaba to have singled him out as Kuliya Ngeri, I think it is an honour well deserved. I rejoice with him and I'm looking forward to that day as a member of the committee. There is nothing he does that I'm not involved in, because he is my father and I call him 'Dad'. Congratulations to Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN, the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate.

Do you have any advice for him?

My advice for him is what Professor Egbewole, my Vice-Chancellor always says. The reward for hard work is more hard work.

He is being conferred with this title because of his hard work and I want to urge him to continue to work harder for the betterment of the people of Ilorin Emirate. I pray that Almighty Allah continues to guide him.





HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS



This is to congratulate my brother and friend, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN on your turbaning ceremony as Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate. This is one honour, too many.

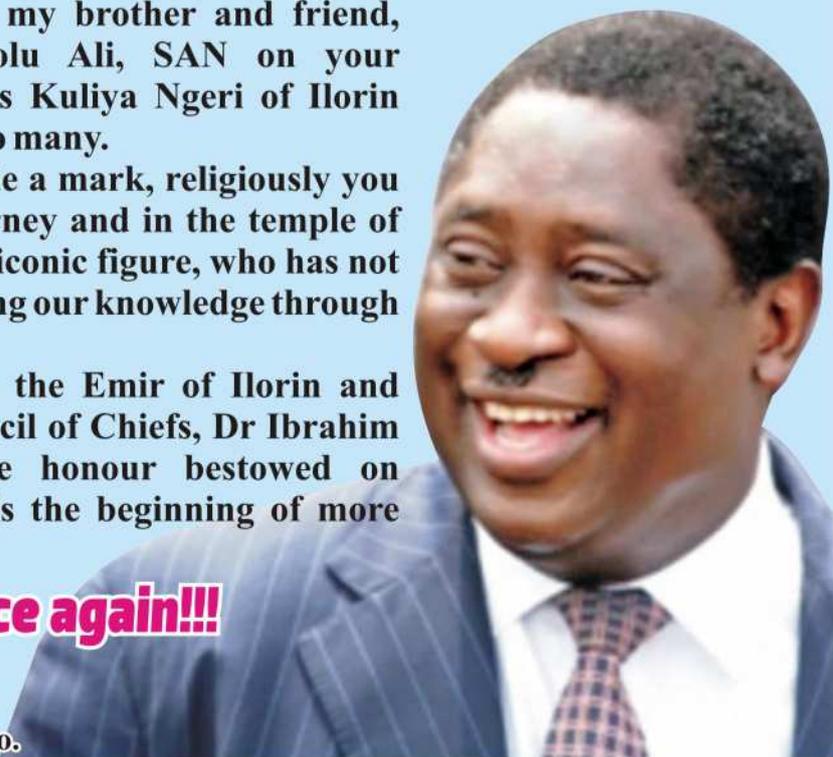
In humanity you have made a mark, religiously you have been on a righteous journey and in the temple of justice, you have remained an iconic figure, who has not ceased enriching and sharpening our knowledge through your constant intervention.

I express my gratitude to the Emir of Ilorin and Chairman, Kwara State Council of Chiefs, Dr Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR for the honour bestowed on Professor Ali. I pray that it is the beginning of more goodies of life to come.

Congratulations, once again!!!

SIGNED

Dr Wale Babalakin, SAN
Senior Partner, Wale Babalakin & Co.





The Board, Management and Staff of
LUBCON GROUP

Heartily Congratulate
PROFESSOR YUSUF OLAOLU ALI, SAN

On His Turbaning as the
1ST KULIYA NGERI OF ILORIN

By His Royal Highness,
DR IBRAHIM SULU GAMBARI, CFR

On Friday 11th April, 2025

Your Turbaning as **KULIYA NGERI OF ILORIN**
 is a clear testimony of the confidence reposed in
 you by the people of Ilorin Emirate

We wish you guidance
 and blessings of
 Almighty Allah
 in the discharge of
 your responsibilities.

PROFESSOR YUSUF OLAOLU ALI, SAN





CONGRATULATIONS!!!

I, Honourable Ahmed Yinka Aluko (PhD), Lawmaker Representing Ilorin East/South Federal Constituency, on behalf of myself, my family and the good people of my federal constituency, extend my warmest congratulations to a very committed Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), excellent community leader and philanthropist par excellence, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, on his well-deserved appointment and subsequent turbaning as the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate by our highly revered royal father, the Emir of Ilorin and Chairman, Kwara State Council of Traditional Chiefs, Alhaji (Dr.) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, on the 11th of April, 2025.

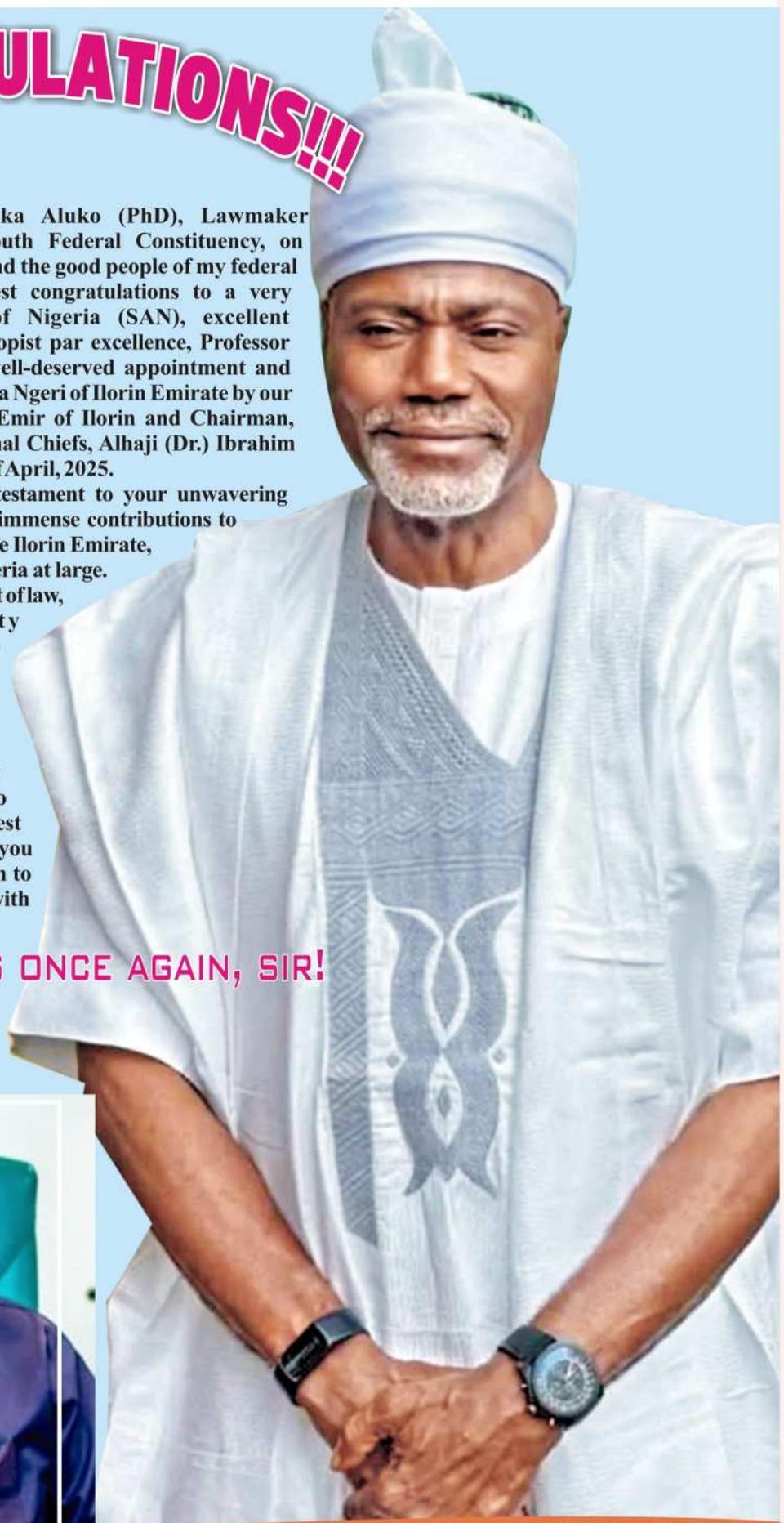
This prestigious honour is a testament to your unwavering commitment, selfless service, and immense contributions to the progress and development of the Ilorin Emirate, Kwara State in particular and Nigeria at large. Your dedication to the advancement of law, education, and community development has continued to inspire many, and this recognition further cements your legacy as a pillar of excellence and integrity.

I am truly proud to associate with you, and I have no doubt that you will bring even greater value to this revered title. It is my earnest prayer that Almighty Allah grants you wisdom, strength, and good health to fulfill your new responsibilities with distinction.

CONGRATULATIONS ONCE AGAIN, SIR!

SIGNED

Hon. Ahmed Yinka Aluko (PhD)
Lawmaker Representing Ilorin East/
South Federal Constituency.



Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN
1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate



CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE ON THE INSTALLATION OF PROFESSOR YUSUF ALI, SAN AS THE 1ST KULIYA NGERI OF ILORIN BY THE EMIR OF ILORIN



It is with immense joy and heartfelt congratulations that I celebrate the installation of **Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN**, as the first *Kuliya Ngeri* of Ilorin Emirate by **His Royal Highness, Alhaji Dr. Ibrahim Sulu Gambari CFR**, the Emir of Ilorin. This prestigious title, which translates to "pinnacle of the law," is a testament to Professor Ali's exceptional contributions to the legal profession, his unwavering dedication to justice, and his remarkable service to the Ilorin Emirate and humanity at large.

Professor Yusuf Ali has distinguished himself as one of Nigeria's most accomplished legal minds, rising to prominence through his expertise in both legal practice and academia. His achievements include handling landmark cases for prominent figures and institutions, making significant contributions to the development of legal education, and consistently embodying integrity and excellence in all his endeavours. Beyond his professional accomplishments, Professor Ali's generosity, patriotism, and commitment to community development have left an indelible mark on the society.

On this historic occasion, I commend the Emir of Ilorin for recognising Professor Yusuf Ali's unparalleled contributions by bestowing upon him this revered title. I extend my warmest congratulations to Professor Yusuf Ali, SAN on this well-deserved honor and wish him continued success, good health, and a long life as he continues to inspire and uplift others through his exemplary service.

SIGNED
I. O. ATOFARATI ESQ.
Principal Partner,
Nexus Attorneys & Partners,
Ilorin, Kwara State.





Ilorin Emirate Youth Development Association (IEYDA)

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS!



On behalf of the leadership and entire youth of Ilorin Emirate Youth Development Association (IEYDA), under the auspices of our Royal Highness, Alhaji (Dr) Ibrahim Sulu Gambari, CFR, the Emir of Ilorin, I, Alhaji Mohammad Uthman Jagunma, the National President, warmly congratulate Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, on his recent turbaning as the First Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin by our father, the revered Emir of Ilorin, His Royal Highness Alhaji (Dr.) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, on the 11th of April, 2025.

This well-deserved recognition is a testament to your towering achievements, not only in the legal profession but also in your unwavering dedication to youth empowerment, community development, and philanthropy. Your elevation is a source of pride and inspiration to the entire Ilorin Emirate, especially the youth, who see in you a shining example of excellence, integrity, and service.

As you assume this prestigious traditional title, we pray that Almighty Allah continues to bless you with wisdom, strength, and good health to serve humanity and our beloved Emirate even more.

Once again, congratulations on this historic and honourable milestone.

SIGNED

Alhaji Mohammad Uthman Jagunma
President, IEYDA



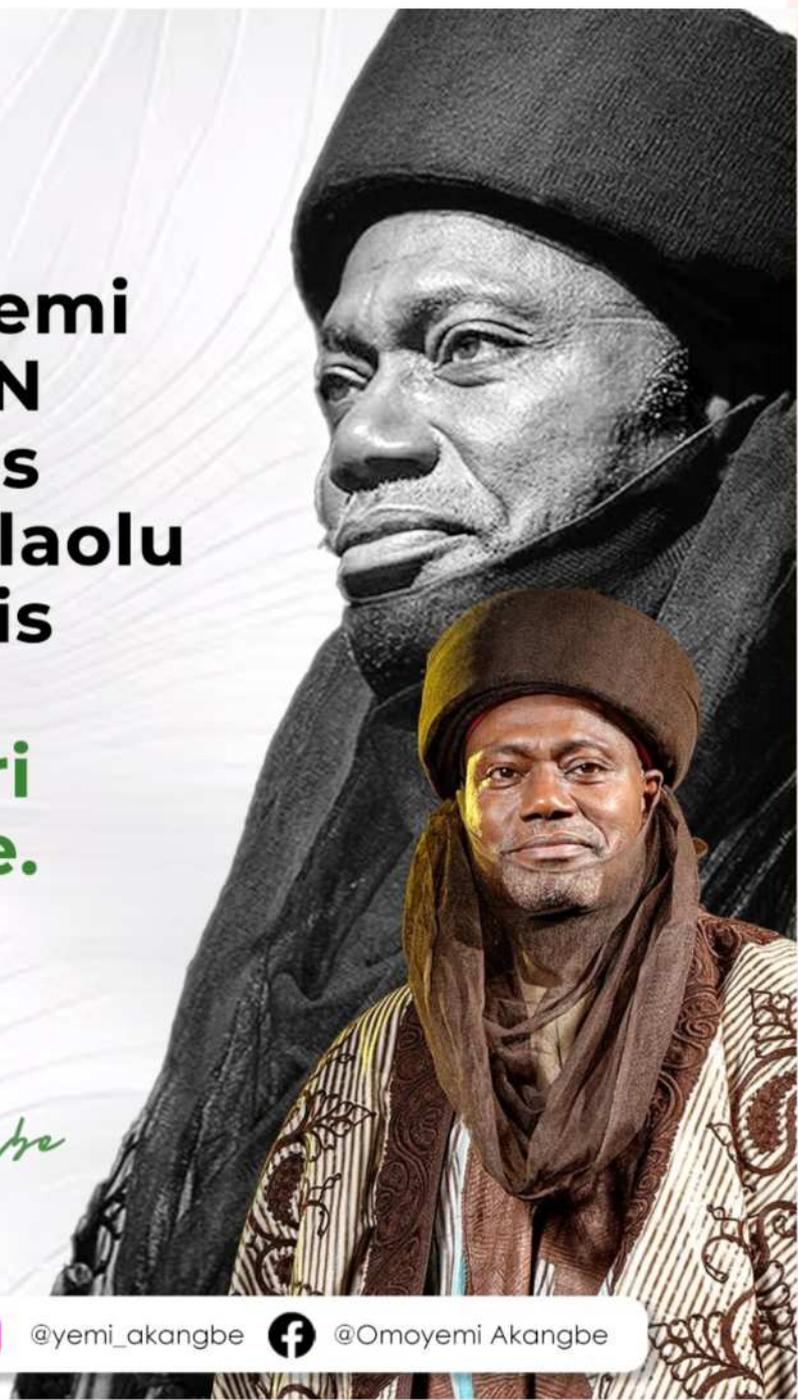


LATEEF OMOYEMI AKANGBE

Lateef Omoyemi Akangbe, SAN Congratulates Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN on his Turbaning as Kuliyan N'geri Ilorin Emirate.



Akangbe



@OmoyemiAkangbe



@yemi_akangbe



@Omoyemi Akangbe

Join our colleagues from across the country, friends and family to congratulate a Bar Leader, a gold standard, a resourceful Advocate, and a community mobilizer, Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN on his turbaning as the 1st Kuliya Ngeri of the historic city of Ilorin Emirate, by his Eminence Dr. Ibrahim Sulu Gambari, CFR, the Emir of Ilorin.

Indeed all honours are from God and he bestows on whom He will. Prof. Yusuf Ola-Olu Ali, SAN, a man many of us in the profession and beyond look up to, is truly deserving of this honour through his strides as a professional and his many acts of service to the Ilorin community, the Bar and the nation. I pray that Almighty God continues to bless him, grant him long life and good health in service to God and man. Amin.

SIGNED

**Lateef Omoyemi Akangbe, SAN
Former Chairman, NBA Lagos Branch**



Felicitations!!!

I, Alhaji Mustafa Adebayo Oyero, on behalf of my entire family, heartily congratulate Professor Yusuf Ola-Olu Ali, SAN, on his well-deserved appointment and subsequent turbaning as the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin by His Royal Highness, the Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji (Dr.) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, on the 11th of April, 2025.

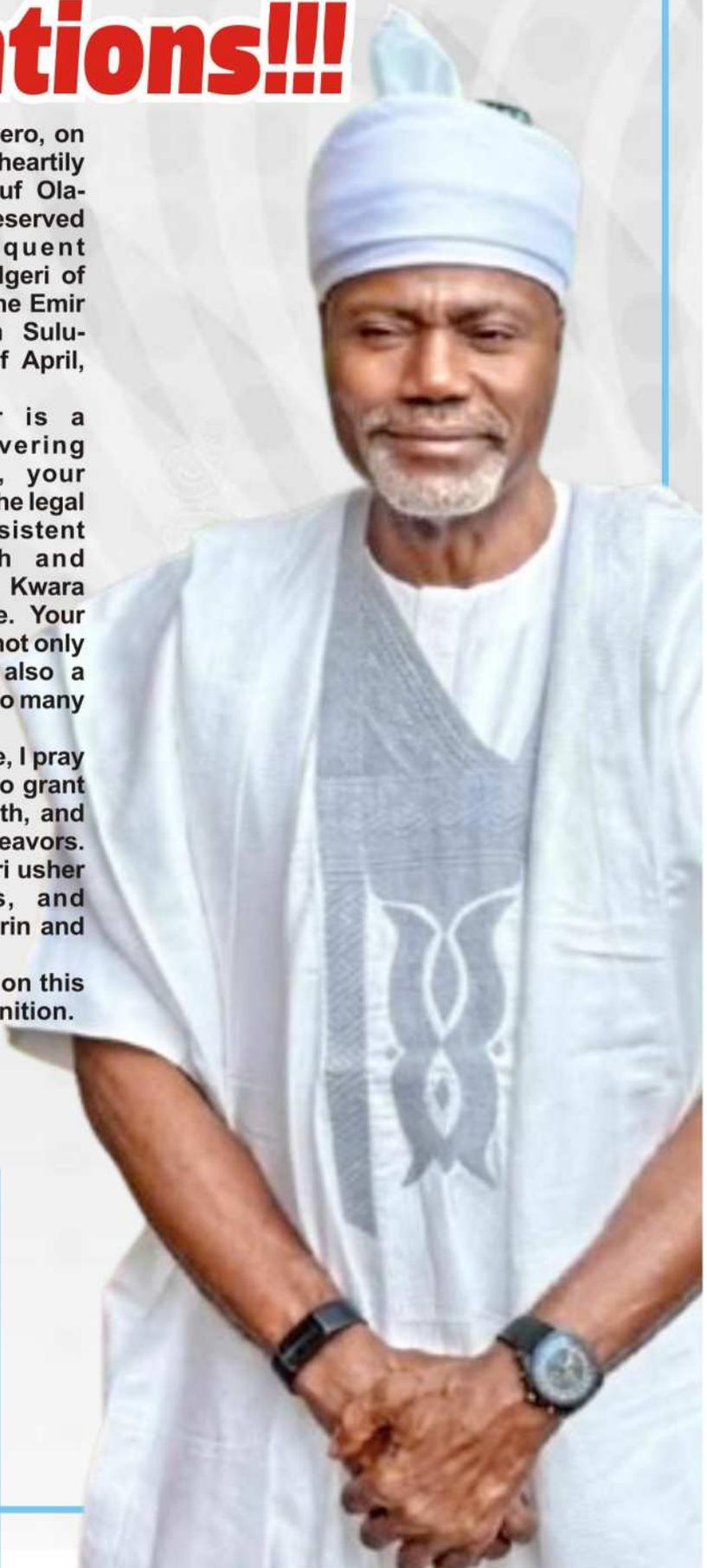
This prestigious honour is a testament to your unwavering commitment to excellence, your distinguished contributions to the legal profession, and your consistent dedication to the growth and development of Ilorin Emirate, Kwara State and Nigeria as a whole. Your recognition at this high level is not only a personal achievement but also a source of pride and inspiration to many across the country.

As you assume this noble role, I pray that Almighty Allah continues to grant you sound wisdom, good health, and divine guidance in all your endeavors. May your tenure as Kuliya Ngeri usher in greater unity, progress, and prosperity for the people of Ilorin and beyond.

Once again, congratulations on this historic and well-merited recognition.

**ALHAJI MUSTAFA
ADEBAYO OYERO**

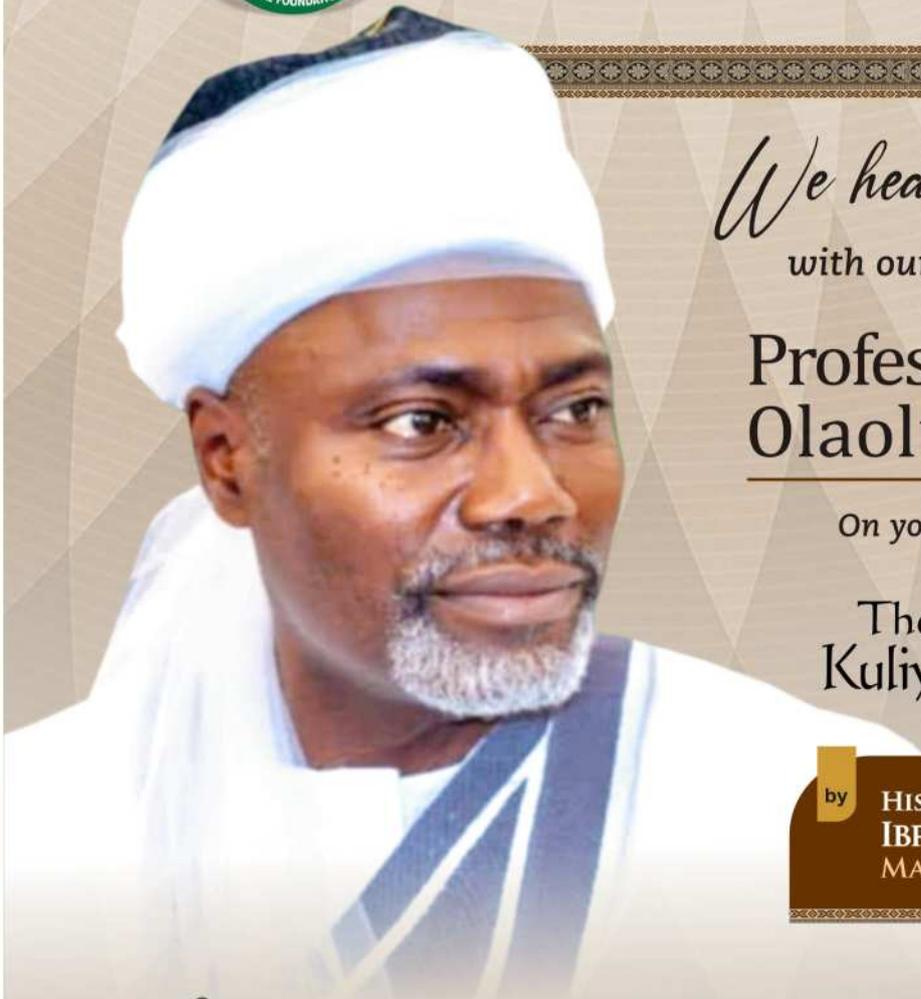
For the family





بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Islamic Welfare Foundation (IWF)
National Headquarters and Kwara State Branch



We heartily Rejoice
with our iconic member

**Professor Yusuf
Olaolu Ali SAN**

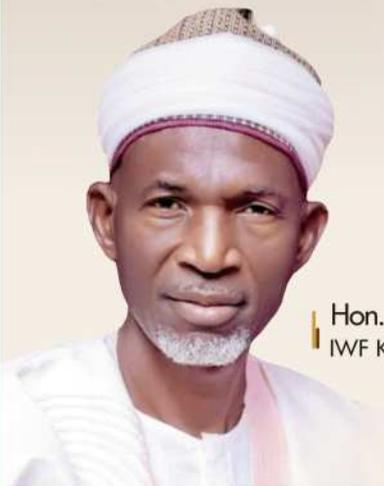
On your Installation as

The first
Kuliyan Geri of Ilorin

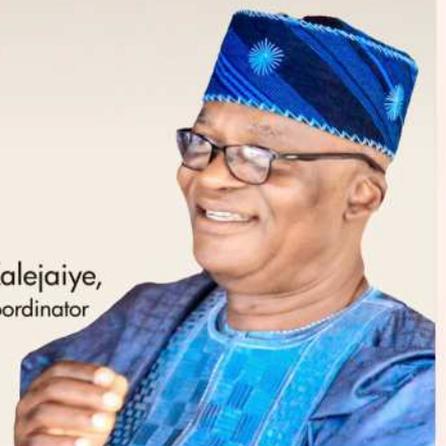
by HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, ALHAJI (DR.)
IBRAHIM SULU GAMBARI CFR
MAIMARTABA ILORI

*You have always been a shining star, an emblem of Islam and Muslims,
a beacon of hope for the less privileged and a testimonial that
Allah rewards sacrifice for others.*

May Allah's blessings on you never cease



Hon. Is'hak Mohammed Sabi
IWF Kwara State Branch Chairman



Dr. Hassan Kalejaiye,
IWF National Coordinator



NIGERIA UNION OF JOURNALISTS (NUJ) KWARA STATE COUNCIL

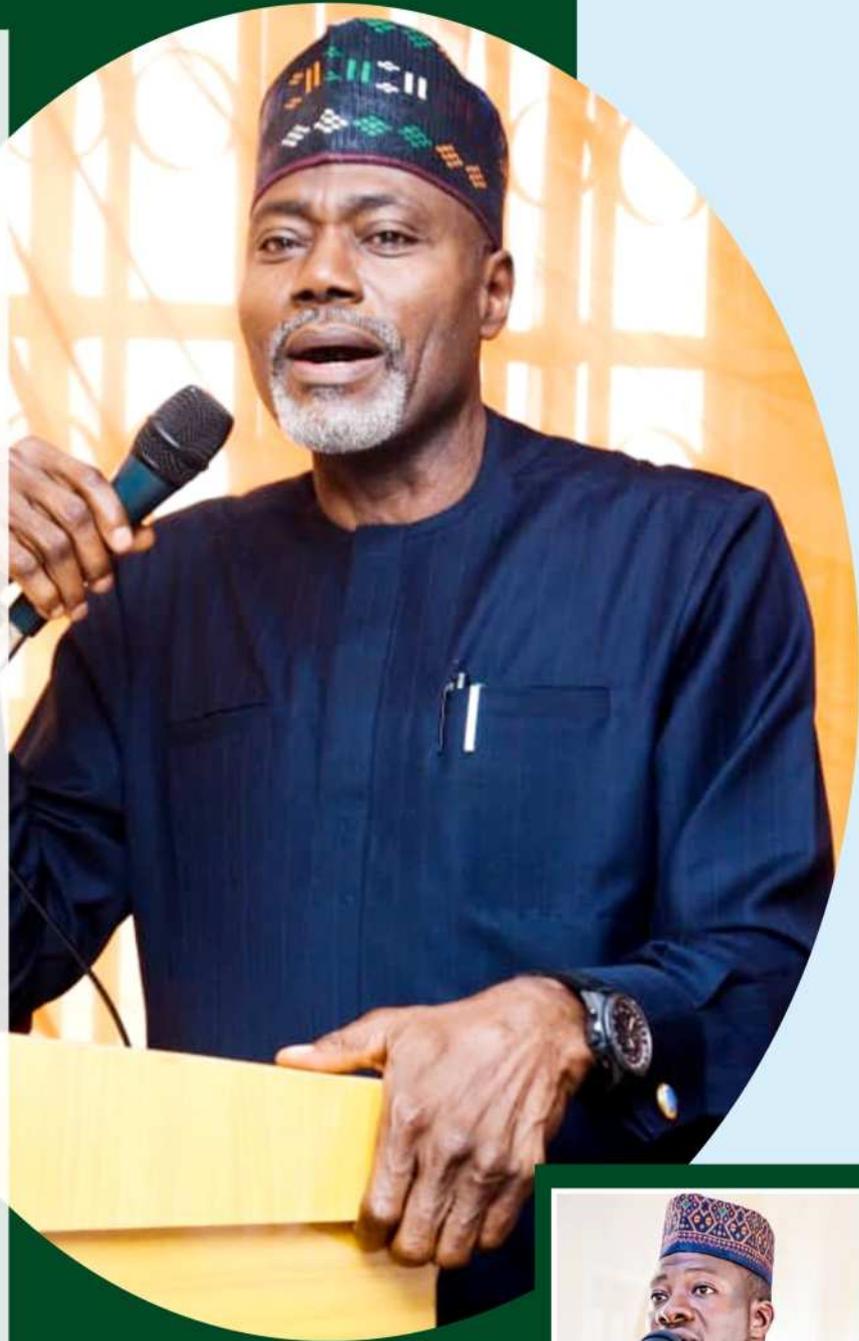
FELICITATIONS!!!

The Kwara State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) heartily felicitates our legal icon and esteemed friend of the media, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, on your official turbaning as the First Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate.

This prestigious honour bestowed on you by the Emir of Ilorin and Chairman, Kwara State Council of Chiefs, Maimartaba, Dr Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, is a testament to your outstanding contributions to the legal profession, unwavering commitment to the development of Ilorin Emirate and consistent support for press freedom and the growth of journalism in Kwara State.

We are proud to identify and associate with your legacy of excellence, integrity, and service. Your continuous support for practicing journalists in the state has not gone unnoticed, and we value your friendship and support for a vibrant and responsible media.

As you assume this new traditional responsibility, we pray the Almighty Allah (SWT) continues to bless you with wisdom, strength, and divine guidance in the discharge of your duties. May your reign as Kuliya Ngeri consolidate on the peace, unity, and progress in Ilorin Emirate and beyond.



Abdullateef 'Lanre Ahmed
Chairman, Kwara Council, NUJ

Congratulations, Learned Silk!!!

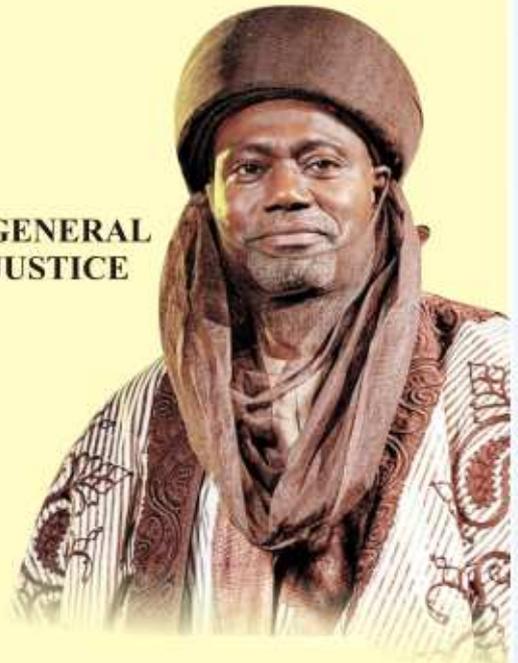
SIGNED:

Abdullateef 'Lanre Ahmed
Chairman,
Kwara State Council, NUJ

Com. Mahmood Olayinka Alaya
Secretary,
Kwara State Council, NUJ



**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL
AND COMMISSIONER FOR JUSTICE**



10 April 2025

Prof Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, FCI Arb

Yusuf Ali & Co.
2nd Floor Ghalib House
24 Abdul Wahab Folawiyo Rd
Ilorin, Kwara State

Dear Prof.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR TURBANING AS KULIYA NGERI

I received with much gladness the news that on 11th April, 2025, HRH Dr (Alhaji) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari CFR, the Emir of Ilorin, will turban you as the first Kuliya Ngeri of the Ilorin Emirate.

I understand that the Kuliya Ngeri is the leader of Muslim lawyers in the Emirate. Undoubtedly, this turbaning only confirms and officialises a view that we have always held – that you, Learned Silk, lead all practitioners across the nation, within the Emirate and beyond. Your impressive career has been a shining light in the profession. Our body of laws and our impression of advocacy would be poorer without your prominent contributions. Also remarkable is the fact that you have not only built the legal practice but you have also built legal practitioners. Many practitioners in the Inner Bar and Outer Bar would have a different, more labourious practice experience but for your leadership, mentorship, generosity and way-making.

Thus, on this momentous occasion, I wish you well, Learned Silk, and I congratulate you. I am confident that this recognition will only spur you to lead harder, farther and more fruitfully. Long may you reign, Kuliya Ngeri!

Please accept my hearty congratulations and the assurances of my highest professional regards.

Yours sincerely,

Oluwasina Ogungbade, SAN
Hon. Attorney-General & Commissioner for Justice



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
P.M.B. 2041 Oke-Mosan, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria
Tel: 039293024



KWARA STATE UNIVERSITY MALETE, NIGERIA

**CONGRATULATIONS TO PROF. YUSUF ALI, SAN,
ON HIS TURBANING AS KULIYA NGERI**



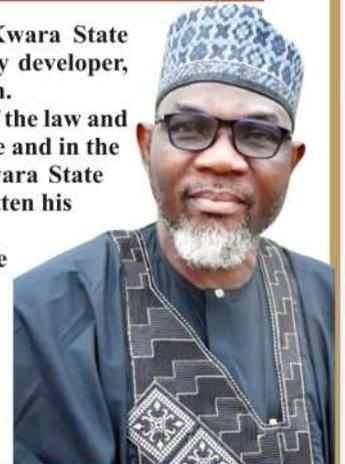
I write on behalf of the Governing Council, Management, Staff, and Students of Kwara State University, Maletе, to warmly congratulate a foremost legal luminary and community developer, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, FCI Arb, on his turbaning as the 1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin.

Professor Yusuf Ali, SAN, is deserving of this title as he is a person with great knowledge of the law and whose personal efforts have seen him rise to the peak of the legal profession, both in practice and in the academics. His knowledge is also being used to advance society. As a great friend of Kwara State University, Professor Yusuf's contributions to our Law Faculty and the institution have written his name in gold.

I therefore congratulate the 1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin and wish him good health and long life with which to add more value to humankind.

I equally thank His Royal Highness, the Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji Ibrahim Zulu Gambari, CFR for recognising Professor Yusuf Ali as worthy for the honour.

SIGNED
PROFESSOR SHAYKH-LUQMAN ALADE JIMOH FCIPDM, FCPA
Vice-Chancellor.





KWASU Council, Management visit Kuliya Ngeri ahead of turbaning

The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman Governing Council, Kwara State University, Malete, Professor Abdulganiyu Ambali, OON has described Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN as an uncommon individual whose philanthropy has impacted the lives of many.

The Pro-Chancellor said this on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, when he led a delegation of Council members and Management staff to Ghalib Chambers

to felicitate with Professor Ali ahead of his turbaning as Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin on Friday, April 11, 2025.

Professor Ambali stated that the Emir of Ilorin's conferment of the traditional title on the distinguished legal practitioner and the widespread acceptance by the people affirmed that the contributions of Professor Ali were recognised by the people.

Professor Ambali praised the Emir of Ilorin, His Royal Highness, Alhaji Ibrahim Zulu Gambari CFR, for the

choice of Professor Ali for the title, noting that it proved that society recognises people who add value to it.

Professor Ambali, a former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, acknowledged that the KWASU was proud to associate with Professor Ali, given the many laudable contributions he had made to the institution and beyond.

He prayed that Allah would continue to guide the Kuliya Ngeri to impact more upon society.

In his response, the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN expressed his appreciation at the visit of the top echelon of the University, which he described as a motivation for him to do more.

Professor Ali commended the University Management for striving for excellence, adding that the institution was worthy of all support.

It would be recalled that the Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji Ibrahim Zulu Gambari CFR, announced the conferment of the traditional title of Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin on Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN. The turbaning was held on Friday, April 11, 2025, at the Emir's Palace.





Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin, one of the best from Africa - Issa Aremu



The Director General, Michael Imoudu National Institute for Labour Studies (MINILS), Ilorin, Comrade Issa Aremu, speaks on the personality of Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN in this interview during his official turbaning at the Palace of the Emir of Ilorin, Dr Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR.

He worked for it and he earned it but Almighty Allah is the one that confers titles and may He guided him to be able to add value to the Emirate and be a good Counselor to the Emirate and above all, a good advisor to our father, His Royal Highness, Dr Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR.

What would be your advice to him as the first Kuliya Ngeri?

Anything that is first needs a lot of commitment. I have no doubt, in my mind, that he is the first in many respects and I have no doubt that he will live up to expectations. He should just continue the good work that he has been doing that earned him this recognition. The best thing you can do when you are recognised among the best is to give the best.

Yusuf Ali, a torchbearer - UNIFEMGA President

Tell us who Yusuf Olaolu Ali is to you and what do you feel about the traditional title given to him?

First, we have to appreciate His Royal Highness, the Emir of Ilorin, who doubles as the Chairman of the Council of Chiefs in the state for honouring Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN with this novel title, Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin. I think it is well deserved because he is one of the best to come from, not just the Emirate, Nigeria, but Africa as a whole.

I think for us to build strong institutions, you need strong men and women. I want to say that Yusuf Ali is one of the strong men that has contributed directly and indirectly to the development of the Emirate. It also shows the leadership qualities of our Emir, who knows how to source and identify the best within the Emirate and honour them.

My advice and message to the new and first Kuliya Ngeri is to continue with his commitment to the development of the Emirate, especially with respect to intellectual contributions, to the legal profession and above all, his philanthropy, which he is well known for. We are happy on behalf of the management and staff of Micheal Imoudu National Institute of Labour Studies to witness this historic turbaning. And you can see that, Yusuf Ali is a crowd-puller, regardless of class, background, status. Nigeria has converged to honour the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate, I think it is a testimony to the fact that he deserves this award.

Muhammed Buhari is the President of the Obafemi Awolowo Muslim Graduate Association (UNIFEMGA). The ivory tower, formerly known as University of Ife, is the Alma Mater of Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN. UNIFEMGA, who attended the turbaning ceremony of Ali at the Palace of the Emir of Ilorin, had an audience with this medium.

Why are you at the Palace of the Emir of Ilorin?

I am here to felicitate, on behalf of all members of UNIFEMGA, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN on his turbaning as the first Kuliya Ngeri of the Ilorin Emirate. Yusuf Olaolu Ali has been an inspiration to all members. We pray for him, good health, long life and may he continue in his goodness, and may he never have any setback in his life.

What advice would you give him as the first Kuliya Ngeri despite not being an indigene?

My advice to him is that he should continue doing what he has been doing, staying true to Islam, his professional

ethics and his home upbringing. He should continue with what he has been doing. As long as he continues to do what he has been doing, he will never be found wanting. He should continue on that path and God will make him more successful.

Can you remember one particular thing or project that he has supported in your association?

If I start mentioning the projects, I will be unfair to Professor Yusuf Ali because he has touched lives in so many ways, individually or collectively. But if there is anything I will attribute to him is the inspiration and guidance he gives to generality of people that he touches their lives.

He is a torch bearer, he is a good example for everyone, and that is what I think is the best example of what he means to us within UNIFEMGA.





Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin approachable, pleasant to be with - Kwara NCS Chairman

Can you tell us about the newly turbaned Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin?

I don't know where to start. Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN, the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate, deserves the title he has been given. Even though he is not from Ilorin, I will tell you that he is more Ilorin than even some of us who are from Ilorin.

I think what makes one to be able to lay claim to a place is the impact that one has had in that place, and from the time he started as a fresh lawyer, from the history I read and what he said himself, he has always identified with the Emirate, with indigenes of the Emirate, with programmes of the Emirate and stuff like that. So, with the crowd you have seen here today, it is a testament to the fact that he is well deserving of the title he has been given.

How would you describe his character, his personality?

He is a very pleasant person, simple and approachable. There are few people of his status in terms of what he has achieved in his field and also in terms of the wealth he has, that are as approachable as he is. He is a very approachable and pleasant person to know and to be with.

Can you recall maybe your first or one of your most important

Engr Taofiq Abdulkarim is the Chairman, Nigeria Computer Society of Nigeria (NCSN), Kwara State Chapter. He bares his mind on the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN.

encounters with him?

My first encounter with him was while I was in school. I went to 'Great Ife' like he also did. Of course, generations apart and as part of the Muslim Students Society of Nigeria (MSSN), I was sent to seek his support for our activities, and he took me like his son. He didn't know me from anywhere, I just came with a letter and he has been very supportive.

After I graduated, I approached him then and I told him I provide web development services and I want to do this for your firm and after a couple of weeks of going back and forth, he decided to commission us and since then, we have been providing IT services for his firm and associated projects.

what would be your advice to him now that he has been turbaned?

I think I should be the one listening to advice from him, because he is a father. But what if I must advise, he should keep just saying Alhamdulillah. He should keep on thanking Allah for all the favours that Allah has bestowed on him. We cannot say he should keep being who he is, he is too old to change. So, I'm sure he will definitely continue to be a pleasant person that he has always been.



VOX POP



He does not 'commonise' – Former Attorney General of Kwara State, Barrister

Kamaldeen Ajibade, SAN: I have known Yusuf Ali right from the beginning of my career, because as a student lawyer, I served under him and I can tell you much about him. He was one of the people that shaped my idea about the path I should follow in this legal practice. So, that is the kind of person he is.

His interest in humanity is top-notch and one would not be surprised today if he is being bestowed and recognised by the Ilorin community, not just the Emir but the whole Ilorin community are behind him and you can see the calibre of people present here.

You can see judges and other great people from all walks of life. It is because of what Yusuf Ali has turned out to be. God has made him to be a person

that respects humanity and he doesn't commonise anybody.

He is prepared to help, he doesn't care where you come from. Whether you are even a Muslim or a Christian, humanity is first to him, and that is what he has exhibited that attracted these people you see around. We have Justices of the Court of Appeal seated here for him and ordinarily, they are not supposed to be here, you know they don't mix with people, but they have to come for Yusuf Ali.

He has become a household name and my prayer is that God, in His infinite mercy, should continue to bless him to do more for humanity.

My fondest memory of him is each time I joke with him and as at that time when you follow him to Court, when he is so down in the argument, Yusuf Ali will tie up 'his rope'.



Yusuf Ali's choice as Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate not misplaced – Ferule



Yusuf Bello Ferule, a veteran journalist, was a Judiciary Correspondent in Kwara State when Olaolu Ali started his legal practice. Ferule is a retired journalist and currently, the Media Officer of Kwara State Sports Commission. In this interview, he speaks on the personality of the legal icon. Excerpts:

What can you say about the legal luminary, Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN regarding his turbaning as Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate?

Yusuf Olaolu Ali, I knew him as far back as 1982, if I'm not mistaking. When I first joined the newsroom, I was assigned to the Judiciary Beat of The Herald Newspaper.

So, whenever I got to the High Court premises, he was always with me. And, as of that time, we were young fellows about the same age. I think he just started then, and I also started journalism then.

I knew him to be a very gentleman, easy going and very intelligent guy. And, for about three or four years I spent in the Judicial Beat, I think he really did well.

With his attainment of Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) many years ago, it means he has achieved a lot in the law and in the legal profession. So, giving him a chieftaincy title, is it right?

Yes. Giving him a chieftaincy title is not misplaced. Because I think Olaolu Ali merited it. If you rate Olaolu Ali among the legal practitioners in Kwara State now, I think, before you mention one, two or three, you will mention him.

So, he is a very popular man, and very influential in the society. Mostly among we journalists, he is a friend of the house. He is a friend of the house, because we have been relating well for over three decades now with Olaolu Ali. Whatever he is given now is well

deserved. And, I see him as a man of the people, because he does not look down on anybody.

Even though as I'm talking to you, we don't work closely together again. Whenever we see we relate well with each other again, the message is the truth.

How would you describe the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate bestowed on him?

It is putting a round peg in a round hole. Because, when it comes to the legal field, Olaolu Ali is no pushover. Like I said, very intelligent, and now, he has reached the peak of the legal profession, Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN). It is not a joke.

So, for him to be in that position, like being the legal advisor, to a highly placed, a man of law, he is well deserving of the title. And I believe he is capable to fill that position very well. In Ilorin today, I don't think I can point a finger to anybody that he is more fit for that position. I don't think I can see anybody that can fill that position other than Olaolu Ali. Olaolu Ali is not a

Kwaran. But, to me, he is a Kwaran. Since his youthful days, up till now, he is still practicing in Ilorin.

So, I see him as a Kwaran and an Ilorin man. That is the way I see him. I don't know how anybody else will look at him. He is a man who knows Ilorin in and out. He grew up here, he is practicing here. So, I think that title is not misplaced.

What advice would you give to him as he is honoured with the chieftaincy title?

He is a legal man. He is in a very good position to give advice to people as regards legal field. But I would just advise him to continue in his usual way, humble way. I know him to be very humble. And I want him to continue with that gentility, the way I know him; very easygoing person. And I would advise him to do his job, to discharge his duties without fear or favour; to be honest with himself in discharging his duties and to guide the Emirate right as regards legal issues.

I wish him all the best. And I know he will not disappoint.

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS!



I, Yunoos Kobebije Kareem on behalf of my family wish to heartily congratulate Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN on his turbaning as 1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate by His Royal Highness, Maimar'taba, the Emir of Ilorin, Dr Alhaji Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR.

May Allah grant our Kuliyan Ngeri long live.

Shehu!!! Wallahu Yasimuka Mina Naas



SIGNED: Yunoos Kobebije Kareem



Prof Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, turbaned First Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin

On April 11, 2025, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, was formally turbaned as the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin by His Royal Highness, the Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji (Dr.) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR. The historic ceremony marked a significant milestone, not only in the distinguished legal career of Professor Ali but also in the rich cultural tapestry of the Ilorin Emirate.

In this encounter, some of the attendees at the official turbaning of Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN as pioneer Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate, shared their thoughts about the new traditional title holder in the Emirate.

Yusuf Ali overdue for Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin - *The Special Adviser to the Governor of Osun State on Regional Integration, Dr Adekilekun Kamal, has this to say on the turbaning event:* Mallam Yusuf Ali is a renowned philanthropist, a lawyer Par Excellence, a Professor and a Senior Advocate of Nigeria. He is an all-rounder. He believes in the unity of this nation, and that is why you can see people from all walks of life being part of this August occasion, and because of that, we have considered it very necessary that as an indigene of Osun, although more of Kwara now in terms of residence, to honour him with our presence.

Like myself, he has never forgotten his home and that is why we in Osun consider it necessary. The Governor of Osun State asked the most powerful staff, which is the Chief of Staff to represent him, because he is abroad. He is in London, he couldn't make it. Professor Yusuf Ali is a man of honour, a man known by everybody to be a good man. So, we cannot be exempted from being part of this occasion.

He is known to everybody and giving him the traditional title of Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin, isn't a surprise to us; it is long overdue. He is worth it and we know that he is one of the most respected men of integrity, one we are so much proud of. So, we feel he merited it for all what he has done for Ilorin, Kwara and Nigeria in general. So, the sky is not his limit, more of this will be expected.

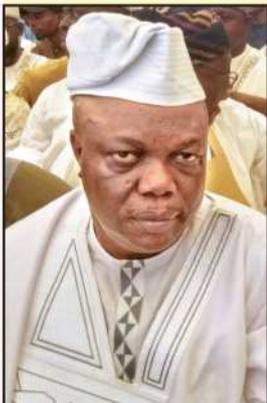
Let him continue on the path that he has been treading. Just as the song that was sung for him at the palace says, he should continue with whatever he has been doing. So, with the permission of my Chief of Staff, I say Alhamdulillah and I wish him the best in his future endeavour.



He is an accomplished man - *Former Secretary, Ilorin Branch of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Barrister Jimoh Saadudeen Muhammad:* As everybody knows, Professor Yusuf Ali is a man of the people. He is a man who accomplishes everything; he is a philanthropist and he is one of our leaders and fathers in the legal profession in Nigeria, particularly in the Ilorin branch. He's a man of the people.

Since I was in University, I know him as a person who has been helping students, especially those going to law school. I know in our set, he helped many of our mates by financing their school fees. He has been doing that for decades and that is who Yusuf Olaolu Ali is.

All I have for him is a word of prayer, because he has reached the pinnacle of his profession, either in the legal profession or in the society. I only pray that may Allah continue to be with him, continue to guide him, continue to protect him, not only him, but also protect his children and everybody around him.



He has a very large heart - *The Vice-Chancellor of Ojaja University, Eiyenkorin, Professor Jeleel Olasunkanmi Ojuade, speaks on the Kuliya Ngeri:* I don't even know how to describe him. Our relationship is more than personal. He is my uncle, and he was a student to my dad at the lower cadre of his life, and at a point in life, when I got to Ilorin, I stayed with him. I was like his firstborn, an errand boy. We were together, I was staying under his roof for a long time, and we have been together till now, Alhamdulillah.

We had so many wonderful memories. He is such a witty person and he is a restless human being. I mean, that is one thing I know about him. He is very restless, even till now. If you move too close to him, he will playfully smack you and play around with you. He likes all those things.

But at the same time, he has a very large heart, and just like every other person have been describing him, I just pray for him that he is assuming another role now, this is a communal role, which is even different from whatever profession you are from. This is something that the Ilorin Emirate bestowed on him and I pray Allah to guide him in this new role.





He handled legal documents of Al-Hikmah University without monetary compensation - *Chief Abdurraheem Oladimeji Igbaja, founder Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin, has this to say about Yusuf Ali:* Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali and I have known each other over 3 decades ago. He has managed to maintain the good character he had then till now.

When Allah wanted to help us to establish Al-Hikmah University, Olaolu Ali, SAN handled all the legal things needed for the success of establishing the University. He wrote all our legal documents. In short, anything pertaining to the law was handled by him.

Till the likes of Professor Abdullateef Oladimeji, Professor



Raji among others joined the university, it was Olaolu Ali that was handling all the work without collecting any monetary compensation from us. He didn't even demand payment for his services to us. We prayed to God to provide sustenance for him beyond his imagination and Almighty Allah answered our prayers for him.

We thank the Almighty Allah and our father, His Royal Highness, Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji, Dr Ibrahim

He's always willing to help us - *Ansaru-u-Deen Chairperson, Hajia Misturat Omoronike Ogunwale is the Chairperson of Ansaruudeen Women's Wing, Ilorin Branch.*

Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN is our father in Ansaruudeen, and a true believer. I can refer to him as our financier. Any time we approach him for assistance, he is always willing to help us. For the entirety of Ansaruudeen, he is like a father to us and we are benefitting greatly from him.

The title bestowed on him is a well deserved honour; it is a round peg in a round hole. He might not be an Ilorin by birth but he is an Ilorin by heart. He has already become one of us, he is very useful to everyone. We give our gratitude to His Royal Highness, the Emir of Ilorin for this honour he had bestowed on our father.



Our advice to him is to continue in his usual way of being good to everyone. He shouldn't rest on his oars, he is only reaping the earthly rewards for his goodness. The heavenly reward is far greater than what he is enjoying now and we pray that when he finally gets very old, Almighty Allah will grant him a good ending and eternal bliss.

For all he has been doing for everyone, may Almighty Allah reward him accordingly on the day of Qiyamah.

Sulu-Gambari, CFR, who made this day possible. May the Almighty Allah continue to uphold him.

We thank the Governor of Kwara State, Mallam AbduRahman AbdulRazaq, in whose time we are witnessing great moments like this. I pray that the Almighty Allah continues to uplift him.

Our new Kuliya Ngeri, I pray that the Almighty Allah grants him long life, sound health and wisdom to discharge his duties to the Emir and the Emirate.

I beseech Allah to make our cordial relationship continue to persist.

I have a cordial relationship with every chieftaincy holder in this community, and the advice I always give them is to emulate us through the bounties the Almighty Allah has bestowed us with, even before the establishment of Al-Hikmah University, I already had over 40 students who were benefiting from my scholarship across the country and that was before we established Al-Hikmah University and the university is now over 2 decades old.

We give out the scholarship due to my passion for education, because I believe that any community without proper education will be in perpetual darkness.

My advice to everyone with traditional chieftaincy title is that they should be good to everyone, especially to the Emir and the traditional institution. I pray that the Almighty Allah continues to guide them.

Ali believes Nigeria could be great if.. *Dr (Mrs.) Oloyede - Dr (Mrs.) Raheemah Oloyede, the wife of the Registrar, Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), speaks on Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN:*

I can say that I'm the most senior wife of the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin. He has been a wonderful husband and a wonderful man that is very passionate about making things better for the country. The fact that he has been given the title shows that so many people are recognising his role in making Nigeria a better place for all to live. I'm praying that Allah, in His infinite mercy, continues to be with him and guide him to better things in life that all these good things will continue to grow, till we all meet in Jannah by the grace of Allah.



He has been a father figure to so many people and a statesman in Nigeria. He has been doing well, I want to encourage him to continue to do better so that by that time he is leaving, he will know that he has seen and conquered and able to do better things to make this country a better place for all of us to live.

Nigeria could be great, and all of us must contribute our quota to make sure that we clean our corner. If everyone cleans his or her corner, Nigeria would be a better place for all of us to live.



Kuliya Ngeri title, a rewarding period for Yusuf Ali - Sulaiman Amida Hassan is the Chief Registrar, Federal High Court, who started career in the Bar with Ghalib Chambers, the law firm of Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN before joining the services of the Federal High Court: The first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate has been a mentor, a philanthropist, and he has been all the time a blessing to the entire



people of Ilorin Emirate. At a point, some people didn't even know he is not from Ilorin.

He has touched every part of our lives. He is there for everyone who goes to him for support or assistance for them. Call him any time, any day, he will be there for you. That is why you see the presence of many of our indigenes, who came all the way, even from outside the country. You can see the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is here, Senators and Governors are here.

All the traditional Title holders in Ilorin are here. The honorary title holders are all here, not because of anything, just to show to him this is a rewarding period, and it is a lesson for every one of us coming behind that we must have to do something good so that we can be recognised.

The man who gave a lecture at the pre-turbaning event, Sheikh Lukman Muktar Isale-Koto, said in Ilorin there is a hole, whatever you are doing, they will be putting it there. It is when the hole is filled up, that is when you are called upon to be recognised. It means the hole has been filled up, that is why Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali has been called upon to be conferred with this title of Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin.

May the Almighty Allah give him long life and good health so that he can be able to do more for the people. He should continue to do it because that is what that has led him to this moment. There is no way a person would not have one or two sides of him but May the Almighty Allah forgive whatever his shortcomings are.

He loves pursuing progress of community - High Chief Tayo Idowu Olowu is the Ekerin of Ifetedo Kingdom:

Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali happens to be our illustrious son who loves everyone, he loves pursuing the progress of the town and has single-handedly been helping people. Single-handedly, he refurbished our Central Mosque without obtaining a Kobo from anybody, the same thing he did to the Government General Hospital. He refurbished it and furnished it with all the equipment needed in that hospital.

We really appreciate him, and that is why we are here, all the way from Ifetedo to witness this occasion. We are grateful and happy with the title, even our Kabiesi is here. He should put more effort toward the development of Ilorin Emirate so that his name will be written in gold.



Olaolu Ali rendered legal services for establishment of Al-Hikmah University free of charge - Prof Oladimeji: All legal services for successful establishment of Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin in 2005 were rendered by Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali free of charge.

Dean Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of institution, Professor Abdul-lateef Oladimeji disclosed this while featuring on a special edition of Islam In Focus on the Nigeria Television Authority (NTA), Ilorin in honour of the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin, Professor Olaolu Ali

Oladimeji who is a Professor of Islamic Studies, confirmed that after he wrote the academic brief for the establishment of the University, Professor Ali voluntarily assisted the founder, Jagunmolu of Igbaja, Alhaji Abdurraheem Oladimeji in the processing of legal papers and license at no cost for smooth establishment of citadel of learning

According to him, the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate is a member of Board of Trustees of the University with zero salaries and allowances.

He explained that he had known Professor Olaolu Ali for about four decades with unhindered religiosity and benevolence to the society.

The Don chronicled the recipient's legal journey having started his career with Asiwaju Gbenga Awomolo at Taiwo Road, Ilorin before setting up his own Ghalib Chambers in 1994 in same area.

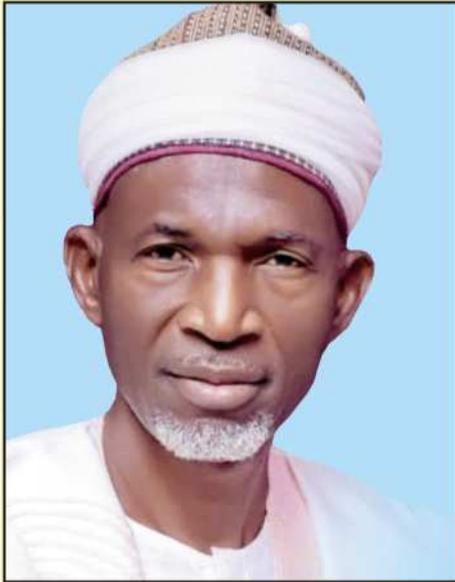
Professor Oladimeji pointed out that the word "Ghalib" connotes victory and was suggested by his late wife, Hajia Faoziah Olaolu Ali now manifesting in the success of the legal power house.

He described him as a paragon of patience with impeccable disposition to the people irrespective of their social status, religion or creed

Professor Oladimeji rejoiced with Professor Olaolu Ali on the Chieftaincy title bestowed on him by Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji Ibrahim Zulu-Gambari and identified the honour as apt in view of his contributions to the development of Ilorin Emirate and Kwara State at large.



Yusuf Ali does not discriminate - *Former Commissioner for Information and Communication in Kwara State and Coordinator, Islamic Welfare Foundation (IWF), Alhaji Mohammed Ishak Sabi:* The traditional title of Kuliya Ngeri in the Ilorin Emirate, as I understand it, is a highly respected role meant



to advise the leadership of the Emirate, especially the Emir of Ilorin on legal matters and related issues. It serves as a guiding light for the decisions and actions the Emirate wishes to undertake, particularly in matters of justice and governance.

Professor Yusuf Ali, SAN, is undoubtedly a fitting choice for this revered title. As a Professor of Practice

in Law and a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, he has reached the pinnacle of the legal profession. His law firm, Ghalib Chambers, has become a household name across Nigeria, known for its excellence and integrity in legal practice. He is not just a legal luminary but also a generous philanthropist. Indeed, this title is a perfect match for him, he is a square peg in a square hole.

The recognition bestowed upon him is not only well-deserved but a testament to his lifelong dedication to the betterment of society. The large and diverse crowd present at this occasion—coming from all parts of the country, including Abuja, Maiduguri, Sokoto, Kaduna, Lagos, Akure, Ondo, and beyond—is a clear proof that this is no rented gathering. It is a genuine celebration of a man whose impact transcends tribe, religion, and region.

Having worked closely with him over time, I can attest that Yusuf Ali is a man who does not discriminate. He is truly exemplary, and the conferment of this title is both appropriate and historic—especially as he is the very first to be honoured with it. The Ilorin Emirate, by this act, is not only recognizing his profound contributions to its social and political development but is also adopting him as one of its own.

I sincerely congratulate Professor Yusuf Ali on this auspicious occasion. I pray that he continues to embody the values that earned him this honour and urge him never to relent in doing good.

May God continue to bless and guide him. I also encourage others to emulate his selfless example, for it is through people like him that we can foster unity, peace, and progress in our nation.



Yusuf Ali, a committed community developer - *Mallam Lukman Olayiwola Mustapha is the founder of Sobi FM:* I am very happy to be

on the occasion of the turbaning of our brother, our friend, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, by our Emir, His Royal Highness, Dr Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, as the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin. This is a new title, the first of its kind in the history of the Ilorin Emirate.

When we dig deep into the meaning of that title, we will all agree that no one else merits it other than Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali. He has not only identified with Ilorin and the essence of Ilorin and what Ilorin means, but he has become part and parcel of Ilorin. He has lived all his life in Ilorin, he has invested in Ilorin and when I say invest, I don't mean just investments in money, I mean investments in terms of human resources, capital resources and resources in all ramifications.

He is a man of the people, he is a very committed community developer. He is very passionate about the development of Ilorin and committed to the development of all the individuals that come from Ilorin. He is always there for everybody, and he is very concerned about whatever will bring prosperity to the people of Ilorin.

Truly, he deserves this title. I want to therefore use this opportunity to thank our Royal Father, the Emir of Ilorin, for finding him fit for this title. He has become the traditional legal counsel to the Emir and to the Emirate and therefore, we are very happy. I wish him a long life on the title and I wish him all the best.

He should continue to do what he has been doing. He has always been there for everybody, he has been playing his role. I was telling my friends yesterday that we have three categories of SAN in Ilorin. The first category is our father. He represents the beginning of the second category and he has always identified with everything legal as far as Ilorin is concerned.

So, he has already played the role and he should continue to play the role and I pray that Allah will continue to support him and guide him in the discharge of his duties.



He is nice to extreme but with no nonsense - *Engr Lekan Ladejo*: Myself and Yusuf Ali schooled together at Ibadan Boys' High School. That was from 1970 to 1977 and Yusuf Ali has been a wonderful friend. He is a very corporate and fine person. He is very religious and very straightforward.

We were friends, but later we became family because if he comes to my house, he can identify, at least, 20 people, not only identify but even mention their names, and any time he calls me, he will ask after those names, one after the other.

Similarly, I know most of his siblings, family and relatives. So, to the best of my knowledge, he deserves to be given such a very big



title because he is very compassionate and he is very polite. So, even if the President gives him any title, I have nothing to doubt that he will still perform very well for the title he is going to get.

He came to Ilorin for his youth service. Then there was one lawyer in Ilorin who is from Osun State, I've forgotten the name. He served under him during his service year. We have been together for a long time. Since we schooled together in 1977, we have not parted with each other. Even in those days before the

advent of GSM, we both used to write letters to each other and any time he writes a letter to me, I would just keep the letter.

The letter may take up to two months before I would make a reply but if I write him, immediately he receives the letter like this, he would make sure the following week, I will get the reply. So, I used to wonder that what is this man up to. He is a very nice person, nice to the extreme. It is only that he doesn't take nonsense from people.

My advice for him is to keep on doing good as he has been doing, because Almighty Allah does not forget anybody and Almighty Allah will reward you according to what you are doing.

Generosity working for him - *Barrister Abdullahi Jimba is the Social Secretary, Ilorin Branch of NBA*: I have a personal relationship with him, aside from the fact that I see him as a father, a mentor and perhaps a teacher. I once had a contact with Mallam, probably that was like five years ago. We had an annual exercise that he used to



organize. So, after the event, I remember I went home with him, while at his residence, we were all having a good time cracking jokes and all.

All I can say for now is that, Mallam is down to earth and I think his generosity is the reason behind all his achievements and what have you and he is a very hard working human being.

There is one thing, according to the Almighty Allah, whatever you might have done definitely, you will get a reward for that, and I

think it is only the Almighty Allah that can reward Mallam for his generosity and humility.

His steadfastness to tenets of Islam keeps him going - *Former Kwara State Governor, Alhaji Abdulfatah Ahmed*: Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali has been able to attain a good level of success through hard work, through concentration but most importantly through his steadfastness to the tenets of his religion, which is Al-Islam,



and this has seen him through in meeting the right people, getting the right things done and most importantly, impacting the society.

This success of being turbaned by the Emir of Ilorin as the Kuliya Ngeri, is a well-deserved honour. We pray to Allah to continue to guide him more in all his endeavours, and to give him the strength to keep putting more into humanity. May Allah continue to guide him more. Alhamdulillah.



Yusuf Ali's dedication makes him work on Sallah Day - *A Senior Advocate of Nigeria and presidential hopeful, Lateef Omoyemi Akangbe*: I have known Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN more than two decades ago in the course of practice, and I have known him to be a God-fearing person. For him, it is God first, and he is someone who exhibits good character, and good character is the

criteria to be his friend.

As young as I am, he took me as his friend and brother. He doesn't look at your age, he doesn't look at your background but what he looks at is your good character, integrity, and he always wants people to be respectful and be a person of good value.

I'm not surprised how God is rewarding him. In all that he does, you can see the trajectory, you can see how he is impacting the world through his service to humanity. I congratulate him and I wish him well. I pray that the Almighty Allah continues to endow him with longevity of life, good health and heart fulfilment.

Alhaji Ali is a very hard working person, and he is dedicated to the profession. People that pass through him will tell you that one of the lessons he thought them is about hard work. He is one of the few lawyers that I know that work on Sallah day. There is no weekend he doesn't work.

He is not slowing down despite his age. To think that Alhaji would have slowed down, if you meet him in court, he is still as strong as when he started. He is still very energetic as he was 30 years ago. For people like us, we aspire to be like him and we will continue to appreciate him.

He plays by that rule and he is a fair play person. He is an inspiration for us to know that litigation is not a do or die thing. When you are in court with your adversary, you should know that it is not a do or die thing. He will always remain your friend. There are so many things to admire about Alhaji Ali.

He is a man like Julius Caesar said: He came, he saw and he conquered; he has achieved everything. All we can do now is to congratulate him and wish him well, pray to God to bless him with longevity of life and sound health so that he can give more to humanity.



Femi Isau – Legal Practitioner, Ghalib Chambers: Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, is a fantastic mentor and a father figure. His support and guidance, both personally and professionally have made a significant difference in my life. He is passionate about helping others and believes that everyone has a role to play in shaping a better future. His turbaning as the first Kuliyan Ngeri of the Ilorin Emirate is well deserved. Allah has truly chosen the right person. Masha'Allah, His Will has been fulfilled.

For me, it's like putting a round peg in a round hole; the right person has been selected at the right time. I wish him continued success in this life and in the hereafter."

Hajia Hauwa F. Tajudeen- Immediate Past Amirah, The Criterion, Kwara District and a broadcast journalist: Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN is a respected Muslim brother and one of our esteemed leaders from the days of the old MSSN. A generous philanthropist, he has made significant contributions to the advancement of Islam.

His late wife, Hajia Fausiya Kehinde Ali, was a beloved mentor and role model in The Criterion. Before her passing, she served as the National Vice President of The Criterion, a faith-based NGO for Muslim women in business and the professions. I had the honour of writing a book titled *The Home Manager* in her memory, as she was a woman of excellence.

Prof. Yusuf Ali played a pivotal role in the success of my book launch in 2020. As the immediate past Amirah of The Criterion (Kwara District), I must also acknowledge his generous donation of a building to the District for Islamic use. He has remained a pillar of support to The Criterion, an unwavering commitment that earned him a well-deserved award at our last International Conference held in Ilorin in 2023.

His recent turbaning as the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin is not only well-deserved but long overdue.

I pray that Allah continues to grant him success in all his endeavours, along with His Rahmah and Sakinah, long life, and good health.

May Allah elevate his status — Warafa'nahu Makaana Aliyyah.

Congratulations, Sir".

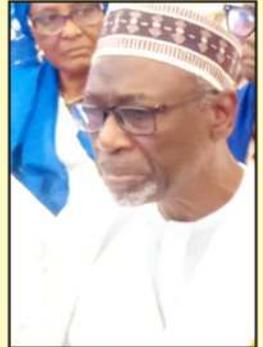


Yusuf Ali deserves Kuliya Ngeri title better - Muzamil

Sanni Anga is a Lawyer from Kano. He speaks on the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin:

I have been together with Yusuf Ali since 1970 with the Muslim Students Society of Nigeria. That is, I have known him for over 40 years. He is such a good person, a person who has well deserved this turbaning. Kuliya Ngeri is the title given to a person who is an impeccable and incorruptible judge, and that is the origin of the title; a judge who cannot be corrupted and who is so just and upright that even the person who appoints him can't have his sway over him. That is the meaning of Kuliya, and of course, this is the first time this title is coming to Ilorin, and I believe Yusuf Ali is the person who deserves it better than any other person I know.

It is the issue of quality that has given Yusuf Ali the opportunity, it is his quality. A person who has such shining quality cannot be missed anywhere, even if he is not from Kwara State originally. He is a person who Kwara State is always proud of. He has been able to bring about a lot of goodness into Kwara State. He should continue on the path he has been chosen.



Barr. Sulyman Olanrewaju Babakebe, Babakebe Olanrewaju Sulyman & Co., Ikhlas Chambers, Ilorin:

Prof. Yusuf Ali, SAN, is both my personal and professional mentor, a guardian, and someone who has played a pivotal role in all my life's achievements. As one of the pioneer staff of Yusuf Ali & Co., I have witnessed his generosity, philanthropy, and unwavering commitment to the growth and success of others. He consistently encourages those around him to strive for excellence and supports them in reaching their goals.

A renowned lawyer of unquestionable integrity, Prof. Yusuf Ali has made significant contributions to the legal profession in Nigeria. His turbaning as the 1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin is a well-deserved recognition of his outstanding service to the Ilorin Emirate and its people.



He should continue his philanthropic activities - Hajia

Sa'adat Hassan is a retired Deputy Controller General, Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS). She has this to say about Yusuf Ali, SAN:

My goodwill message for the Kuliya Ngeri is that he already has all the good qualities needed. Everybody talks about him in a very good

manner; that he is a very well mannered person, he is a man of the people and I will just encourage him to continue what he is doing. We all can witness what is happening here, it is a carnival of the Ilorin people and well-wishers from all walks of life are here.

It shows a lot of the love the people have for him, and that he is a very good man. I will just encourage him to continue his good work, his philanthropic activities and I pray that the Almighty Allah continues to help him and give him good health and long life.



Alhaji Abdullahi Anafi Olesin is the Regional Editor of Leadership Newspapers: The significance of the turbaning of Prof. Yusuf Ali (SAN) as the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin is twofold: First, it underscores the accommodating nature of the Ilorin people and their tradition of rewarding excellence. Second, it reaffirms the timeless principle that goodness is always recognised and rewarded.

Prof. Yusuf Ali has long distinguished himself through numerous philanthropic gestures, and he is truly deserving of this honor bestowed upon him by His Royal Highness, Mai Martaba, the Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji (Dr.) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari.



Labi Abdulkareem, Esq., Ilorin, Kwara State: Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, is more than a legal luminary, he is a moral compass, a mentor, and a quiet force for good within the Ilorin Emirate, Kwara State, and Nigeria at large. Few individuals embody the true meaning of honour as profoundly as Mallam.

With this title, the Emirate has simply given a name to a legacy already engraved in our hearts.

Congratulations, sir!



Lanre Abdul – Legal Practitioner, Ghalib Chambers: Professor Yusuf Ali, SAN, is a father figure and mentor to all of us on his team. A chieftaincy title in the Ilorin Emirate is a prestigious honour, recognising an individual's socio-cultural, economic, and political contributions to the community. It also serves to encourage both the awardee and others to continue contributing to the development of society.

Like other emirates in Northern Nigeria, Ilorin has a rich cultural heritage, and this coronation marks a new chapter.

The installation of the First Kuliya Ngeri is a major milestone, both in the history of the Emirate and in the life of Professor Yusuf Ali, whose commitment to the growth of Ilorin, Kwara State, and Nigeria is unwavering."

The installation of the First Kuliya Ngeri is a major milestone, both in the history of the Emirate and in the life of Professor Yusuf Ali, whose commitment to the growth of Ilorin, Kwara State, and Nigeria is unwavering."

Mutiati Olusola – Journalist, NTA Ilorin: Professor Yusuf Ali is a truly distinguished legal icon. His professional and private life has positively impacted everyone privileged to encounter him whether in professional or personal contexts.

As I fondly call him, My Golden Daddy, he is a father not only to his biological children but also to many of us who are not related to him by blood.

Years ago, a photography trip with Muslim Law students led by Mallam Mutiu Agboke brought me in contact with Daddy. That encounter, and the interview I witnessed, inspired me to pursue journalism and here I am today, thriving in the profession.

From that day, he became a pillar of encouragement and support. His philanthropic lifestyle has also deeply inspired me. He has consistently extended help to the sick, the vulnerable, the less privileged, students needing tuition support,

and young entrepreneurs needing startup capital.

Beyond that, he treats his staff with incredible kindness. Many notable lawyers today, like Barrister K.K. Eleja and Barrister Kayode Olateju, have passed through his tutelage. He leads with a friendly, humane, and supportive style, often treating his employees' children like his own grandchildren.

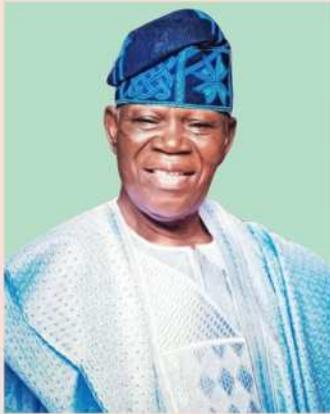


Ngeri: Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali is a great person and in all ramifications; in terms of his humility. Despite his accomplishments, he is a great person in terms of giving recognition to everyone regardless of their status in life. He is great in terms of wealth and philanthropy.

He is very deserving of this title because only a great person could take a great responsibility and honour, hence why he was bestowed with this title as the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate. We pray to God to give him a long life and sound health. I'm grateful for the opportunity given to me to say a few things about my lawyer and friend. He should continue with his actions that had endeared him to each and everyone of us. He shouldn't let this title breed some arrogance into him, he should continue his good ways of relating with everyone with respect and love. He is beloved to everyone, young and old, rich and poor. He should continue his mode of relating to everyone because that is the hallmark of a good leader.

Yusuf Ali is great in all ramifications - Oba Sulaiman Abdulazeze, Olaleye is the Alawo of Awo-Ekiti Kingdom of Ifelodun/Irepodun Local Government Area of Ekiti State. He is one of the friends of Yusuf Ali while the learned silk is his personal legal counsel. The monarch has this to say about Kuliya





His character earned him Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate - *Alhaji Mustafa Adebayo Oyero is a retired Permanent Secretary in Oyo State:* Laolu is my younger brother. According to the Yorùbá custom, we don't have cousins, one is either a brother or a sister. He is very close to me because he is likable. 'Laolu' is a complete gentleman, somebody, anybody would want to relate with. Academically brilliant and a legal luminary, in the academic,

he is a professor. In the legal profession, he has also reached the pinnacle of the legal profession as a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, which he earned, at a record time because of his brilliance.

As a human being, 'Laolu' is extremely generous. He gives so generously that his participation is noted in all spheres of life, and he doesn't discriminate. If you have any relationship with him, once he relates with you, 'Laolu' is ready to do anything within his power, materially, financially and otherwise.

Like I said, he is somebody, anybody would want to relate with once you know him. Part of his generosity, if I can mention a few. Ibadan Boys High School is our Alma Mater and it can never forget 'Laolu'. Even if as of today he stops doing anything there, what he has done so far is so remarkable that you cannot wish it away nor can you forget it.

The Mosque within the School is being built by him. Just a few weeks ago, we went to his hometown to commission the Central Mosque, which he reconstructed. Many people, when they leave their home community, they don't look back. Not only does 'Laolu' look back, he does everything. All that God gives him, he allows his home base benefit.

I also recall that a few years ago, the Mosque at Beyerunka in Ibadan where Mama worships. 'Laolu' built that mosque and it is a modern, well-moulded, well-structured Mosque. So, these are things that one can credit 'Laolu' with and there are so many others.

'Laolu' doesn't forget friends, and I'm sure all this philanthropy and generosity, being close to people, being appreciative of everybody, that must be what also culminated into this title of Kuliya Ngeri, because we are told that is the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate and that is very remarkable and historical.

I wish him a very long and healthy life for him to do far more than this in all aspects of life. I know he is notable both in his profession, in Islam and among his friends. So, I wish him the best in life. His best is yet to come and by the grace of God, he will be able to achieve far more than he has done now.

This position that was given to him by the Emir of Ilorin, by the grace of the Almighty Allah, his performance will justify that preferment.

For him choosing Ilorin as his base despite being from Ifetedo and his parents settled in Ibadan, he could as well stay in Ibadan but chose to stay in Ilorin and he made his mark and if he had been a liability to the community, he will not have this kind of position.

It is remarkable that the Emir and the Emirate council prefer him to any other person to earn this position. It is very remarkable and I think it will be a lesson to many non-natives of a particular settlement to see that if you do well honour will look for you. We should not skip that particular fact but for his character has earned him this position.

By the grace of God, he will live up to the expectation of the Emir and the Emirate Council. Inshallah.

Yusuf Ali believes in helping humanity – *Hon. Moshood Mustapha, Wakili Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate:*

We thank the Almighty Allah for making the turbaning a success story. He is someone that we see as a member and son of the Emirate, and because of his contribution to the development of the Emirate, the Emir of Ilorin, Maimartaba, realised that he is someone that actually merits this very wonderful title, and he did right to bestow the title on him. So, for us, we are all traditional title holders, and for you to be recognised among so many other qualified members of the Emirate, is something that one should thank the Almighty Allah for.

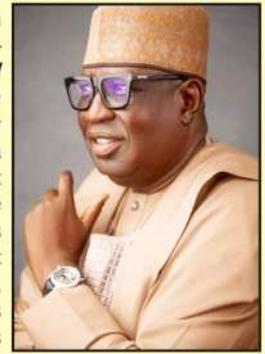
For you to be singled out and recognised, it is worth celebration. So, I'm not surprised with the level of the celebration. You can see the cream-de-la-creme of people that have come to Kwara. He is always there for people. He is a philanthropist and kind-hearted man. He is a legal luminary who does not believe in just making money out of the legal profession but helping humanity and that is the reason why people decide to stand by him.

I'm supposed to be outside the country but because of the love he has exhibited and showed to people like us, I have no choice than to stay back to make sure that I am part of the celebration, and I thank Almighty Allah that He decided to keep us alive to be able to witness and be part of the celebration.

So, may God Almighty, in His infinite mercy, keep all of us alive in good health. Let this not be the last recognition that he will receive in life. The sky is the beginning of everything good that will come his way.

May Allah grant our Emir good health and long life for giving this wonderful man and bestowing him with this very all-important Emirate traditional title. So, may God continue to replenish all our pockets and keep all of us in good health.

And we hope, by the special grace of God, more of the people of Emirate will continue to work for the good of the community.



He is a sincere brother – *Former Secretary, Ilorin West Local Government Area of Kwara State, Sulaiman Nagode:*

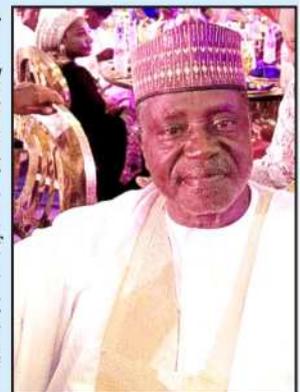
Alhamdulillah for the turbaning of Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali as the Kuliya Ngeri by His Royal Highness, Maimartaba, Emir of Ilorin, Dr Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari. May his reign be long and peaceful. May the Almighty Allah bless him and the entire city of Ilorin.

Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali is a very straightforward person, an educated friend, who myself and many others can vouch for his honesty and he is a brother. From a friend, he had become a brother and a very sincere brother indeed.

I'm glad about all that is happening to him; the turbaning and many other blessings from Allah before the turbaning and those that will come after it, Insha Allah.

May the Almighty Allah grant him long life and sound health and may He increase him in prosperity and wisdom.

May the Almighty Allah continue to guide him to reach greater heights because there is no height any human being can't reach except the height of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW).





NIMAH ALI

Today is a day of immense pride and joy for our family as we celebrate my Baaba, Professor Yusuf O. Ali (SAN) FCI Arb, on his turbaning as the First Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin.

Baaba, this honour is a reflection of the life you have lived, one built on integrity, wisdom, and an unwavering commitment to justice and service to humanity. You have always been more than just a father to me; you are a guiding light, a source of strength, and a man whose wisdom shapes not just our family, but everyone blessed to know you.

Seeing you receive this title is a testament to your impact, not just in law but in leadership, community, and culture. You have carried the values of hard work, fairness, kindness and service throughout your life, and I know you will bring the same to this new role.

I pray that Allah (SWT) continues to bless you with good health, wisdom, Rizq, and strength as you embark on this new chapter. May your reign be filled with prosperity, peace, joy and even more reasons for celebration.

I am so proud of you.

Long may you lead, Baaba.

With love and admiration.



GOODWILL MESSAGE

BAR. BARAKAH E. ALI

As I reflect on your remarkable influence-not just in my life but in the lives of countless others, including those you have never even met but whose paths Allah has destined to cross yours-I am filled with immense pride and deep gratitude for the person you are.

From you, I have learned invaluable lessons: compassion, resilience, hard work, unwavering reliance on Allah, and above all, gratitude to Him in all circumstances.

You have embraced with grace and dedication the divine role Allah bestowed upon you after August 22, 2004. Since the passing of our beloved mother in 2004, you have gone above and beyond in taking care of us, embodying what it truly means to be a father in every sense of the word. You have carried this responsibility with unwavering strength and patience. May Allah, in His infinite mercy, reward your perseverance with Jannah Amin.



In your professional life, you are a beacon of excellence, integrity, diligence, and exemplary leadership. Your dedication to service is an inspiration to many, and I pray that Allah continues to guide and bless you abundantly.

Your generosity and selfless service to humanity have culminated in this great honor of your turbaning as the First Kuliya Ngeri of the Ilorin Emirate. It is a testament to the love and respect you have earned. Many, even your close friends, sometimes forget that you are originally from Osun State because of your deep love for Ilorin and Kwara State as a whole.

Beyond your professional and personal accomplishments, your philanthropic nature has been a defining force in the lives of many. Your commitment to uplifting others – whether through educational sponsorships, community development, or direct acts of kindness-has left a lasting impact on those around you. You're quiet but your significant contributions to the less privileged, the elderly, and the youth seeking opportunities for a better future have not gone unnoticed. It is this spirit of selflessness and generosity that has earned you not just admiration but also divine blessings.

You have always believed that wealth and status are only meaningful when they are used to serve others. Your unwavering support for the growth and development of Ilorin and its people has made you a pillar of strength within the community. Whether it is funding scholarships, empowering young entrepreneurs, or contributing to infrastructural projects, your actions have continued to transform lives. This turbaning is a recognition of the immense impact you have made and the hearts you have touched.

Your philanthropic legacy is one that will endure for generations to come. The prayers of those you have helped, the smiles you have brought to faces, and the hope you have restored in people are all a testament to the goodness of your heart. This honor is not just a title but a reflection of the deep appreciation the people of Ilorin have for you.

Rania and Fakhir join in celebrating you, saying: "Congratulations, Grandpa, on this well-deserved recognition by His Royal Highness, the Emir of Ilorin, Dr. Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR." May Allah bless you with many more years in good health and prosperity as you continue your noble service to humanity.

As you are formally turbaned today, my heartfelt prayer is that Allah (SWT) grants you abundant wisdom, strength, good health, and sustenance, enabling you to continue your impactful service to humanity. Amin.

We are forever proud of you, and we pray that Allah reunites us all in Al-Jannatul Firdaus. Amin Ya Allah.

With boundless love and appreciation.



DR. SURURAH ALI

Dear Papa,

Aihamdulillah! Today marks a truly special moment as you are turbaned as the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin-a well-deserved honour that reflects your unwavering dedication, wisdom, and service. Words cannot express how proud and grateful I am for all that you do for us. You have given us wings to soar, the strength to stand tall, and the freedom to be ourselves.

I am immensely grateful to Allah for making you the man you are-strong, wise, and a constant source of guidance and inspiration.

Your life has been a blessing not just to us, but to the entire Ummah, and I pray that Allah continues to elevate you and grant you His endless favour.

May Allah continue to bless you abundantly, grant you good health, wisdom, and countless more successes. This is just another testament to the remarkable person you are, and I couldn't be prouder to call you my father.

Congratulations, Dad! May this new title bring you even greater fulfillment and blessings.

With love and endless gratitude.



DR. YUSUF O. ALI (JNR)

“Indeed Almighty Allah is the best planner” - I could not think of a more appropriate way to start this tribute to Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN - the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate, my father, confidant, mentor and most importantly friend.

I recall the many failed attempts to get you to accept traditional titles in the past. All your previous rejections make the timing of this conferment by High Highness, Maimartaba, Emir of Ilorin Dr. Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari (CFR) perfect because it solidifies your transition from being just a consummate Learned Silk to a community leader for the Ilorin Emirate and an elder statesman in the whole of Nigeria.

I am convinced that the story of how a young man from Ifetedo was brought to Ilorin by the divine planning of Almighty Allah over four decades ago has grown to become a core component of the cultural fabric of Ilorin Emirate, and a great ambassador of the very best of this storied town whose journey will continue to be studied for years to come. And thanks in no small part to your immeasurable contributions to Ilorin, we, your children have become first generation indigenes of Kwara State.

I am confident that many other goodwill messages will attest to your kindness and unwavering commitment to help anyone that comes along your path. From my vantage point and having had the privilege of observing you from close quarters, I can indeed confirm you are a man of the people; a man with incredible social energy and enviable dexterity that allows him to walk with the crowd and keep your virtue while also walking with Kings without losing your common touch.

As you assume the role of Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate, I pray that Almighty Allah will continue to grant you the financial and intellectual capacity as well as the compassion and guidance that will enable you to sustain the good works you have done to indigenes of our dear Ilorin and citizens across Nigeria.

Congratulations Baba - 1st Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin.





HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS



I, Abdulfatai Salman Bakini, Esq. extend my heartfelt congratulations to my dear brother and esteemed boss on his well-deserved turbaning as the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin by His Royal Highness, the Emir of Ilorin, Maimartaba Alhaji (Dr) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR the Emir of Ilorin, on the 11th of April, 2025.

This prestigious honour is a testament to your unwavering dedication to human development, your professional excellence, and your selfless contributions to the growth of society. Your leadership, integrity, and commitment continue to inspire many, and this recognition is truly befitting of your noble efforts.

It is my sincere prayer that Almighty Allah blesses you with wisdom, strength, and greater success in this new role. May He grant you good health and continued grace to serve our community with distinction.

Once again, congratulations, Sir, our very own Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin!

SIGNED
ABDULFATAI SALMAN BAKINI, ESQ.
Ghalib Chambers



*Honour
Well
Deserved!*

PROF. YUSUF O. ALI, SAN

Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate

On behalf of my family & I, Management & Staff of SOBI 101.9FM and the Rebirth Family, I felicitate you on your choice as Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate.

It is incontrovertible that our royal father, the Emir of Ilorin and Chairman, Kwara State Council of Chiefs, Mai Martaba, Alhaji (Dr) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR bestowed on you the prestigious traditional title due to your meritorious service to the Almighty Allah and humanity.

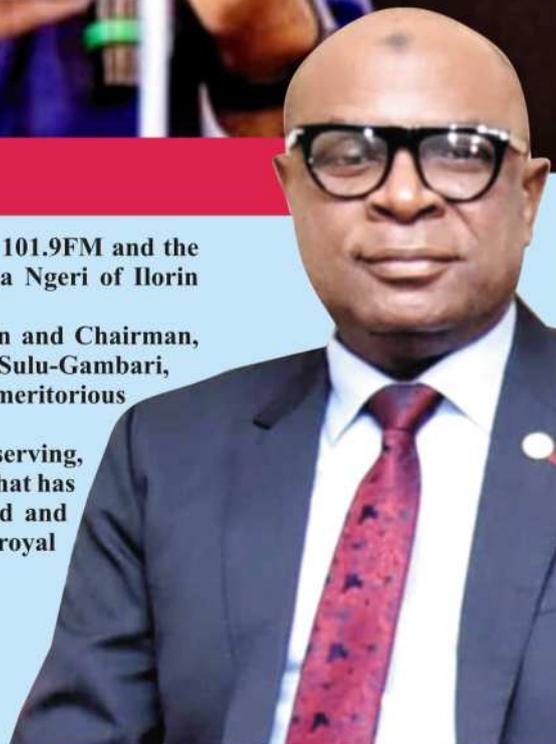
Everyone that has keenly observed you know that this is well deserving, taking into cognizance the last three decades of your legal practice that has made you tick among your contemporaries. For me, you merited and deserved all accolades that attracted your appointment from our royal father. This is truly a well deserved honour for our legal giant.

May the Almighty Allah preserve you for us and humanity.

SIGNED

MALLAM LUKMAN OLAYIWOLA MUSTAPHA

Baraden Okuta and Otunba of Oro-Ago
Chairman, Board of Trustees of Sobi101.9FM, Ilorin





BIG CONGRATULATIONS!!!



On behalf of my family, I congratulate our legal giant, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN on his turbaning as Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate.

It is enamouring that our royal father, Emir of Ilorin and Chairman, Kwara State Council of Chiefs, Maimartaba, Dr Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR has found Professor Ali worthy of the covetous traditional title, and I'm confident that he would live up to expectations of the people of the Emirate.

Once again, I congratulate our Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate and pray that he would reap the fruits of his sacrifices and services to the Almighty

SIGNED

PROF ABDULRASHEED NA'ALLAH

*Immediate-Past, Vice-Chancellor, University of Abuja, and
Pioneer Vice-Chancellor, Kwara State University, Malete*





Congratulations

ON YOUR

TURBANING!!!

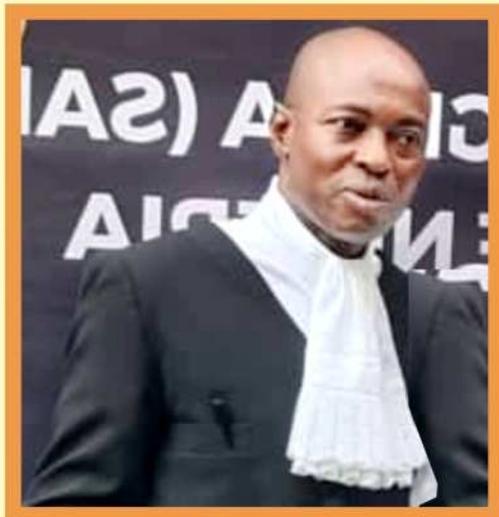
I, Mumini Hanafi, SAN, a Senior Partner at Hanafi & Associates, Legal Practitioners, extend my heartfelt congratulations to my esteemed senior colleague and brother, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, on his well-deserved turbaning as the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin by our father, the Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji (Dr) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, on the 11th of April, 2025.

This prestigious title is a testament to your unwavering dedication to the legal profession, your immense contributions to community development, and your lifelong commitment to justice, mentorship, and advocacy for peace. You have been a beacon of excellence, a source of inspiration to many in the legal field, and a guiding light for numerous mentees who continue to thrive under your tutelage.

Your leadership, wisdom, and passion for service have not gone unnoticed, and this honor further solidifies your place as a pillar of both the legal and traditional institutions of our great community.

As you take on this new responsibility, I pray that Almighty Allah grants you the strength, wisdom, and grace to excel in your role. May your tenure bring continued progress, peace, and prosperity to Ilorin and beyond.

Once again, congratulations, the Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin!



Signed:

Mumini Ishola Hanafi, SAN

*Senior Partner,
Hanafi & Associates*





All Hail the 1st Kuliya Ngeri OF ILORIN EMIRATE!

On behalf of my family and Chamber, I, Barrister Salisu Ahmed, extend my heartfelt congratulations to my esteemed senior learned colleague, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, on his well-deserved turbaning as the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin by the Emir of Ilorin and Chairman of the Kwara State Traditional Rulers Council, His Royal Highness, Alhaji (Dr) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR on the 11th of April, 2025.

Sir, your dedication to the legal profession, your unwavering commitment to mentoring young lawyers, and your immense contributions to the growth and development of Ilorin, Kwara State, and Nigeria at large have not gone unnoticed. This prestigious traditional title is a testament to your selfless service, integrity, and remarkable achievements. It is also a renewed call to continue your invaluable contributions to the Ilorin Emirate and beyond.

As you step into this esteemed role, I pray that Almighty Allah grants you wisdom, strength, and divine guidance to discharge your new responsibilities with excellence and grace. May your reign as the Kuliya Ngeri bring greater progress, unity, and prosperity to the Ilorin Emirate.

Congratulations once again, sir!

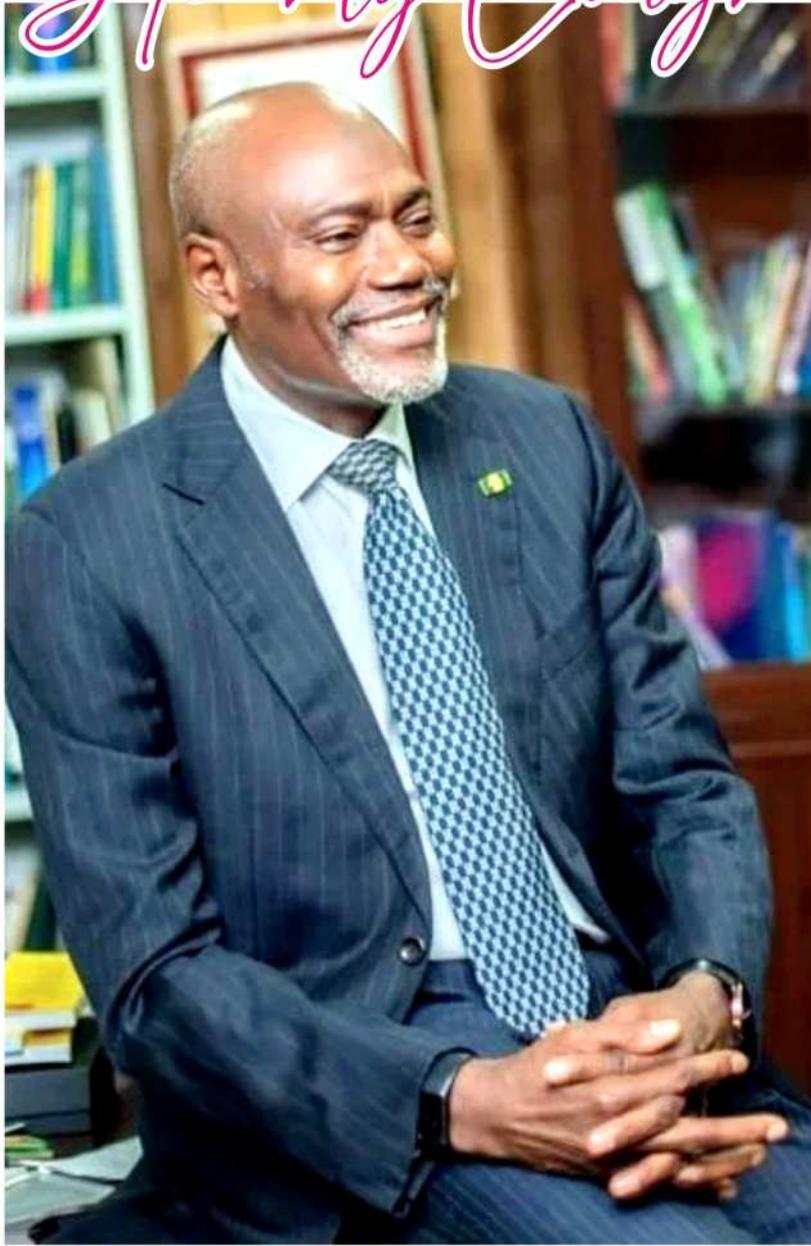
SIGNED

Barrister Salisu Ahmed





Hearty Congratulations!!!



On behalf of myself, family, management of Raihanah Schools and Ribodek Integrated Services, Adewole Area of Ilorin, I felicitate Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali on his official turbaning as Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin Emirate.

I have no doubt that your choice for the traditional title in Ilorin Emirate is in recognition of your remarkable achievements as a legal luminary and in community service.

It is my prayer to the Almighty Allah that you continue to be relevant in the scheme of things.

Signed:

Dr Mahroof Abiola Adekilekun

Chairman/CEO,

Raihanah Schools and Ribodek Integrated Services



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PHOTO SPEAKS





SAN decries erosion of Nigerian cultural values

By Mahmood Alaya

A Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali (SAN), has raised concerns over the gradual erosion of Nigeria's rich cultural values due to the overwhelming influence of foreign cultures.

In an interview with **Our Event Magazine** crew at his office, Ola-Olu Ali, who is also a Professor of Letters at the Federal University, Oye-Ekiti, cautioned parents against allowing their children to grow up and settle permanently in Europe or other foreign countries.

According to him, such children often become disconnected from their roots, leading to a loss of familial ties.

"I always tell people that if they allow their children to grow up and stay abroad, they have lost them. That's why, in many cases, when their parents pass away, these children won't even return home to pay their last respects", he warned.

He also advised parents to reconsider their desire to send their children abroad permanently, emphasising the importance of staying in Nigeria to contribute to its growth and development.

"If your ambition is to take your children abroad for good, don't even try it, Nigeria belongs to us. We won't run away; instead, we will work together to

make it better. We have nowhere else to go", he said.

Reflecting on his upbringing, Olaolu Ali recounted the sense of communal living that defined his childhood.

"As the first grandson in my extended family, I grew up in my grandfather's house alongside many other children. In our family, my grandfather had three brothers and a sister. All the children lived together in the family house, except my grandfather's immediate brother, who resided in Ilorin. There was no distinction between cousins and siblings; we were simply brothers and sisters," he recalled.

He also shared a vivid memory of how family meals were a unifying experience, saying that "I remember my great-grandfather's grave was right outside the house, demarcated with blocks. Every evening, during dinner, all the children would gather around it. We would sit together, place our meals, whether it was amala or eba on the grave, and eat from the same plate, one after the other. Rice wasn't common then, so we ate what was available. That was the

culture we grew up with."

ate what was available. That was the culture we grew up with."

According to him, he maintained this tradition within his own family.

"When my children were younger, before they all went their separate ways, they would sit with us and eat together alongside their cousins. Even now, I can hardly eat alone. That was the way our society was, it fostered unity and a sense of belonging."

He, however, lamented that today's society has strayed far from these communal values, embracing an individualistic lifestyle that weakens family bonds.

"The society has become too fragmented. Everyone now lives like a leopard, isolated and detached from one another," he said with dismay.

He urged Nigerians to rediscover the essence of togetherness, stressing that rebuilding strong family ties and cultural values is essential for the nation's progress.

"We must return to the values that once defined us. Our strength lies in our unity, not in abandoning our roots for foreign influences."

...breaks silence on professorial elevation

An Ilorin-based Legal Giant, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, has broken his silence on the circumstance surrounding his appointment as a Professor of Practice at the Federal University, Oye-Ekiti.

Professor Ali, who is a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, spoke in an interview with Journalists at his Ghalib Chambers, Ilorin.

According to him, a lot of people are not aware of his sterling academic excellence as they are only familiar with his profound legal practice.

The Senior Advocate of Nigeria, who is also the Kuliyan of Ilorin Emirate, revealed that he has been teaching in the Faculty of Law, University of Ilorin since 1998 pro-bono, all geared toward mentoring and

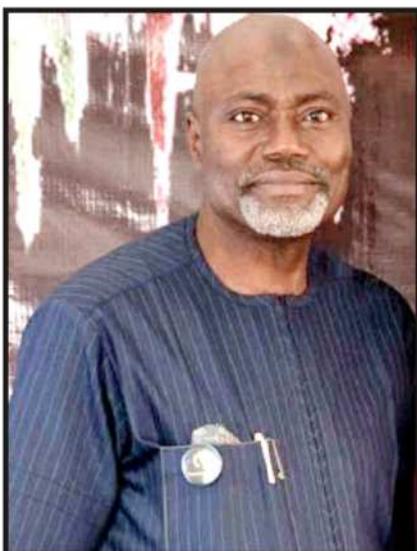
offering guidance to potential lawyers.

He disclosed that he has more than 60 academic publications in local and international journals to his credit.

The legal giant also confirmed that he had delivered over 300 papers both on legal and non legal issues in Nigeria and beyond.

Professor Ali explained that he also authored three books as his academic prowess could be authenticated through online google scholar.

He noted that his appointment as Professor of Practice at the Federal University, Oye-Ekiti was a surprise as the institution conducted its findings before the Senate of the University bestowed on him the professorial honour.





Legal Luminary, Prof. Yusuf Ali Bagged OAU Excellence in Research Practice Award 2024

Legal luminary and astute scholar, Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali (SAN) has been conferred with the prestigious Excellence in Research Practice Award 2024 by the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

The Excellence in Research Practice Award, with its maiden edition in 2023, is bestowed upon a distinguished alumnus of the institution, who has demonstrated exceptional contributions to knowledge-based accomplishments, both nationally and globally.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Adebayo Simeon Bamire, described Prof. Ali as a worthy ambassador of the institution, adding that the honour is in recognition of his continued success and contributions to the academic community and society at large.

The award presentation and celebration, held at the Oduduwa Hall of the institution was attended by eminent personalities from various walks of life.

Among those in attendance were the pioneer Vice-Chancellor of the Osun State University who also was the keynote speaker, Prof. Shola Akinrinade; Vice-Chancellor of the Kwara State University, Malete, Professor Shaykh-Luqman Alade Jimoh; Vice-Chancellor of Fountain University, Osogbo, Professor Olayinka Ramota Karim and former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Abuja, Prof. AbdulRasheed Na'Allah.

Royal fathers including the Emir of Ilorin, Ibrahim Sulu Gambari who was represented; the Olubosin of Ifetedo, Oba Akinola Oyetade Akinrera Latiiri I; Ogunsua of Modakeke Oba Olubiye Toriola among others were also in

attendance.

Prof Ali was honoured alongside over 300 best students of the institution from all departments tagged "The OAU Stars" for the year 2024 for whom he was entrusted with the role of mentorship and guidance.



In his acceptance speech, Prof Yusuf Ali (SAN) expressed gratitude to the Almighty Allah for His doings in his life while extending appreciation to the University management for finding him worthy of the very special recognition.

He described his life achievements as results of both personal efforts and contributions from people he meets on the way.

"Receiving this award is not a reflection of my individual efforts, but testament to support, guidance, mentorship, encouragement and inspiration that I have received from my teachers, mentors, family and peers.

"It is a reminder that success is not a solidarity pursuit but a collaborative effort that requires a village of supporters to lift you up, cheer you on, drum support for you and believe in your potentials," he said.

Yusuf Ali, who hails from Ifetedo in Ife South Local Government Area of Osun State, is an accomplished legal educator and practitioner, spanning over four decades and counting.

He began his Legal career in the year 1983 with his call to the Nigerian Bar when he joined the Law Firm of Adegboyega Awololo & Co where he worked for eleven years before founding Yusuf Ali & Co christened Ghalib Chambers, a law firm headquartered in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.

In June 2024, Ghalib Chambers marked its 30

Years Anniversary, an event attended by crème de la crème in the society including Nigeria's Vice President, Senator Kashim Shettima, the Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Olukayode Ariwoola, among others.





PHOTO NEWS





Yusuf Ali Foundation donates books to governments of Kwara, Osun

In a bid to support the educational development efforts of the governments of Kwara and Osun States, Prof Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN through his foundation, Yusuf Olaolu Ali Foundation, has donated 20,000 copies of customized exercise books to indigent students in both states.

Speaking during the presentation of 10,000 exercise books to the Kwara State commissioner for Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, Hajia Sa’adat

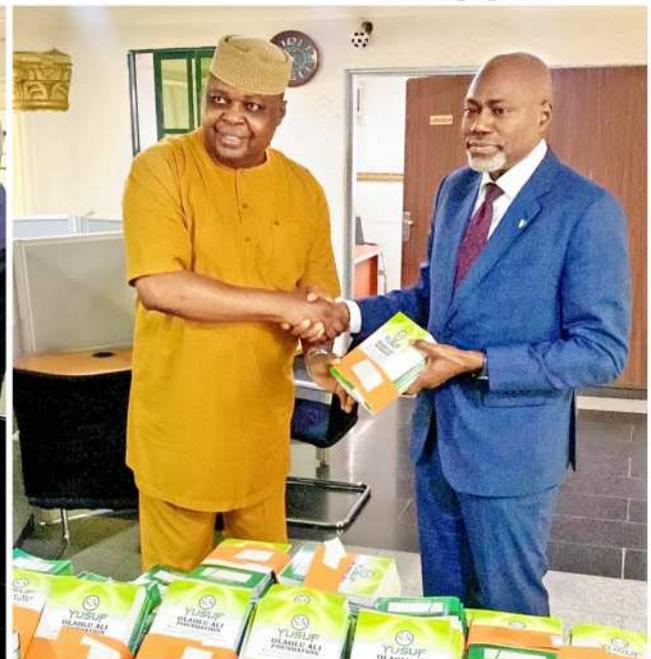
Modibbo Kawu, and other officials of the state government in Ilorin, Ali (SAN) said that the gesture was aimed at complementing efforts of the state government on educational development and to ease plight of the poor.

The legal icon, who said that the foundation was committed to educational development, added that the organisation is dedicated to development of humanity through improvement of quality of life of Nigerians.

He said, “The foundation was founded by this servant of Allah, in 2009, to formalise the various interventions to indigent citizens of Nigeria, with special focus on areas of healthcare, education, enlightenment and feeding of the poor, to mention but a few.

“The foundation has taken practical steps in its different areas of intervention to ease the plight of the poor. In the area of healthcare for instance, the foundation has

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Yusuf Ali Foundation donates books to governments of Kwara, Osun

built a Trauma Centre, a Renal Dialysis Centre, renovated a part of a General Hospital and assisted over 600 patients to settle hospital bills within and outside of Nigeria over the years.

"In education, the foundation awards annual scholarships to a specified number of students in Ilorin, Kwara State and Ifetedo Osun State. It has also built E-Resource Centre, E-Library and hostels in several higher institutions of learning in the country.

"It also has an annual scholarship for the payment of WAEC and NECO fees of 50 indigent students of Ibadan Boys' High School in Ibadan and also supports indigent Law students to settle part of their law school fees, to mention but a few.

"Today, we are handing over 10,000 exercise books to the Government of Kwara State, to be distributed among students in the state, as the Honourable Commissioner for Education may deem fit. It is our hope that this little effort will ginger and galvanise better endowed persons to also contribute to the development of education in Nigeria".

Also speaking, the state commissioner for Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, Hajia Sa'adat Modibbo Kawu, appreciated the organisation for the gesture, which she said would assist the government, indigent students and their parents.

The commissioner, who said that donations from corporate organisations and individuals had reduced in recent past, especially, after COVID-19 interventions, adding that the donation by the Yusuf Olaolu Ali Foundation would complement efforts of the state government on education.

She disclosed that the exercise books would be distributed majorly to rural areas in the state, and she prayed to God to enable the donor with more ideas to benefit humanity.

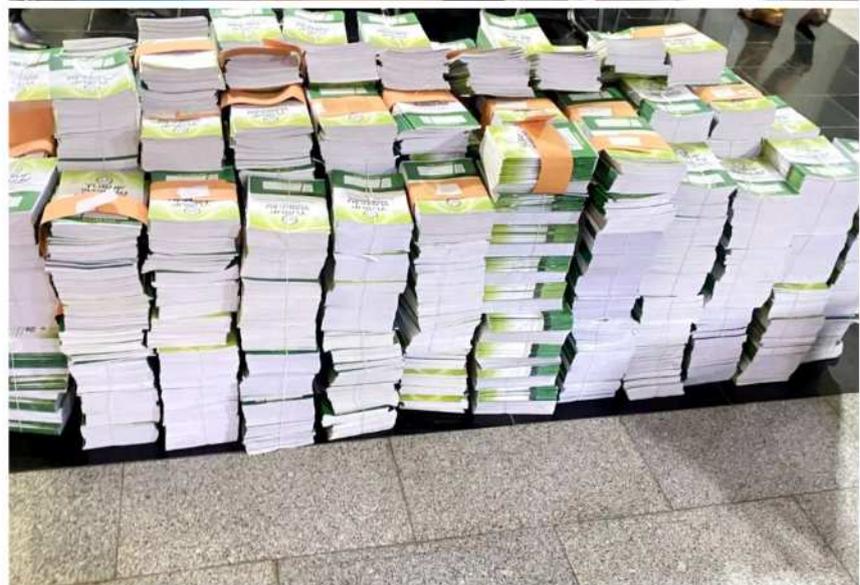
Hajia Modibbo, however, asked for more support like Oliver Twist because the government alone cannot do everything needed by the residents because of limited resources.

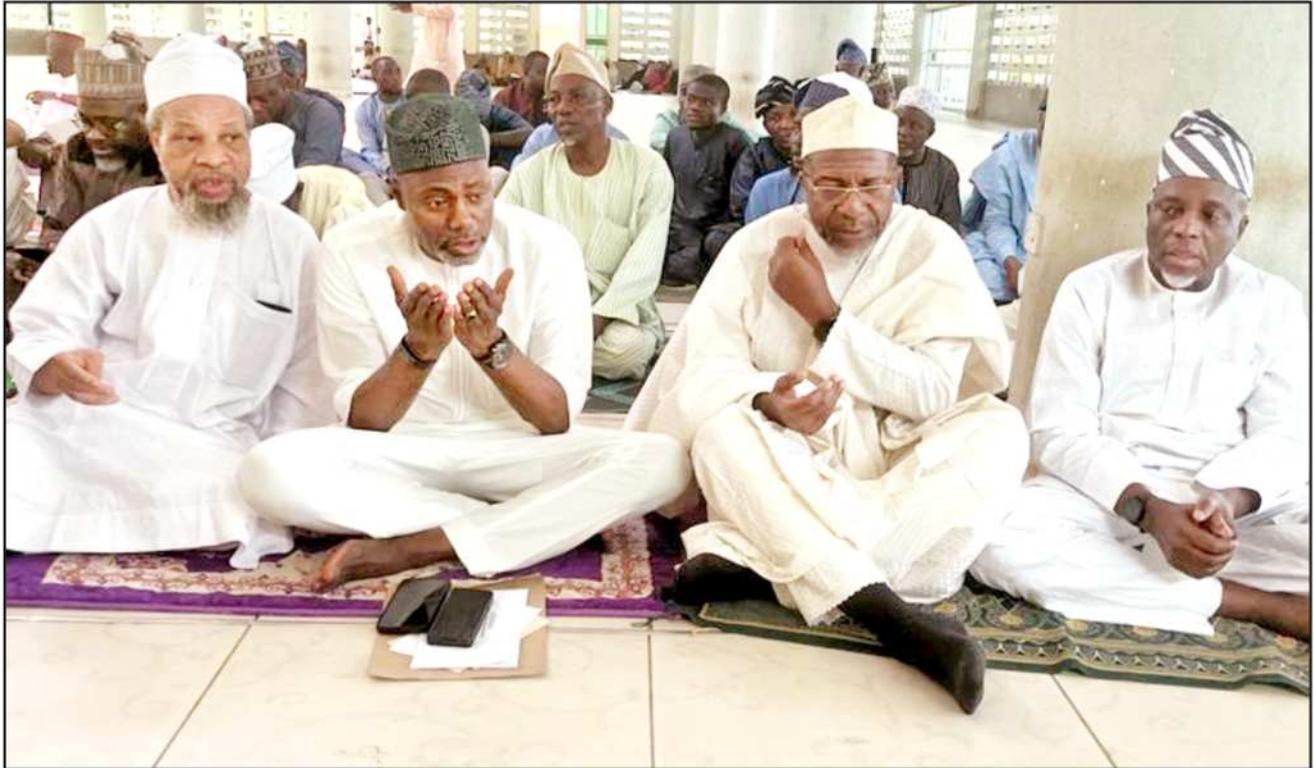
She said, "This donation truly mean a lot to us, not only in the ministry but as a government. We all know what the economy is saying, there have been complaints about inability to pay school fees.

"So, this kind gesture will go far in assisting the parents and guardians in the educational pursuit of their wards. We therefore thank you immensely for this kind donation. I will direct that these books be given to children in the rural areas for

obvious reasons.

"Like Oliver Twist, will be asking for more because government alone cannot do all because of the limited resources, we will therefore appreciate further intervention sir."





(L-R) Former Deputy Governor of Ondo State, Alhaji Musa Ayeni; Prof Yusuf Olaolu Ali (SAN); Suv Hassan Elias and JAMB Registrar, Prof Ishaq Oloyede, during prayer and reception in honour of Yusuf Ali at the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife

All hail professorial attainment of Yusuf Ali, SAN

All roads led to the Central Mosque, Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife where prayer and reception were held to celebrate the appointment of Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN as Professor of Practice by the Federal University, Oye-Ekiti (FUOYE).

The quality and size of attendance at the two-in-one ceremony was a testimonial of the towering figure the awardee has become in the society, especially in the legal profession and academia globally.

The gathering was facilitated by Mallam Ali's mentor, retired Emeritus Professor Omar Rahaman, a renowned Professor of Geology. It was a day filled with reminiscences, encomiums, banter and words of admonition for younger generation.

For Prof Rahaman, it was a payback as Ali had hosted a similar reception for him in 1987 when he was promoted Professor of Geology by the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

A Professor of Medicine and Chief Imam of OAU Central Mosque, Abubakar Sanusi who anchored the prayer session said the Senior

Advocate of Nigeria was well deserving of the elevation as a Professor of Practice as well as the honour done him by Professor Rahaman and all those who attended the event.

Registrar of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) and former Vice Chancellor of University of Ilorin, Prof Ishaq Oloyede, shared Prof Sanusi's views concerning the awardee.

He disclosed that Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN had indeed been lecturing at the Faculty of Law, University of Ilorin for the past 25 years out of passion.

Thus, both Professors Sanusi and Oloyede said the elevation was a fulfilment of Allah's design for Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN.

The duo and other speakers at both the prayer session and the reception urged all and sundry to learn from the honouree's devotion to selfless service, philanthropy and abiding faith in Almighty Allah.

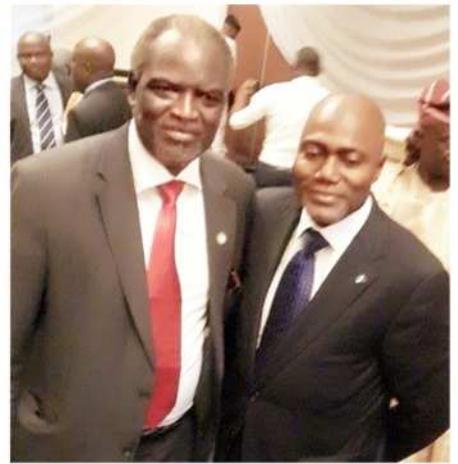
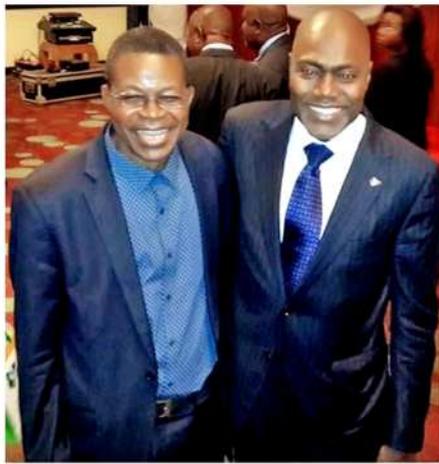
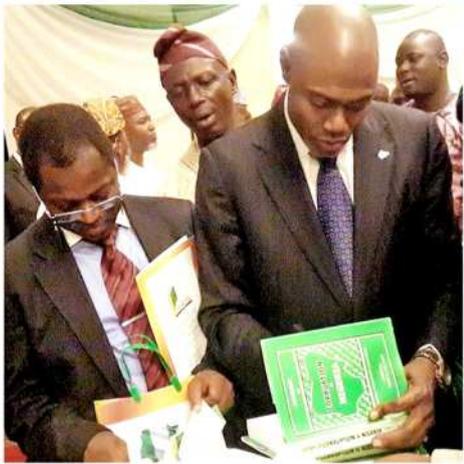
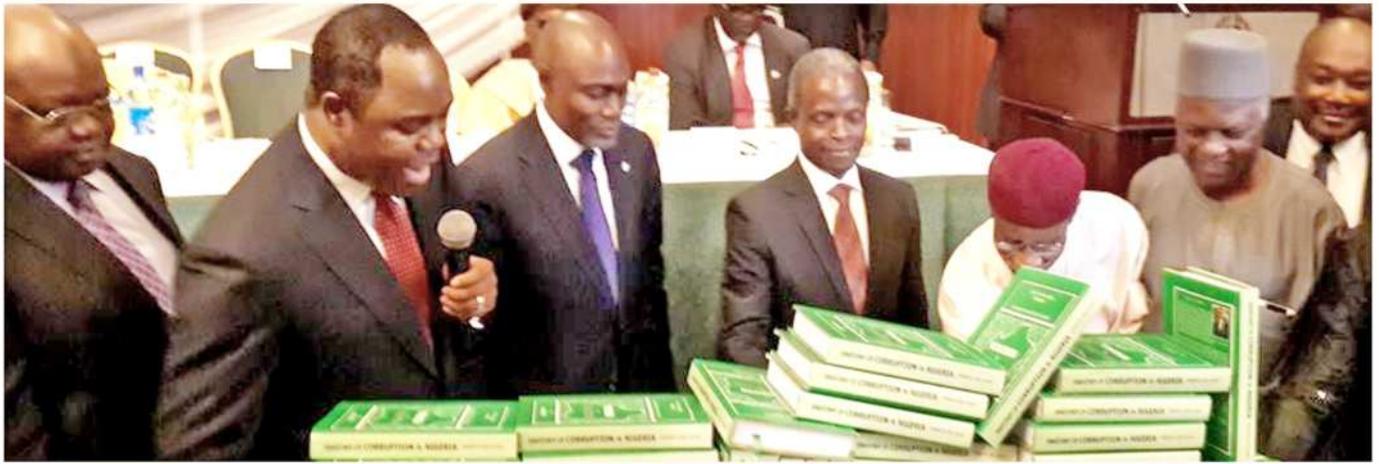
Vice-Chancellor of FUOYE, Prof. Abayomi Sunday Fasina, while justifying the appointment of Mallam

Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN described him as a rare breed.

He added that the appointment would lift FUOYE's Faculty of Law to prominence given Ali's vast knowledge of law, erudition and enormous expansion of knowledge in legal practice, spanning over four decades.

Prof Fasina stressed that "with his new position, he would be required to deliver lectures to our students on procedural and substantive law periodically both online and offline. With his publication of 40 papers in law journals and 20 chapter contributions in books, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, is no doubt qualified to be given the award."

The new Professor of Practice of Law gained admission to University of Ife, Ile-Ife (now OAU) in 1978 and graduated with a 2nd Class Upper Division for his Bachelor of Laws degree and was a winner of the Federal Merit Award for undergraduates. He bagged his Masters degree, also in flying colours, from the same university in 1991 and became a Senior Advocate of Nigeria in 1997.





(R-L) Chairman/Chief Executive of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, (NDLEA), Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (ret'd), decorating Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN with official crest of the Agency, during a country visit.

Why I'm mobilising support for NDLEA – Yusuf Ali

Legal luminary and Life Member, Body of Benchers, Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN has expressed his preparedness to mobilise his professional friends in support of the essential work being done by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, (NDLEA) in the interest of socio-economic development of the country.

The legal icon made the commitment recently, during a courtesy visit to the Chairman/Chief Executive of

the Agency, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Retd) in Abuja.

Ali, who is the Principal Partner of Ghalib Chambers, Ilorin and the founder and sole financier of the Yusuf Olaolu Ali Foundation, said his decision to support NDLEA was borne out of his appreciation of the good works Marwa is leading his officers and men to do for the country as well as his conviction that overcoming Nigeria's drug scourge is key to solving the security challenges facing the

nation.

While commending Marwa for recalibrating NDLEA and making it an effective frontline agency, the pioneer Chairman of the NBA Anti-corruption Commission expressed readiness to support the agency either at personal or official levels to ensure the drug war is given priority that it deserves by his professional friends.

Yusuf Olaolu Ali is one of the most decorated lawyers in the history of Nigeria. He has over 100 awards presented to him at home and abroad.

He is a member, Nigerian Bar Association, International Bar Association, American Bar Association, Commonwealth Lawyers Association; among others.

In his response, Marwa thanked him for the visit. He said whatever has been achieved in NDLEA has been largely due to the support and commitment of the officers and men of the Agency. He said the Agency would hold further talks with the legal luminary on areas of assistance, especially in the prosecution of some high profile cases in court.

The NDLEA boss seized the opportunity to decorate the SAN as a War Against Drug Abuse, WADA Special Ambassador.





Promote strong institutions not strong men - Yusuf Ali

Nigerians corrupt their leaders We must change our attitude

Can you tell us your background?

I was born in the mid 50s and I had a normal youthful life. I went to primary school, modern school and then worked before I proceeded for my secondary education. My father was a civil servant. He was about 90 when we lost him in May 2017. My mother is alive, glory be to God. She would be (80) this year. She has been a trader and housewife all her life since I knew her.

I'm a very lucky Nigerian. I have some level of blood relationship in three places, Ibadan, Ilorin and Osun State, and I try to keep homes in the three places. As a matter of fact, my father lived all his life in Ibadan and so it appears my mother now too. There were six of us in the family; the first three of us were boys and the last three girls. We lost my immediate brother in December 2003, thereby leaving two of us boys and three girls. The last born of my parents is in her 50s.

I grew in the extended family where nobody knew somebody else mother. Of course, I was the first grandchild in my grandfather's house and I grew up with my paternal grandmother, whose mother was a Fulani woman from Ilorin. I went to Ansaru-Deen Primary School at Ifetedo, Osun State. After leaving primary school, I went to L.A Modern School in the same place because I was living with my paternal grandmother at that time, she, apparently, didn't know there was any other school other than that. Her cousin was the Headmaster of the modern school; they just took me there after primary school.

Later, my own plan then was that after modern school, I would go to Grade II Teachers College and become a teacher because in those days, teaching was the most respected

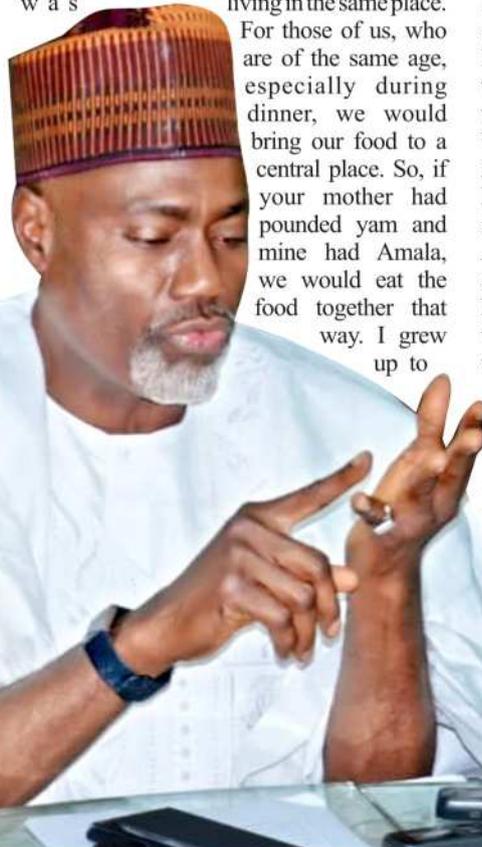
profession. So, to be called a teacher's child, it was like being called the child of the Head of State or the President. After leaving modern school, I worked and then permanently moved to

Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali, Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), is a front-line legal luminary whose practice in the covetous profession spanned almost 40 years. A highly cerebral legal icon, Ali is reputed for his vast knowledge in constitution and critical areas in the profession. He spoke to the trio of TUNDE AKANBI, LANRE AHMED and MAHMOOD ALAYA, on his legal sojourn. Excerpts:

Ibadan in 1971 and went to Ibadan Boys High School for my secondary education. I left Boys High School slightly after my 21st birthday in 1977.

I worked briefly and entered the then University of Ife now Obafemi Awolowo University. I graduated in Ife in 1982 with a Second Class Upper and I was a University Scholar on National Merit Award Winner as an undergraduate. I also went to Nigerian Law School, which was only in Lagos and also came out with a Second Class Upper.

The memory of those days, especially as a very young person, was the act of communal living. Everybody including nephew, cousin



were living in the same place. For those of us, who are of the same age, especially during dinner, we would bring our food to a central place. So, if your mother had pounded yam and mine had Amala, we would eat the food together that way. I grew up to

like that kind of living.

When my children were still young with cousins and nephews, we used to eat dinner together; we put the food inside a big tray with soup if it was swallow (food) we are going to eat. And we all sit round it like when we were in Madrasat (Arabic School). We ate and I enjoyed it. I think it is part of why I like having people around me eating. So, I hardly can eat alone; it is very rare. Even if I want to take breakfast in my office, three or more people would join me. And anytime I travel with my colleagues and friends, we will ensure we eat together. I think it promotes some sense of good neighbourliness.

It was said that you started your secondary school at the age of 19. What led to that?

It was because I went to Primary School late. I went to modern school for three years, then worked before I went to secondary school.

Where were you working then?

I was working as a clerk in a cement shop.

Did you work in many places before starting on your own?

After secondary school, I then got employed as a Clerical Officer in the then Oyo State Ministry of Finance and I got posted to a village called Igbo Ora near Eruwa, where I was a clerical officer in the tax office. That one I did, and in the first quarter of 1978, I came back to Ibadan and started work at Lagelu Grammar School. Initially, I was teaching but after sometime, I took up the job of a Laboratory Attendant in the Chemistry Laboratory. That was what I did until I gained admission into University of Ife toward the end of 1978.

You are a reputable philanthropist. What really inspired your philanthropic activities?

I give that glory and honour to God. I always tell people, whatever Allah wants to use you for, He makes it easy for you to do. I believe that is a part Allah

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I worked as clerk in cement shop – Yusuf Ali

has trodden for me. But at the human angle, I have been very lucky that those who are my immediate family in terms of my parents, my late wife and my children, are my encouraging forces. For example, even when my parents didn't have certain things, if I told them I wanted to do something for another person, they wouldn't say no.

And I also recollect my wife. For the 20 years we were married until Allah called her, I have not recalled an occasion when she asked me personal material things for herself. But she could ask me assistance for so many people. And I recall, there was a time I bought Mercedes 300 V Booth, and I asked her to change it with hers. She appreciated me. A few days after, she said why didn't you give this car to this person, somebody, who was my junior in the office. She said it is because the person travels a lot. That is exactly what I did. I gave the car out to the person.

And then my children. They will say we have all contributed some money for this person, what can you do to help too. So, when you have those kind of people around you, who encourage you to do what they think is right, it is easier for you to do. If I wake up tomorrow and say I want to buy aircraft and give it to somebody, my children would not say Daddy don't do it; they would rather encourage me.

So many people have advocated a comprehensive review of the 1999 Constitution currently in use.

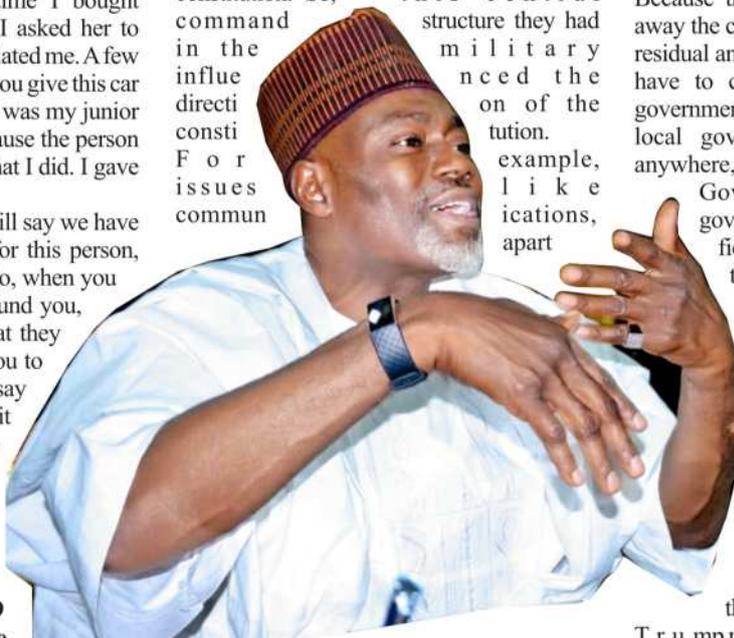
As a reputable constitutional lawyer, what part of the legal document would you say require urgent attention?

Let me take you through historical journey. In the First Republic, when we had Parliamentary System of government with Republican Constitution of 1963, we had three items in it namely exclusive legislative list, concurrent legislative list and residual legislative list. The exclusive legislative list was meant for issues that only federal government could deal with such as monetary, defence, external affairs. Even external affairs was on concurrent. In the First Republic, you would recall that both the Western, Northern and Eastern Regions had representatives in England who were actually like Ambassadors representing their regions.

Then, you have the concurrent legislative list, which contained issues on which both the federal government and the states (could deal with). You have the residual legislative list, which only the region could deal with. Now, with the coming into effect of the 1979

Constitution, we adopted the Presidential System of government. Unfortunately, this part of our constitutional development was jettisoned. We now have only exclusive legislative list and concurrent legislative list.

And to make matter worse, items that were originally in the concurrent list in the old constitution were promoted to exclusive legislative list. Of course, we need to understand it was the military that midwived the constitution. Unfortunately in 1999 too, it was also the military that midwived the constitution. So, this central command structure they had in the military need the influence of the direct command on of the constitution. For example, like issues communications, apart



from external communication, should be something that anybody could go into. Security cannot be centralised. No federal system anywhere in the world does that except here (Nigeria). That is why in England and US, you have county police; the equivalent of our own local government here. So, the country is too big and complex. And Nigeria Police is trying to address that at a time by saying anybody from the rank of Superintendent or something would be posted to their local governments of origin. But that is not likely to work.

I think the country is too large for us to have a centralised system of policing. Then, it took a lot of time before universities or high institutions got decentralised. That is why the federal government is apparently too powerful for the component parts, and that is why the struggle to be at the centre is absolutely interecine, because of the overloaded legislative list in favour of the federal government.

The same thing happens to the revenue allocation formula. federal government goes away with more than 50 percent of all the revenue accruing to the country. So, it is like handling handout to the other components or tiers of government. These are serious areas we must look at. And then let us do the constitution so that there will be a residual list. Now, because the states don't have things to do, they look for markets that are traditional things for local governments. Others are motor parks, waste disposal, television and bicycle licensing.

Because the federal government had taken away the chunk of the things that were on the residual and concurrent lists, the states would have to come to those (meant for local governments). And that is why the presence of local governments is virtually not felt anywhere, apart from the problems of Governors that have seen local governments as part of their own fiefdoms. So, we have serious areas that we have to address.

And for me, citizenship in this country should be tied to residency. In any serious country that wants integration when you have heterogeneous people, you can't base it on local government or state of origin. The only thing is that once you take a right in a particular place, you can't take another right in another place. That is how it is in a country like US, until the coming of (President Donald)

Trump now, who himself is a descendant of an immigrant trying to block roads for other immigrants....

For me, these are issues we must look at. Because the problem of indigenes and settlers had caused Nigeria a lot of lives and property and destabilisation in so many places. If truly we want to build a united country that we would call a nation, that is the path to go.

Don't you think state police, as being canvassed, may turn into a willing tool in the hands of state governors?

It is our attitude that is the problem. Amachree was a journalist in the South Eastern State that Spiff said should be shaved with a broken bottle, because he criticized the man on his birthday. Our attitude to governance must change. I used to belong to that School of Thought because I was old enough to know the usage to which local government and Native Authority Police were put in the North and the South in this country in the First Republic. It was only in 1968 that they were all merged to

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Citizenship should be tied to residency – Yusuf Ali

become Nigeria Police during the time of General Yakubu Gowon. Before then, there was local government police in the South and Native Authority Police in the North.

I was aware and still know that those outfits were used to hound political opponents both in the North and in the South. It was fashionable at that time that you will go and take the dead body of a baby and dump at your opponent's backyard, and then you charge him to court for committing murder. That thing was part of our history, but I think we have gone past that now and made some progress over time.

Ordinarily, I used to oppose the creation of state police but having regard to the reality on ground, we need state police. Every time, you hear governors saying we have bought hundred vehicles for police, we are empowering them, buying Armoured Personnel Carrier. If it (state police) is the only thing, let us make sure we have the rules. One, no state police will have extra territorial authority. If Kwara State has its own police, they cannot go and operate in Ekiti. And that is the way it is in all federal system. The Army, Navy and Air Force can be there for federal government just like in the US.

Once in a while, some of those states (police) want to create problem too. In the US, government will send marines to the states. It is my prayer and hope that the political class will get matured and know that power is ephemeral. The winner takes all attitude in our politics is a problem, and this is because our politics is too monetised. People spend everything they have and borrow to get to power. So, it is a matter of recouping; that is the way it is to many of them.

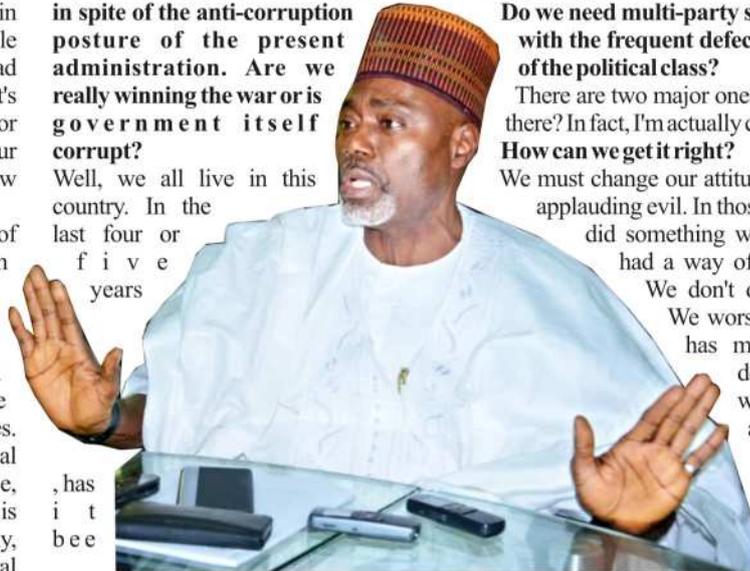
I have told people, our politics is too expensive. Start from the time you want nomination as a candidate, the kind of humongous money you heard being distributed to delegates and teams, it makes you feel sick, not to talk of money for the main elections. I have said it before, a corrupt political system cannot give birth to an incorruptible government. You must find a way of ensuring that our politics is not the way it is.

In the First Republic, ordinary people were the ones funding the political parties, not individuals or three people. At that time, I was old enough to know before the coup in 1966. At that time, if you belonged to a political party, either monthly or whatever, you had contributory cards; that is what helped you to maintain your membership of your party. And that is why it was possible for ordinary party person to, at a meeting, challenge the Premier, because it was their money that was used to get him elected. Now, parties are owned by few people. In fact, party men expect the party to pay them now. So, if we don't go back, we

wouldn't get it right.

You are known to be an advocate against corruption. Just recently, Transparency International (TI) ranked Nigeria low in the corruption perception index in spite of the anti-corruption posture of the present administration. Are we really winning the war or is government itself corrupt?

Well, we all live in this country. In the last four or five years



, has it been

anything different from what it used to be in terms of dealing with public officials? It is very easy for us to start to condemn this international body; they don't just say things without seeing. They are more empirical than we are. What I would just advise is that instead of saying the Transparency International was wrong, let us be self critical and self introspective. Whether Nigeria is better before than today, we are all Nigerians; we live here. Let's share experiences.

This issue of money politics is destroying our political system in Nigeria... (Cuts in).

It is destroying governance.

Should we blame the followers or leaders?

My position about corruption is that, I don't just blame the leaders. We are as culpable as the leaders. In fact, Nigerians corrupt their leaders.

But some people believe that leaders systematically subject the followers to poverty so as to continue to worship them... (Cuts in)

Poverty is not the only thing that makes us to be what we are. It is because we don't have minimum standard in life. There are also poor people in other places. There must be minimum standard of behaviour; that below this, I would rather die. We don't have that. Secondly, as a nation, we don't have a rallying point. Like I always joke with people, the only rallying point we have is too short to maintain nationalism, which is football. If Nigeria is playing today, nobody

will see Hausa or Yoruba. We will all be Nigerians. For a country to become great, you need something like that, that will be a propelling point for all of you. It could be an object or person. We don't have it.

Do we need multi-party system in Nigeria with the frequent defection of members of the political class?

There are two major ones; what do we see there? In fact, I'm actually confused myself.

How can we get it right?

We must change our attitude. We must stop applauding evil. In those days, when you did something wrong, the society had a way of ostracizing you.

We don't do that anymore.

We worship anybody that has material things, it doesn't matter the way (he or she acquired it). If somebody rigged election, for example, we must show by our attitude that we accept

you are there, but please... We all scramble to get things there.

Like somebody rightly said, if a band of armed robbers successfully conducted an election and won in this country, Nigerians will file papers that they want to be ministers and commissioners. We don't have minimum standard of public moral, and that is a major problem.

There is insecurity in the land. Do you think the physical method adopted by the security agencies is the only way to tackle the menace?

That was the only thing they know.

Is it possible to adopt another method to end the rising wave of insecurity?

If we don't address the root causes of these issues, we are just wasting our time. Nigerians are angry against themselves, government, neighbours and relatives. And what is the cause of anger? The inequality and injustice. We must address these things. And I have told people fighting corruption from top to bottom would never work. The best approach is to ensure that our value system changes and enthrone meritocracy.

I'm old enough to know how Nigeria was in the 60s and even part of the early 70s. We just went through a wrong bend and we find ourselves where we are. One of the greatest problems that promoted corruption in our country, is the mono-economy; reliance on oil and when they start to distribute money in the centre. In all serious countries of the world, what happens here don't happen there.

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'We must address injustice and inequality'

What is your take on the Judiciary in the almost five years in the life of the present administration?

Let me just say that our Judiciary is populated by a set of the brightest brains we have, but of course there are human problems. Like I told some politicians, they should leave our judiciary alone, and I'm saying this with all sense of responsibility.

You said politicians should leave judiciary alone but when you look at the Constitution, Mr President is too powerful that he could order the removal or influence the appointment of CJN... (Cuts in)

Even under the dispensation that we run, judiciary is as independent as anything. As a judge, if you want to put yourself in shackles, you can on your own. If all the organs of government play their roles as they ought to, we wouldn't be talking about this. If the National Assembly is up and doing; for example, if the State Houses of Assembly are not rubber stamps, there will be enough checks and balances in the system. But because the executive controls all the levers of governance, both the coercive and material, everybody kowtows to the executive. And it is because we don't have men. If there are real men, you should be able to look at the President in the face when he is going outside of his bound, that Mr President, you can't do this. And that is why all of us have a duty to promote strong institutions not strong men.

Nickson, during the Watergate, lost three Attorneys General in quick succession when the Watergate Counselor said you have to release tapes. Nickson said no. The Attorney General said you must release it, he said no and the man resigned. The second one also resigned. The third one released the tape. That is how it should be.

And I have told people, governance will become better, rewarding, profitable and more transparent when you have men and women, who can stand up and look at either governor or President in the face and say Mr President, I'm sorry, you cannot do this, because of this and that. And so also for Mr governor. These are men and women, who are ready to walk away from the job. But they must be people, who have fallback positions not the people, who see the offices as rehabilitation centres. They must be men and women, who have integrity, reputation and names to protect.

But most of the politicians are your clients... (Cuts in)

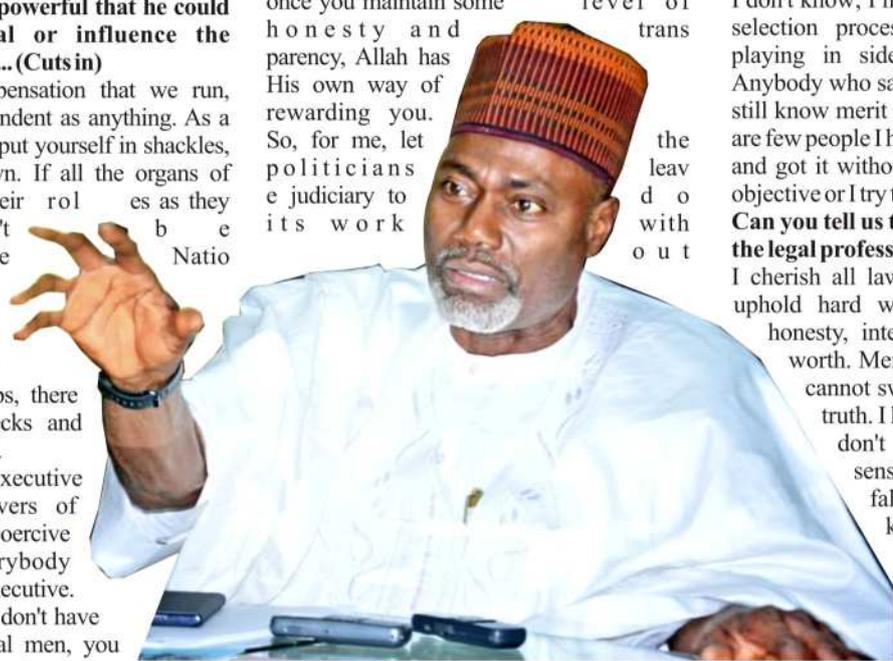
Yes, they are. In fairness to them, they know

me, and they respect me for whom I am since I started legal practice almost 40 years ago. And I'm close to a number of judges in this country. I have never told a judge concerning a matter I'm handling in court, how he should do it. Never! And I have never done it for anybody.

Then, how come you excelled in most of the cases you handled?

Well, that is a Rahama of Allah. I know that once you maintain some level of honesty and transparency, Allah has His own way of rewarding you.

So, for me, let politicians leave judiciary to its work



respected when I started, is not the way they are respected today. And it is because of our attitude. We must beam the searchlight against ourselves and try to live by the ethics of the profession, and we will be well and good.

It is believed that elevation of lawyers into the pinnacle of their practice of Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) has been somewhat politicised. What do you have to say about that?

I don't know; I have never taken part in the selection process. I have always been playing in sideline. That is the truth. Anybody who says that, I don't know. But I still know merit carries a lot, because there are few people I have encouraged, supported and got it without politics. So, I'm always objective or I try to be objective.

Can you tell us those people you revere in the legal profession?

I cherish all lawyers; young or old, who uphold hard work, focus, transparency, honesty, integrity and who have self worth. Men and women, who money cannot sway away from the path of truth. I have too many people and I don't want to offend anyone's sensibilities. But all those, who fall in that categories will know themselves and people will know them. I must say they are not too many, because in our country, honesty is in short supply.

What would you love to be remembered for?

I want to be remembered as someone, who came here and left a positive mark in the sands of time in terms of everything one wants to imagine; in my religion, profession, private, family and social life. That this man came, what he did here, very good one. That is what I want to be remembered for.

2023 general election is still far away but politicians have begun to heat up the polity. What is your take on this?

If it were to be the case that our politicians are really interested in serving us, one would have been excited, but unfortunately, I'm not excited about our politicians with due respect.

Would you want to join politics?

Never! I can't even accept purely political appointment. There is something in our system that sucks people in. When they get there, you will see that their movements have become blurred. So, I will rather remain in my little corner if there are things that I can do to improve the system. But my philosophy is that all it takes for a street, is for all the occupants of the street to keep their own corners clean.

So, I try to keep my own corner clean. If we all do that, this society will be better.

pressure.

In your foray in the legal profession, do you regret being a lawyer?

I know there is no reincarnation in Islam, but if there is reincarnation, I will be a lawyer again.

Is law your dream calling?

As a young person, I had just two areas; either law or journalism. As a matter of fact, when I was admitted to University of Ife in 1978, I was to read History. In fact, I read History for one year before I changed course, because I wanted to read Law.

What is your word of advice to upcoming young lawyers?

We should downplay acquisition of material things; try to establish a solid reputation as a lawyer, once you do, God will bless you. But if money is your main focus, you will run into trouble because you will dabble into things, that as a lawyer, you are professionally and ethically prohibited from doing. For example, spending your client money, this is quite rampant today, unfortunately. I just served my tenure of six years as a member of the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee and I know the rot we saw among lawyers. We should not be deceiving ourselves. The way lawyers were



When Prof Yusuf Olaolu Ali honoured new KWASU VC



encouraged him to be diligent and upright in his duties.

In his remarks, the Chairman of the occasion and Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Professor Abdulwahab Egbewole, expressed the committee of Vice Chancellors' pride in Professor Jimoh's appointment, assuring that they would continue to collaborate to enhance education standards in the state and country.

The host, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN, who has known Professor Jimoh for over forty years through the Muslim Students Society of Nigeria (MSSN), encouraged him to maintain his integrity and treat others with respect.

He called on friends and colleagues to support and remind the new Vice Chancellor of his responsibilities.

The founder of Al-Hikmah University, Alhaji AbdulRaheem Oladimeji Igbaja, presented a holy Quran to the new Vice Chancellor and prayed for Allah's guidance in his leadership of KWASU.

Also speaking at the luncheon, the Vice Chancellor of Thomas Adewumi University, Professor Francisca Oladipo said KWASU and her University share something in common as the duo institutions have the same person as their Chancellor who is Dr Johnson Bamidele Adewumi.

She described the new KWASU VC as a nice person to work with.

The event was attended by top management and staff of KWASU, as well as families, friends and admirers of the host and the honouree.

The Vice Chancellor of the Kwara State University (KWASU), Professor Shaykh Luqman Alade-Jimoh has been a scholar of repute known for humility and simplicity.

The founder of Al-Hikmah University, Alhaji Abdulraheem Oladimeji; the founder of Ghalib Chambers, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN; the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Professor Wahab Olasupo Egbewole; an Islamic Scholar Dr Yusuf Kolawole Jummah; Dr Mrs Balikis Amoloye; and several others disclosed this while speaking on Sunday (July 28, 2024) at a luncheon commemorating the appointment of Professor Shaykh-Lukman Jimoh as Vice Chancellor of Kwara State University (KWASU), hosted by Professor Yusuf Ola-Olu Ali SAN.

In his lecture at the well attended event, Dr Yusuf Kolawole Jummah advised those in positions of authority to avoid destructive attributes that could mislead them.

He identified such attributes as pride, arrogance, and the pomposity of position.

The Islamic scholar however cautioned the newly appointed Vice Chancellor to steer clear of these negative traits while performing his duties.

Dr Jummah also advised Professor Jimoh not to use his position to suppress or destroy others' futures, urging humility

and openness in dealing with colleagues.

"As the Vice Chancellor of KWASU with a background in Islamic Studies, the Islamic Scholar said Professor Jimoh represents Islamic jurisdiction and scholars and emphasised the importance of upholding the reputation of esteemed Islamic scholars who have previously held such positions," he said.

He urged the K W A S U boss to administer the university in a manner aligned with Islamic principles and to be guided by the fear of Allah.

Dr Jummah commended Professor Jimoh's extensive knowledge of the Quran and







Scar of my wife's death still there 20yrs after, says Yusuf Olaolu Ali



An Ilorin-based law icon, and immediate past Chairman, Governing Council of Osun State University (UNIOSUN) Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN, in an emotion-laden voice, said that the scar of the tragic death of his wife, Hajia Fawziyah Lola Kehinde 20 years ago, is still there and very fresh in his memories.

Ali spoke at his residence in the Adewole area of Ilorin during a special prayer he organised to mark the 20th year of the death of his wife.

Recall that Hajia Fawziyah died in a tragic auto crash on the outskirts of Ilorin while embarking on a journey.

Professor Ali, while making his remarks, toward the end of the sermon, said his wife was a special breed of Almighty God, adding that the sterling qualities he found in her were only found in his mother who is still alive and living in Ibadan, Oyo State.

The law giant also believed as always that nothing happens to human beings in life without Almighty God knowing about it, and allowing it to

happen, stressing that he found solace in that.

“You can attain any height in life, and there's nothing that can happen to anyone without the permission of Almighty God, that is what is called destiny.

“My wife was to be 47 a week later when she died, her parents are still alive today, my mother is also still alive though my father is late. I thank my wife's parents and my mother too for their love.

“My wife had some sterling qualities, that I never saw or heard about in any woman except in my mother, she was like an Angel specially made for me.

“When my wife died my mother fainted. Her death is like a wound, it left a scar on me that is still there as I speak.

“Anybody can say anything when this kind of thing, happens, but if it hasn't happened to you, you won't know how it feels, he who knows it feels it,” he said.

Giving insights into why he hasn't remarried after the death of his wife, Yusuf Ali SAN, who cited friends and people who lost their wives and remarried, stressed that they have been having unpleasant stories of woes which he can't contend with.

One of the renowned Islamic clerics in Ilorin, Alfa Lukmon Isale-Koto, who offered a sermon at the occasion commended the lawyer, for picking up his life with that of the children and making a success out of it, twenty years after the demise of his wife.

Citing the successes the children have made with the aid and guidance of their father since the demise of the mother, he said that the late wife would be happier in death because it's not like this in all such cases.

He also said that offering special prayers for the repose of the dead, going to pray for them at the graveside and general offering of prayers for the dead are what Almighty Allah orders the living to be doing for their dead relatives and loved ones.





Yusuf Ali's donation to UITH: Kind gesture in memory of his wife



The Accident & Emergency Unit of the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital (UITH) received a boost, with the commissioning of a Trauma Centre donated by Mallam Ola-Olu Ali (SAN) in memory of his wife who died of trauma related case at the hospital after a motor accident eight years ago

When Hajiya Kehinde Faoziyat Ali, the late wife of Mallam Olaolu Ali (SAN) died of trauma related case after a motor accident along Ilorin-Offa Road, eight years ago, many had tagged her death untimely due to non-availability of relevant medical facilities around.

Besides, when the former Minister of Works, late Gen. Abdulkarim Adisa passed through a similar ordeal following an automobile accident along Ilorin-Lokoja Road about seven years ago, no Nigerian hospital could treat him and he had to be

flown to the United Kingdom where he eventually passed away.

These are just a few Nigerians out of many others who had died in the past, not due to the dearth of competent personnel, but for the absence of much-needed medical equipment to handle trauma related case in most of the nation's government or privately owned hospitals.

It is common sight today to see many Teaching Hospitals and Federal Medical Centres across the nation without trauma centres attached to their Accident and Emergency (A&E) Units. In the process, some cases are watched helplessly as patients died untimely death while relatives accept their fate as one ordained by God.

But Ali, who felt the pains of his wife's demise and still feeling the same till date, nurtured the idea of a trauma centre for the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital,

(UITH), Ilorin and brought it into fruition on September 21, 2012 when he finally handed over the centre to the management of the hospital.

Although he was silent on the total amount expended on the project located adjacently to the Accident & Emergency unit, hospital sources said the cost of the building and purchase of state-of-the-art equipment was valued at over N40 million. Some of the equipment at the 10- bed Advanced Trauma Centre include: Central Work Station, Multiple Parameter Monitors, Mobile x-ray, Ventilator, Defibrillator, Three Dimension Ultra-Sound, Infusion Pump, among others.

Among the dignitaries at the colourful event were, Kwara State Governor, Abdulfatah Ahmed, John Kehinde a Director at the Federal Ministry of Health who represented the Minister of Health, Prof. Christian Chukwu, pioneer Chairman of ICPC, Justice Mustapha Akanbi (rtd.), Supo Ashaolu (SAN), Bayo Adedun (SAN), Vice Chancellor of University of Ilorin, Professor Ishiaq Oloyede, his counterpart from Kwara State University (Kwasu), Malet, Prof. AbdulRaheed Na'Allah and the immediate past Chief Medical Director of the UITH, Prof. Suleiman Kuranga

The governor spoke on the imperative of a quality health system and the reality that the government could not exclusively meet all the health needs of the citizens just as he eulogized the donor for the gift and the UITH for its quality services to the patients.

His words: "It is worthy of note that UITH has been pivotal to the delivery of quality health care in the state and the promotion of academic excellence in medicine. This Centre, I believe, will therefore greatly advance your work in these areas."

"As you all aware, access to quality healthcare is one of the most vital indices of well-being. I, therefore, commend the management and staff of UITH for providing primary, secondary and tertiary health care delivery at this hospital for the benefit of the citizenry."

He noted: "Let me also applaud the public-spiritedness and philanthropy of Mallam Yusuf Ali (SAN) in donating the Trauma Centre to the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital. By this singular gesture, you have joined the growing list of those selfless Nigerians, rich and poor, who continue to give back to the community



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Yusuf Ali's donation to UITH: Kind gesture...

without any expectation of reward. While joining the UITH community to express profound appreciation for this laudable gesture, I call on other distinguished members of the society who have been similarly blessed by the Almighty to emulate this generous act.

"Due to the strategic location of Kwara State as the gateway between the North and South, traffic accident-related trauma cases are common in this axis. However, with the opening of this centre, this hospital's

capacity to deal with trauma cases and other health emergencies will be greatly enhanced," he said.

While acknowledging the vital role played by the UITH at all levels of healthcare provisions in the state, he reminded the people of the primary responsibilities of the hospital, which remained training and research.

Governor Ahmed added: "As part of my administration's efforts to increase access to quality healthcare and reduce the pressure

on this great institution, therefore, I will soon commission the Ilorin, Offa, Omu-Aran, Share and Kaiama General Hospitals which are currently undergoing modernisation at a cost of N1.6 billion.

"Furthermore, we are committed to rehabilitating another five general hospitals in 2013 and to building three new general hospitals in those local government councils without secondary health

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Yusuf Ali's donation to UITH: Kind gesture...

institutions, in the next three years."

For Ahmed, "as recent developments in our economy and in modern governance have illustrated, government alone cannot meet the development aspirations and needs of the people."

"My administration has recognized this fact and created a Public-Private Partnership Office to facilitate private sector involvement in the provision of public goods. I therefore solicit private sector participation in our health sector as we move towards our target of 500 meter access to quality healthcare."

In his remarks at the event, the health Minister said deaths through trauma related cases were next to those associated with infectious diseases in the country. He thanked Ali for "his kind heart to humanity" just as he disclosed plans by the Federal Government to train more Trauma surgeons and attach them to all the nation's Teaching Hospitals.

Unfolding a frightening statistics at the event, the CMD of the UITH, Professor AbdulWaheed Olatinwo, said while road traffic accidents accounted for about 1.3 million deaths and 50 million injuries worldwide, Nigeria as a nation "loses about 200,000 citizens annually" to the scourge.

Olatinwo added: "Many of these deaths are avoidable, and are caused by inadequate initial care for the victims. This new centre will no doubt, improve our capacity to take

care of trauma patients and reduce unwarranted injury-related deaths among the people of Kwara State and its environs."

The hospital boss promised continued pursuit of the agenda of his administration towards attaining maximum health care for the patients' satisfaction.

In his remarks, Ali said God directed his mind into donating the centre after a personal tragic event of the death of his wife some eight years ago.

According to him: "A personal event eight years ago opened my eyes widely to the inadequacy of our health facilities. Besides, it is only fair that I show my gratitude to God by giving back to the society, part of His material endowments on me over-time." "We should also note that government alone, at whatever level cannot provide all the health needs of the citizens, thus the need for personal and institutional provision of basic health facilities. It is, therefore, my hope that this little effort will ginger and galvanize better endowed persons, to also put their minds into contributing to the material well being of our health institutions."

The development has made the management of the hospital come up with what it tagged "Alaanu Funds." Money from this fund, coincidentally chaired by the donor of the trauma centre, is spent on sub or non-conscious accident victims whose relatives could not be immediately traced.

The relatives could refund the money so spent.

According to UITH spokesman, Oba Hassan Kadir, "the emphasis is to safe lives and not to get the fund so spent refunded. Here, as a tertiary hospital, we can't reject any patient for as long as he is not yet certified dead. Therefore, worst cases are daily brought here. You know that some of the patients would have even died before the arrival of the relatives so do we force the relatives to pay back when the patients are dead?"

Before the emergence of the "Alaanu Fund" automobile accident victims were brought in daily into the Accident and Emergency unit of the UITH. Some, due to the severity of their injuries, were watched dying helplessly.

The Director of Administration of the hospital, Dr. (Mrs.) Ayo Bello described Ali's intervention as timely, thanking him for the vision to safe lives just as she urged other Nigerians to emulate the kind gesture.

The high point of the event was a playlet by the students of the Performing Arts Department of the University of Ilorin where they presented a caricature trauma centre without equipment with high casualty tolls recorded. The playlet ended with a question, who knows whose turn it will be to be brought into the trauma centre?"





Olaolu Ali, SAN, delivers an insightful Public Lecture on Decolonizing African Education to Empower the Next Generation

In a scholarly and thought-provoking session, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, FCI Arb, a distinguished Legal Icon, Educator, and Philanthropist, the Principal and Founder of Yusuf O. Ali & Co. Ghalib Chambers, delivered a captivating Public Lecture at the Thomas Adewumi University's First Distinguished Public Lecture held at the University Auditorium. The lecture, titled "Decolonizing African Education to Empower the Next Generation," delved into the intricate facets of decolonization and its profound implications for the future of education on the African continent.

The lecture commenced with Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali offering a comprehensive exploration of the term "Decolonization," emphasising its significance in the context of African education. He skilfully navigated through the multifaceted aspects of decolonizing African education, aiming to empower the next generation to take charge of their destinies and contribute to the

production of indigenous educational products. The objectives of Prof. Ali's research, as outlined in his lecture, were expansive and forward-thinking. The audience was taken on a historical context of the African education journey, exploring the challenges embedded in the current African education system.

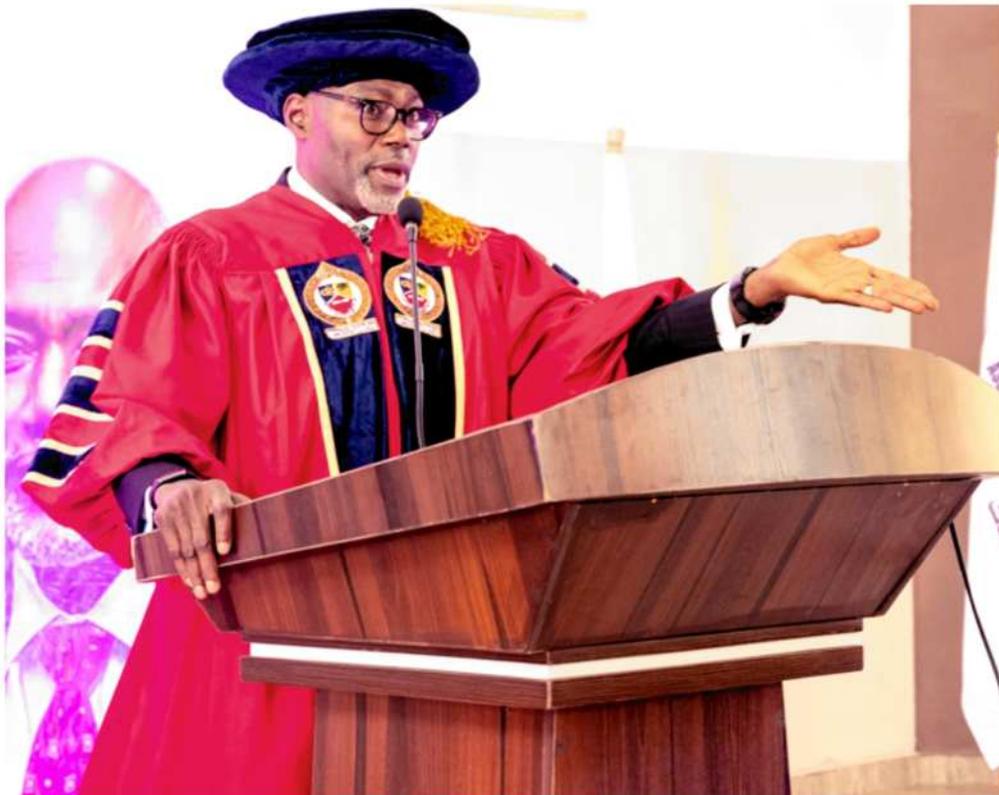
The Legal Icon shed light on the role of language in shaping educational paradigms, advocating a nuanced understanding of linguistic diversity as a cornerstone of decolonization. A pivotal aspect of the lecture focused on the urgent need to reclaim indigenous knowledge. Prof. Ali argued that acknowledging and incorporating the rich cultural heritage of African societies into educational curricula is essential for fostering a sense of identity and pride among the next generation. The call for building inclusive curricula echoed throughout the lecture, emphasising the importance of representation and diversity in educational materials. Prof. Ali posited that a curriculum

reflective of the diverse experiences and perspectives within African societies would contribute to a more inclusive and holistic education.

Furthermore, the lecture emphasised the critical role of teachers in the decolonization process. He highlighted the necessity of empowering educators with the skills and knowledge required to build an indigenous society that caters to the needs of all its members. The focus on teacher empowerment resonated as a key component in shaping the educational landscape for the next generation, and also empowering the students to cultivate student agency and voice in education, to enhance the access to quality education for all.

As Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali concluded his lecture, he emphasised that to successfully decolonize African education, strategies such as curriculum reform, the inclusion of African perspectives, and the promotion of culturally relevant pedagogy need to be implemented. The audience was left with a profound sense of reflection on the transformative potential of decolonizing African education. The session sparked engaging discussions among attendees, demonstrating the enduring impact of the scholar's insights.

The First Public Lecture by Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, FCI Arb, at Thomas Adewumi University stands as a testament to the institution's commitment to fostering intellectual discourse and contributing to the broader conversation on reshaping education for the empowerment of future generations in Africa.





NBA celebrates Yusuf Olaolu Ali SAN's appointment as Professor of Practice at FUOYE

The branch executive committee and members of the Nigerian Bar Association, Ilorin branch have extended their hearty congratulations to Mallam Yusuf Ali SAN, the Principal Partner and founder of Ghalib Chambers, on his appointment as a Professor of Practice at the Federal University Oye-Ekiti (FUOYE).

The announcement by the Senate of FUOYE highlighted the effective date as 23rd November 2023.

This was contained in a congratulatory message issued during their monthly general meeting on Friday, 24th November 2023 and obtained by



Just Event Online TV, the chairman Kamaldeen Gambari, Esq., and the secretary Taofiq Olateju, Esq., expressed their delight at Professor Yusuf Ali, SAN's well-deserved recognition.

The statement emphasised Professor Yusuf Ali's outstanding contributions as a legal luminary, utilising his wealth of wisdom and experience to positively impact lives across various human endeavours.

The Nigerian Bar Association,

Legal icon funds ANA Reading Campaign

The Principal Partner of Yusuf O. Ali & Co., (Ghalib Chambers), Yusuf Ali SAN, FCI Arb, has donated the sum of N3m (Three Million Naira) to fund the 2022 ANA/Yusuf Ali Reading Awareness Campaign.

This intellectually inclined Senior Advocate of Nigeria has been sponsoring the programme since 2012. This, he has continued to do because of his love for literacy and the promotion of same.

The General Secretary of the Association of Nigerian Authors, Mr. Maik Ortserga expressed happiness and gratitude to the philanthropist for his constant support toward the Association's yearly literary awareness campaign and enjoined other well-meaning

Ilorin branch, commends the University's Senate for conferring the honour and wished Professor Mallam Yusuf Ali, SAN, FCI Arb, more years of professional accomplishments.

A special prayer, attended by members, held in his honour immediately after the meeting, to seek continued success and loftier heights for the first Professor of Practice in Nigeria, Professor Mallam Yusuf Ali, SAN.

Nigerians from all walks of life to emulate the learned silk in his humanitarian gestures.

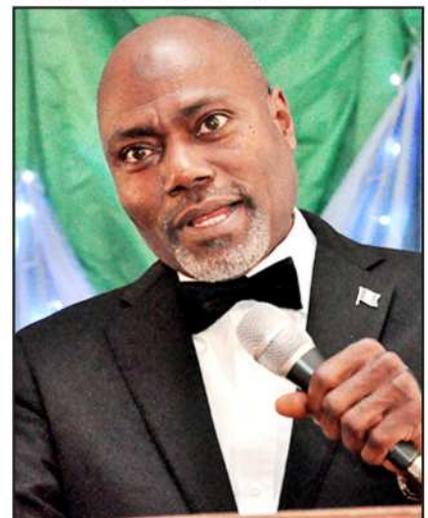




PHOTO NEWS





We need impactful leadership, honest, patriotic followers – Yusuf Ali, SAN

Legal icon, Professor Yusuf Olaolu Ali (SAN) has expressed regret that Nigeria's growth has remained stunted in all ramifications for decades, due to the lack of impactful leadership and followership.

He cautioned that Nigeria would continue to grope in the dark until the people change their character by embracing virtues and values that exalt a nation.

Ali spoke to newsmen, shortly before the inauguration of the remodeled Central Mosque, in Ifetedo, Ife South Local government Area of Osun State.

He noted that whereas the country ought to be running like the Asian Tigers that broke into the ranks of advanced economies, Nigeria can hardly crawl in years.

His words: "Nigeria has a stunted growth in all parameters in the measurement of the growth of a country. We are stunted because by now, we should be running, but we are hardly crawling.

"All the indices of progress, we don't need to reinvent the wheel. Other countries such as the so-called Asian Tigers and the advanced countries don't reinvent themselves. You can borrow and buy technologies and as long as you are able to have it, you're making progress.

"We need impactful leadership and followers that are honest and patriotic," he stressed.

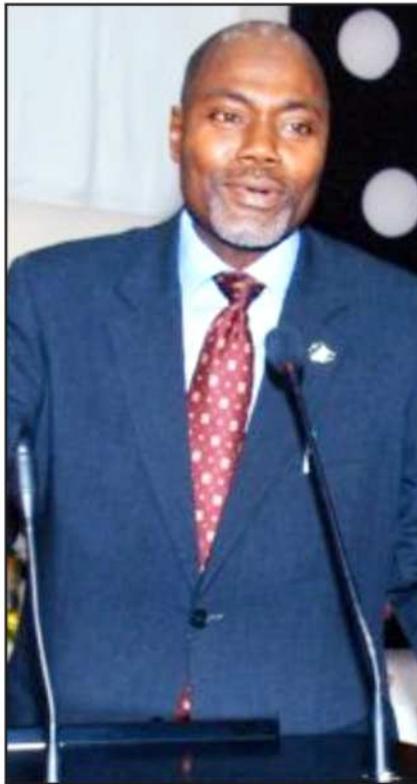
He noted that the followers are as guilty as their leaders for the precarious state of the country, advocating a holistic approach to redeem the situation.

"It's two sides of the coin. You can't be blaming the leaders because the followers are as bad, if not worse, than the leaders in this country.

"For me, we have to be holistic and must all play our roles, discharge our duties by doing all that are necessary to have the kind of level of development that we need as a nation.

The legal luminary, however, said the challenges holding the country even 25 years after the restoration of civil rule are due to the incalculable damage done to the country by military interregnum.

"We grope in the dark because it is easier to destroy than to build. We may not appreciate the depth of what the military had done to our psyche as a people: lack of orderliness.



"Ordinarily, the military is supposed to be orderly, but they introduced a lack of orderliness to us. You were on a queue but when the military were in power, the soldiers would just come and pack all of you and go somewhere, especially when there was petrol scarcity. Military guys will just drive in and disrupt the queue.

"The citizens also witnessed such scenes, but they couldn't talk. You may think they are not so important, but they have their effects on the system.

"What military has done to us is worse than what you're thinking. So, if Nigeria had been left to grow in 1966 when the military came in probably, some of these issues contending with our developmental strides would have been overcome. So, every time you truncate democracy is a baby that's trying to fall and you shout sit down, it will take that baby another one year to recover. The same thing is applicable to a country," Ali said.

On the controversy trailing the Tax Reform Bills pending in the National Assembly, which has elicited a usually avoid paying taxes on the premise that there is hardly any evidence of the judicious use of the proceeds by the government.

mixed feelings among some key stakeholders in the Nigerian project, he said Nigerians usually avoid paying taxes on the premise that there is hardly any evidence of the judicious use of the proceeds by the government.

"Nigerians don't like to pay bills and taxes and their reason is that usually the government doesn't do anything meaningful with tax revenue. However, as citizens, perform your own civic duties, and then hold the government accountable," he urged.

On the proposal for a six-year single term for president and governors to replace the existing two terms of four years each, Ali said he has been consistent in calling for the adoption of the option to arrest incessant fight for succession by elected officials.

"If Nigerians don't change their attitude, nothing can take us to an Eldorado. We must first of all agree on that. I have always been an advocate of a six-year single tenure; it is good for our system. It will stop the incessant fight for self succession by the office holder to return to power after four years tenure. You will know that once you spend your six years, you're out of the place and there will be peace.

"However, if the six-year single tenure throws up an inept leadership, there is provision in the Constitution for impeachment.

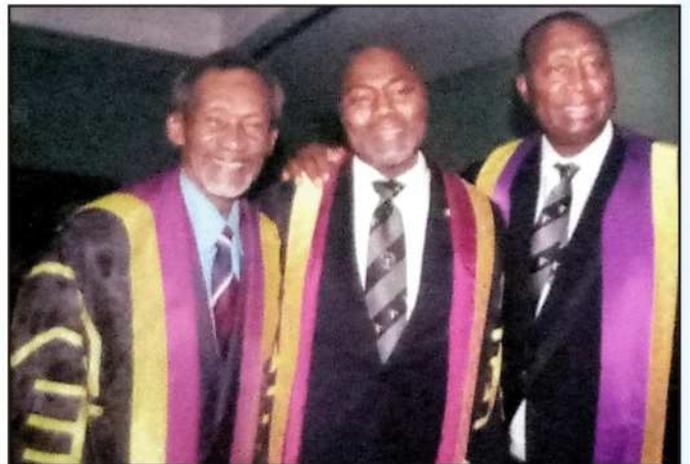
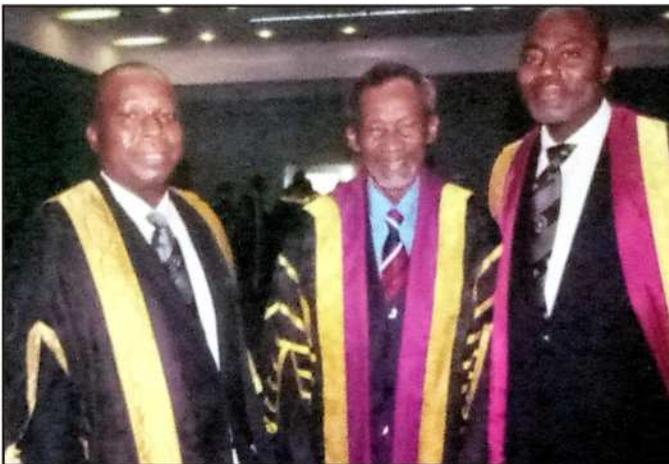
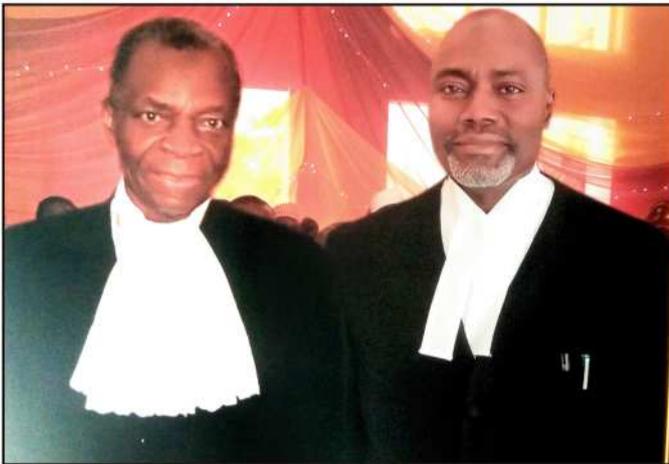
"Whether you abuse it or use it wisely is a different thing. The system is self-cleaning but unfortunately, we have character issues.

"Most of us don't have character and you need good character for a system to work well," he emphasized.

The personalities that witnessed the inauguration included the Olubosin of Ifetedo Kingdom, Oba Akinola Akinrera, Latiiri I; deputy president of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) and president of the Muslim Ummah of the South-West Nigeria (MUSWEN), Alhaji Rasaan Oladejo; Registrar, the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB), Professor Ishaq Oloyede; Are Musulumi of Yoruba land, Edo and Delta states, Alhaji Dawud Makanjuola Akinola; Asiwaju Musulumi of Yoruba land, Alhaji Khamis Tunde Badmus and the Chief Imam of Ifetedo Central Mosque, Imam AbdulJabar Hussein Akindunmi.



PHOTO SPEAKS



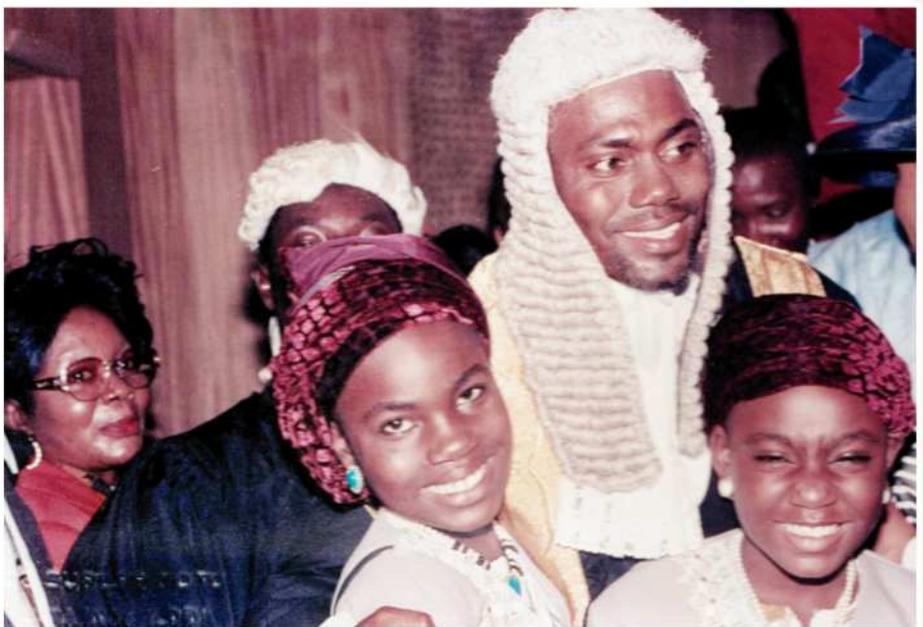
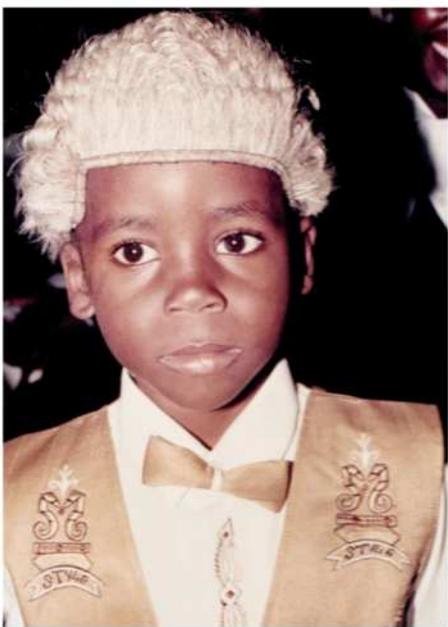


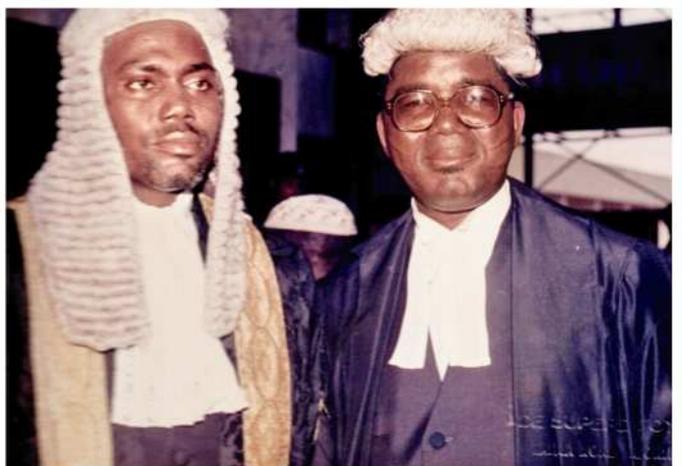
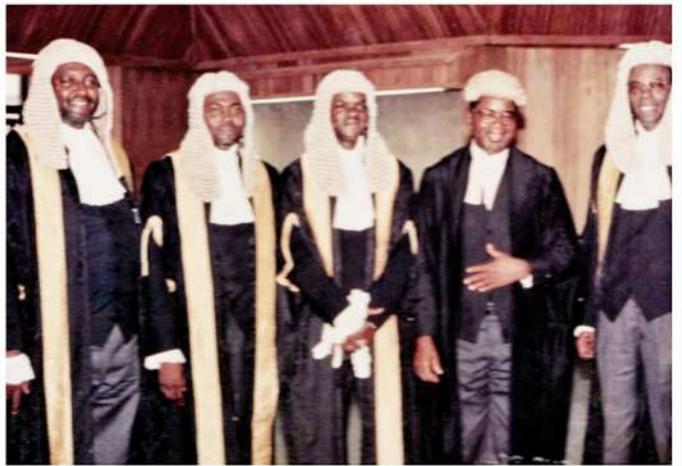
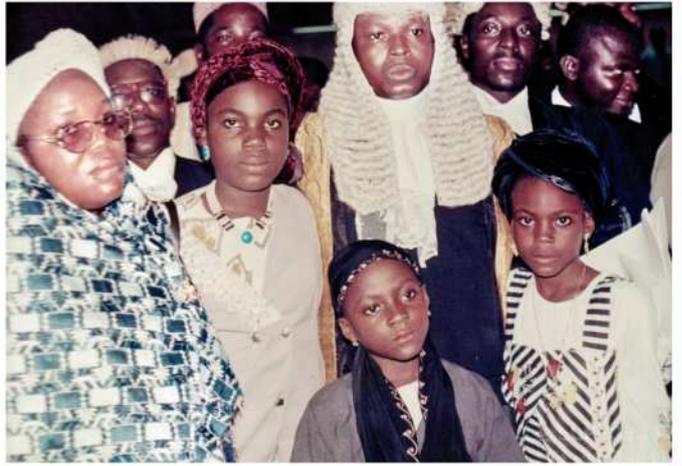


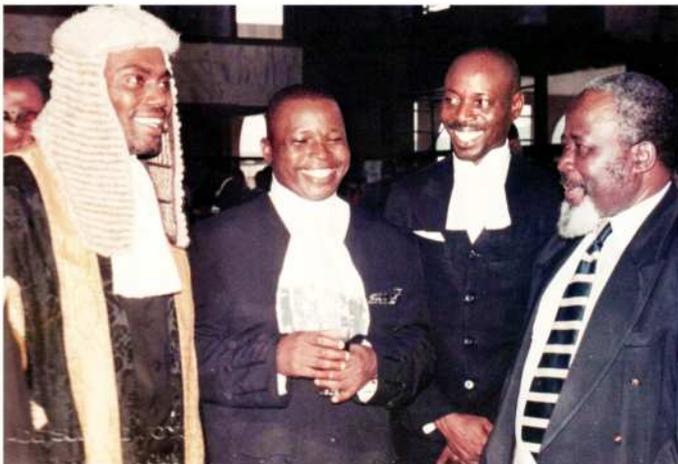
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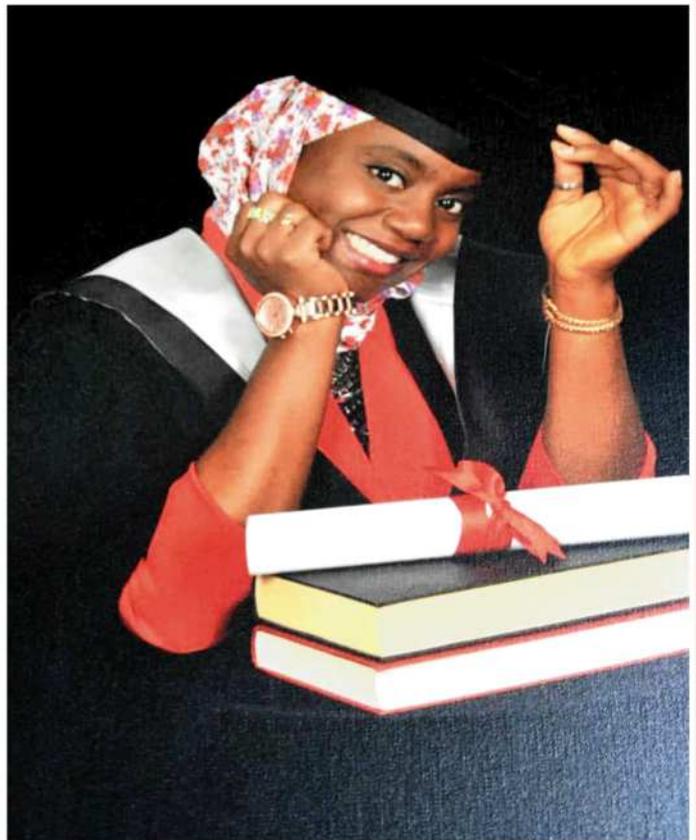
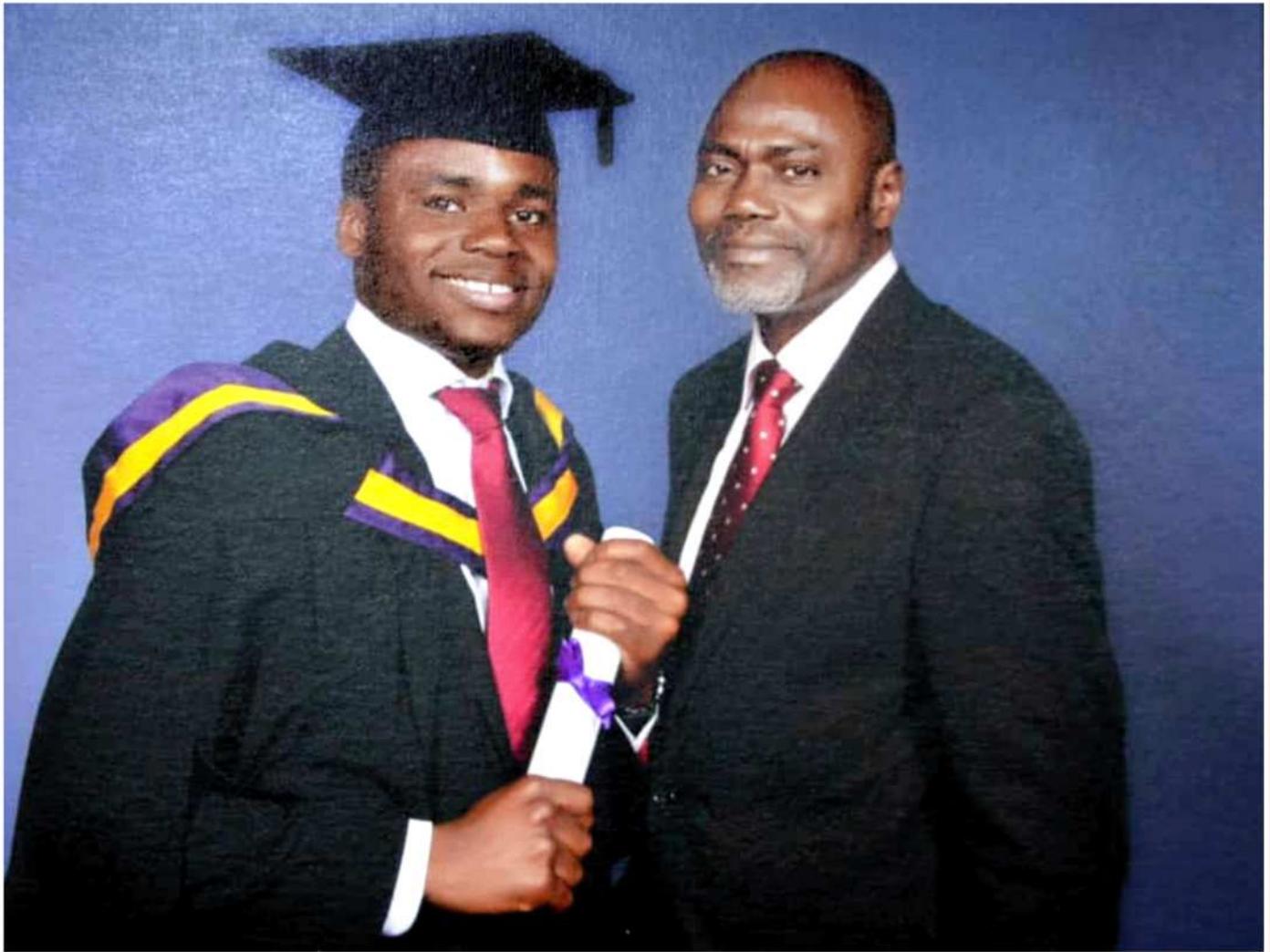




PHOTO SPEAKS









Yusuf Olanrewaju Ali's Graduation Ceremony at Cambridge University, UK





PHOTO SPEAKS



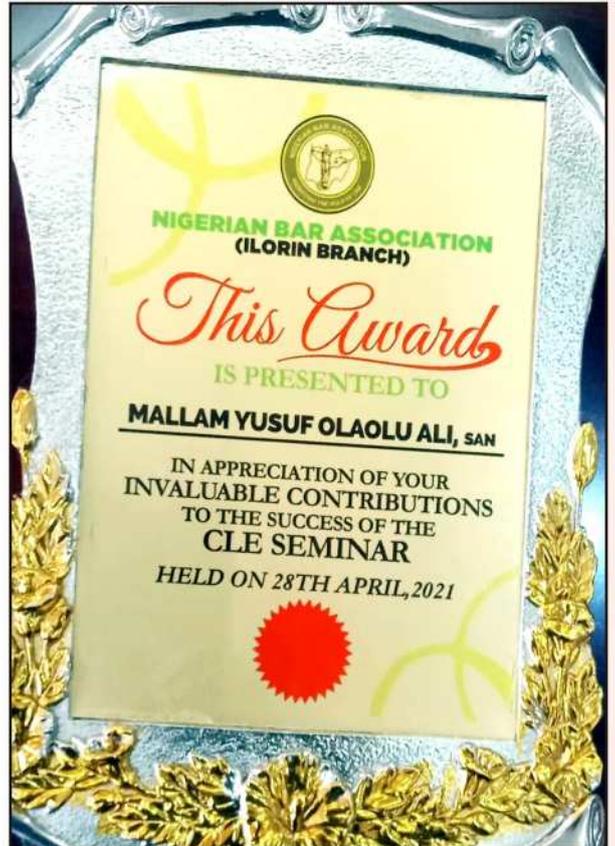
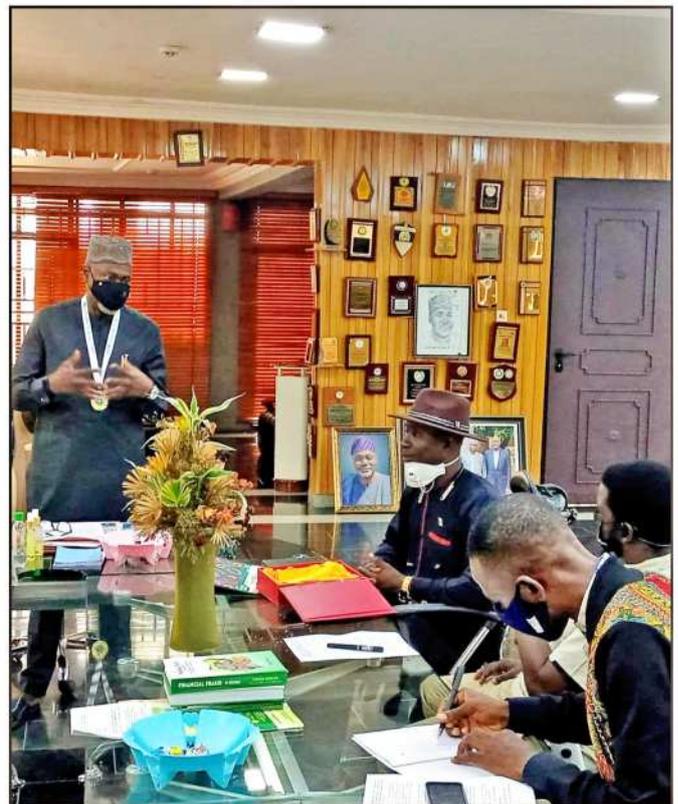
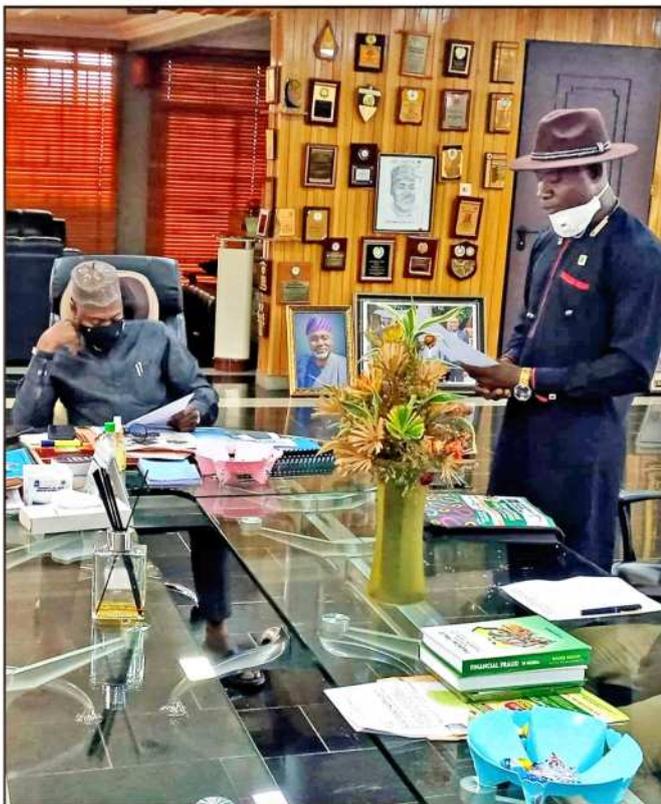
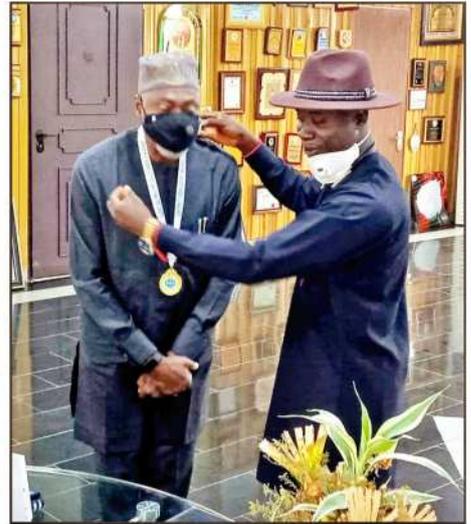
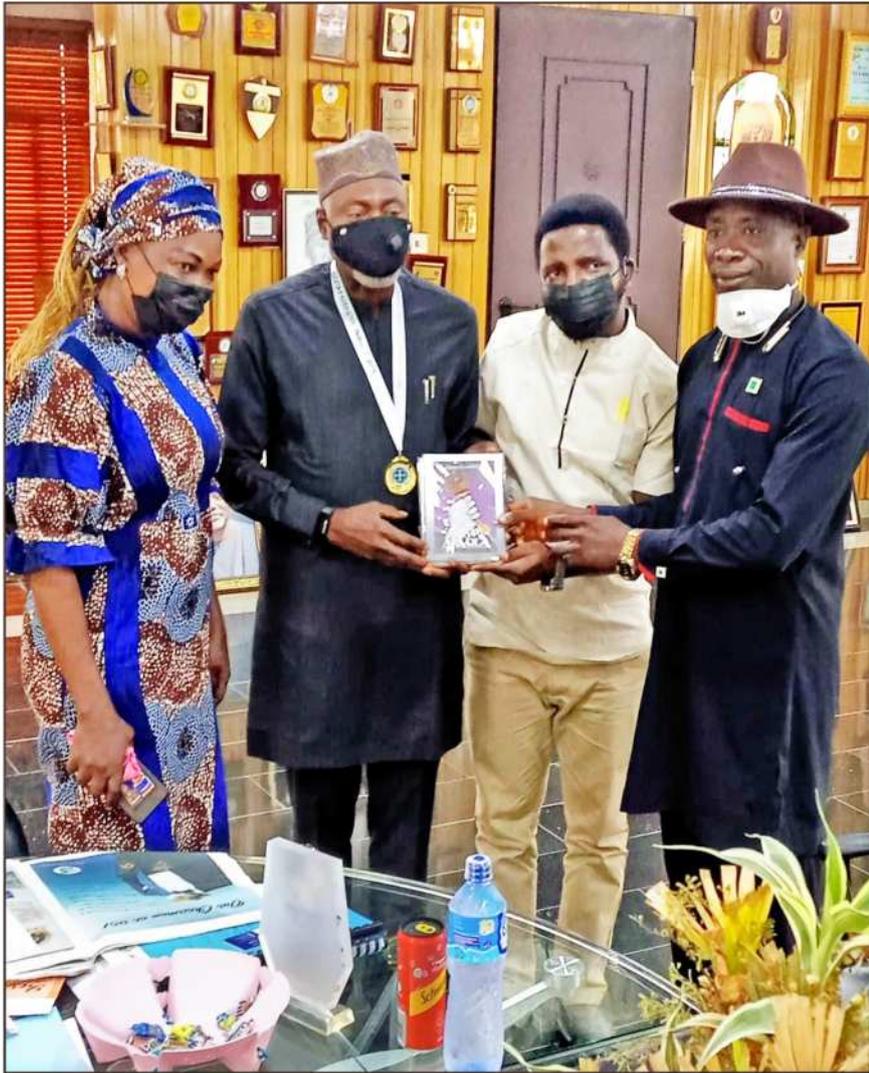




PHOTO SPEAKS





How I transformed brain, beauty into successful business – Nimah Yusuf-Ali

Her physical appearance understates her intellectual prowess. You'll be forgiven not to give a second look at her. If you did, you would see beyond her modest and often religious attire: a young revolutionary mind with an enchanting spirit. She seeks the inner peace that transcends the outward excitement. If you looked closely, you would see the tranquility, understated beauty of her persona. Adventurous and gregarious, she took a leap off sitting atop a billion-dollar portfolio at The Infrastructure Bank (TIB) and dived into the world of beauty -the beauty industry.

But beyond her foray in the beauty industry, those who have been following this amiable mother of one's entrepreneurial trajectory were not surprised by her unrelenting spirit to redefine what has been in existence and make it look like something out of the ordinary.

From Nigeria to the United Kingdom and faraway France, Nimah attained many academic heights. But her heart and head wanted something more and a visit to a wellness centre reawakened the entrepreneurial talent in her. There was no hesitation.

A well-grounded individual, Nimah is an alumnus of the University of Ilorin, Kwara State where she studied Accounting. She holds an MIB (Master in International Business) from Grenoble Graduate School of Business (GGSB) in France and an MBA from the University of

You'll be forgiven not to give a second look at her. If you did, you would see beyond her modest and often religious attire: a young revolutionary mind with an enchanting spirit. She seeks the inner peace that transcends the outward excitement.

If you looked closely, you would see the tranquility, understated beauty of her persona. Adventurous and gregarious, she took a leap off sitting atop a billion-dollar portfolio at The Infrastructure Bank (TIB) and dived into the world of beauty -the beauty industry. Meet Nimah Yusuf-Ali, the CEO of Le Hammam, an exquisite and exclusive Abuja-based beauty centre. FUNKE OLAODE writes about why she and her centre stand out.

Wales in the United Kingdom. She is also an associate of the Association of Certified Chartered Accountant (ACCA), a non-executive director at Yusuf Ali Foundation and Managing Director of Nimahcollections – a fashion outlet based in Abuja.

Over the years, she has gained a wealth of experience, holding key positions with different organisations in five different sectors in Nigeria. She previously held the position of a business analyst at The Infrastructure Bank (TIB); managed a portfolio of billions of Nigeria aimed at the commercial mass transit sector of the transportation industry; served as an accountant to a Nigeria Inter-Faith Action Aid, managing billions of naira of donor funds. Also, prior to setting up Le Hammam, she worked as an independent consultant to various organisations.

Today, she has channelled her interest where her passion lies through the establishment of Le Hammam. What could possibly make a chartered accountant to become a beauty therapist?

"Firstly, it's important to state that the beauty industry is a large and vast one that spans from looks to clothing to skincare to hair and beyond," she says.

"That said, I had a flair and eye for fashion ever since far back as I remember growing up in the town of Ilorin. I remember I used to pay attention to how well I combined my outfits as far back as primary school. There is a picture of me in a sparkly yellow dress and brown turban in my dad's office that I love to date.

"However, the practicality of getting involved in the industry started in 2013 with a fashion business idea with main focus on fabric sale both wholesale and retail. Then by the second half of 2015, the idea of a spa arm of my business portfolio started to slowly gain momentum."

'Le Hammam' is literally translated to "the bath". Hammam is a common beauty service offered in Arabic-speaking countries and it has made its way into Nigeria. It's logical for Nimah, therefore, to choose a name that easily resonates with the client familiar with the service she offers.

If being an entrepreneur has been a hidden talent, the desire to embrace it wholeheartedly emanated two years ago with her desire to establish a beauty centre during one of her travels.

"I believe taking care of our health and wellness is paramount for longevity. Failure to look after both of the above will result in undesirable issues in the future. That said, I'm always interested in keeping

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How I transformed brain, beauty into...

healthy, fit and well," she explains. "This interest peaked around 2010 and since then it's been taken much more seriously. My discovery of the true art of Hammam (bath) on one of my travels and the particular one I visited was coincidentally a one-stop spa dedicated to women only with a range of different beauty services offered all under one roof. It is a place you can come to in your nightwear and leave red carpet ready," she added.

According to her, that was the first point of inspiration for the spa business and the eventual move into the industry. Her interest was driven by the realisation that there weren't many female-only spas around Abuja. While interacting and engaging with many women (especially Muslim women who wear the hijab), she realised that one big challenge they struggled with was what were conventional unisex hair salons where men could be customers or stylists.

"For an even larger group of women," she argues "the thought of using unisex spas was unfathomable because they just will not feel at ease. Therefore, it was paramount to create a safe sanctuary for women to enjoy, relax and let their hair down."

It's Le Hammam to the rescue; a brand that aims to serve women.

"It's been a journey of over two years to get us here," she notes looking back on how Hammam started.

"After returning from the trip mentioned earlier, loads of actions were taken but the first and most important issue which I tackled was working on the business plan to evaluate the viability of the spa business. Once the decision was made to proceed, there were interesting times hunting for a suitable space to house all the services we offer. Then came tradesmen and contractor issues then sourcing funds and so on."

There is no doubt the beauty industry is a multi-million-naira business. Although it is becoming an all-comers affair. Nimah assures that her Le Hammam would stand the test of time because of its standard and quality service.

"The beauty industry is an ever-evolving one, so there are always parts of the industry that can be carved out as a niche until others catch up. That said, there are a couple of things I have lined up to do different and I will share with you too.

These are customer service and quality service. If you notice both have got the word service in them and are similar because Le Hammam is a model that is heavily based on service provision."

Reeling out the services in its signature treatments, she said the multi-million-naira beauty haven has what it takes to make its customers feel at home. Le Hammam is all-encompassing.

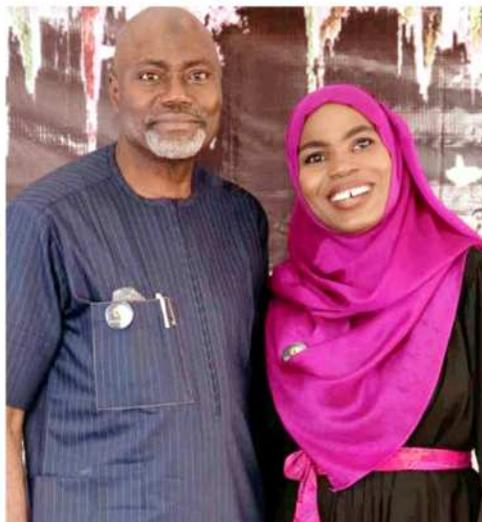
Nimah adds, "We offer classic treatments that are exclusive to us. Our Queen Sheeba Hammam has all shades of royalty about it. This can be combined with any facial and massage of your choice to fully enjoy the full Le Hammam experience. Facial machine, aesthetic room, swimming pool, café, unisex boutique, massage room, steam room, Sauna room, relaxation room, cosmetic whitening machine, laser machine, etc. And given today's hectic lifestyle where one is always stressed – our specific services and therapies range of services and treatments are essentially tailored to rejuvenate the body.

"We have packages that have been carefully selected which all combine Hammam treatment with a mud wrap, facials, and Swedish massage. All three in a package are put together to experience the ultimate rejuvenation experience."

As a new entrant into the industry, Hammam offers a range of specialised facial treatments with the state-of-the-art facial machine, as well as laser treatment machine to deliver treatments such as microdermabrasion, warts removal, anti-aging facial, brightening facial, acne facial, laser hair removal, spot removal, skin tightening, cosmetic teeth whitening and loads more.

Nimah can be described as a chip off the old block -that's her father, Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali (SAN). He's no doubt one of Nigeria's most successful, brilliant and respected lawyers.

Despite her string of degrees acquired



both home and abroad, going into beauty business according to Nimah was welcomed by her father with open arms.

"I truly wish everyone has a supportive father and family as I have been fortunate enough to have," Nimah admits.

She says further, "My father, Mallam Yusuf Ali, SAN, is a father who is one in a million. He champions my siblings and myself's decisions and at points where he has observations or concerns, he sits with us collectively or individually to talk them through. So, it is a nice democratic system we run. Most importantly, he used to say, 'it is your life and decision' so that when any of us look back, we know no one forced us into anything and that includes marriage.

"So he wasn't shocked, especially when I started the fashion portfolio of my business. At the time I was working and after I had explained my plan to him, he was puzzled on how I was going to finance and manage an investment advisory job that demanded 8 am to whatever time of the night closing hours as well as working almost every day of the week as the need arises.

"After explaining in more detail the fashion business model to him, he was supportive onward. So, by the time the beauty business portfolio idea was being formed, he was in full cheerleader mode (he even went space hunting with me several times)."

In a way, Nimah couldn't deny her father's attributes rubbing off on her. Ali is hard-working, focused and thorough.

Nimah shares what it was like living with him, saying, "I grew up seeing him work every day of the week, from morning to evening without expecting anyone to pick up his responsibilities. He has always excelled in his work and everything he set his mind to. He came from a humble background in a then small town of Ifetedo, Osun State in South-West Nigeria to become one of the respected lawyers in the legal profession today and worked his way painstakingly to the highest rank as a Senior Advocate of Nigeria.

"This process of growth mimics my humble story growing up in the city of Ilorin, working for some years with other organizations before setting off to be self-employed and aiming to make a difference in the different sectors that I'm operating in now as well as those to be operated in the future. So, witnessing all of those growing up and to date has helped shaped my business mind, attitude to work and general outlook as an adult."



Celebrating Excellence: Olaolu Ali honours Na'Allah with luncheon



It was a colourful occasion as members of the academics, the bench, retired jurists, National executive members of the Ilorin Emirate Descendants Progressive Union, creme de la creme in Kwara State as well as notable individuals converged on Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN Ilorin residence to celebrate the pioneer Vice Chancellor of the Kwara State University and current Vice Chancellor of the University of Abuja, Professor AbdulRasheed Na'Allah.

The celebration, which was at the instance of the giant legal luminary, Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, aimed to celebrate the appointment of Professor Na'Allah as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Abuja, some months ago.

Na'Allah, who is the first Vice Chancellor in the history of Nigeria to spend ten years in office and got appointment as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Abuja immediately he completed his tenure at the Kwara State University, was praised by different speakers at the occasion for his achievements at KWASU, zeal for the culture and heritage of the Ilorin Emirate and for distinguishing himself as an academic and administrator per excellence.

In a lecture at the luncheon, a Don,

Dr. Aliyu Badmus challenged the academics to rise up and proffer solutions to the problems plaguing the country.

According to him, the gown suppose to find solutions to the problems of the town, but the social agreement between the two had collapsed.

The don said further that there is no problem in the town that is not plaguing the gown.

"Gown suppose to find solutions to the town problems, that's the social agreement between the two. Today, there is no problem in the town that's not plaguing the gown. Corruption, favouritism, sex for marks issues, academics manipulating data, results, and forgery etc. If the gown can't solve its problem, how can they solve the problem of the town?, he queried.

Dr Badmus who is the founder of Iqra College Ilorin, noted that the implications of this is that to wear the gown to its rightful place so that it can look for solutions to the problems plaguing the town.

"How can lecturers who don't have character award certificates to students in both learning and characters?, stressing the need for lecturers to have both learning and character.

The guest speaker urged the Vice Chancellor of the University of Abuja to fight the battle of ranting lecturers to the end, especially corruption among academics in the university.

Badmas also asked Na'Allah to always appreciate God, pointing out that he has a great challenge to face in turning the university for better.

Also speaking, a lecturer in the Department of Arabic Studies, University of Ilorin, Associate Professor Abubakar Aliagan, warned against the pull-down-syndrome that is very common among some people of Ilorin Emirate, stressing the need to always support and celebrate each other.

He thanked Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali for his brotherly roles and in supporting them, attributing the appointment of Na'Allah to the support and great roles played by the Registrar of the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB), Professor Ishaq Oloyede.

In his remarks, the National President of Ilorin Emirates Descendants Progressive Union, Uthman Otta, appreciated the consistent contributions of Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN to the development of individuals and Ilorin community.

He congratulated the celebrant, saying that the entire sons and daughters of the Ilorin Emirates were proud to have him at the helm of affairs of the Federal Capital Territory citadel of learning and prayed for his success.

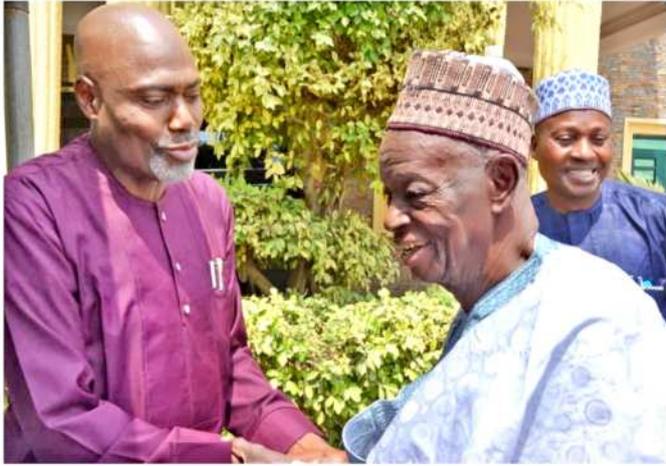
The IEDPU President charged the people of the Ilorin Emirate to rise, saying that the Emirate need more of Na'Allah in the helm of affairs in the country.

In his response, the celebrant, Professor AbdulRasheed Na'Allah assured of turnaround at the university, saying that there would be progressive improvement in the area of teachings, learning and research as well as the structural look of the citadel of learning.

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FOR THE RECORD





FOR THE RECORD





An average litigant in Nigeria believes you can buy justice – Yusuf Ali, SAN

What is your assessment of the anti-corruption war of the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari?

At the presentation of my book, 'Anatomy of Corruption' in Abuja in May 2016, in my speech, I said categorically that top to bottom approach on the fight against corruption can never work. If you want to fight corruption, you must create a mass movement. Majority of Nigerians must buy into it, but you arrest three people out of 10,000. What have you achieved? What is going on is fight against corrupt people not against corruption.

Corruption is an institutional thing, so the fight against it is more than what we are doing. Because if we are not careful, things we are not doing properly may become a culture. If you want to fight corruption, you have to dig deeper. I tell people that for the street to be clean, every member of the street must keep his corner clean. Corruption is symptomatic of a deeper problem. When we talk about corruption, we should not limit it to bribery. Bribery is a fraction of corruption. Nepotism is corruption; ethnicity is corruption. Tribalism is corruption and influence peddling is also corruption. Just fighting public officials is a tip of the iceberg.

Police still stop motorists on the highway extorting money from them. What do you say to that? There are all sorts of corrupt, on allegations against government officials. It is a good attempt that we are trying to fight corrupt people, but we should attempt to fight corruption itself.

How do you think the Acting CJN can tackle corruption in the judiciary?

Nigerians are skeptics. We don't believe in our leaders and our institutions. And you can't blame them. Maybe it is a product of their experience of having been let down by the system. I have said this severally, it takes two to tango. Before you can see somebody who takes

Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali (SAN) is the CEO of GHALIB Chambers based in Ilorin. Yusuf Ali, who obtained his First Degree from University of Ife, now Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, went back for his Masters in Law in the same university.

A renowned philanthropist, Ali donated a fully equipped IT building to Kwara State Polytechnic for which he was honoured with the award of Fellow of the institution. In this interview, the legal icon speaks on the state of the nation.

bribe, there must be a giver. Usually we go after the takers. The givers are there still waxing stronger. Until the day the Nigerian elites start to think that justice could not be bought, we will be running in circles. The truth is bitter, but we must say it. The average litigant in Nigeria believes you can buy justice. So, with that mindset, it is a very difficult challenge. That belief that you can buy justice must stop. What I have said is apparent from the way litigants react to judgements. Somebody who had tried to reach a judge unsuccessfully, if judgement goes against him, he believes the other person has given bribe which may not be true.

But more than that, Nigeria is a market rife with rumours. Tell people to come and tell you what happened, they begin to scratch their heads.



Generally, African leaders do not seem to be doing enough to lift their people out of poverty. What is leadership problem in African?

A country gets the kind of leader it deserves. And that is why I am always against the

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FOR THE RECORD

An average litigant in Nigeria believes...

setting up of special courts. I ask, are you going to bring people from heaven to come and sit in those courts? We are having those problems because of leadership and followership problem. Look at the campaign rhetorics of Donald Trump before the US presidential election. Look at what is happening now because he knows his society would not accept certain things. Nigeria and by extension African society is where anything goes. If we want to hold our leaders accountable and we want them to be upright, it must start from all of us. All leaders have their evil tendencies; it is the society that disagrees with them. We don't have minimum standard for our leaders. The American society is what it is today not because their leaders are superhuman but because the average American would insist you do what is right. Take for instance, the hacking by Russia preparatory to the American presidential election, did you will see the outcome? That is a society that digs deep unlike us here that are very superficial. Here we try to look for quick-fix solutions. There is nothing inherently wrong with Africans, it's just that we are too lazy. You have just do-little belief to excel, whereas people outside there, for

everything they do, they have to improve on it.

The award conferred on you by the polytechnic, will it spur you to do more philanthropic works?

My philosophy about life is that anytime something good comes your way, it is an invitation to do better. And the prize for doing well is to do better still. To me, recognitions like this humble me and make me know that what God wants to do He does, irrespective of who your parents are, who you know and who you don't know. This award came out of the blues; I wasn't expecting anything at all. The day the Rector of Kwara Polytechnic, Alhaji Mas'ud Elelu and his team came here and said that they were planning their convocation and that they wanted to give fellowship awards to five eminent Nigerians. They mentioned Governor Abdulfatah Ahmed, Aliko Dangote, Erisco and chief executive officer (CEO) of Kamwire Limited. I know the CEO of Kamwire is the largest employer of labour as an individual in the whole of North-Central. Those who work in that company would be more than 1,000 and then they mentioned my name. I asked 'why me?' So I see this honour as an invitation to do more for the society to justify the confidence the people reposed in me. That is

the way I see it.

What is your view about the present economic recession in Nigeria?

The problem of recession, to me as a layman, is the reflection of the lack of confidence in the Nigerian market and economy on the part of people who want to bring their money here for investment. Simple! What caused it? I don't want to dabble into that; the way out is for us to go out and market our country.

After all, there was a time in this country that oil was selling for \$11 and we were doing well. And we were producing 2.2 million barrels. Now even at over 40 something dollars, we are not producing well. So it is not about oil, it is about lack of confidence in Nigeria.

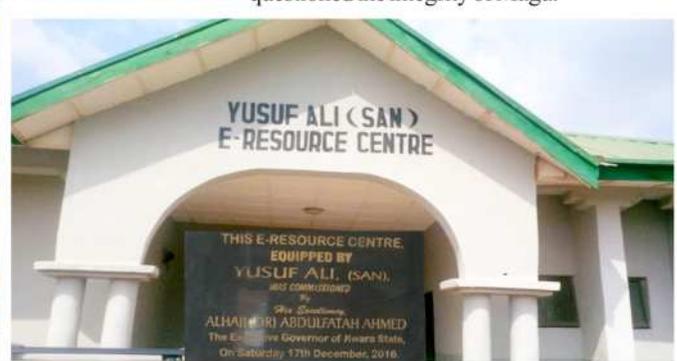
There is high demand for certain courses in our tertiary institutions today, what is your view on this trend?

The colonialists gave us the kind of education they wanted, just to have a pool of averagely educated people that would be used in the civil service and other places. When they left, unfortunately we never thought that was a problem. The chicken has come home to roost. Every person who went to any higher institution in Nigeria looks for government employment. The way the new set of universities are going, which is entrepreneurship, is the best option. We must prepare our graduates for the world outside the universities and for the world outside of paid employment.

What is your view on the rejection of Ibrahim Magu as substantive EFCC chair by the Senate?

I am not sentimental about issues. The president has done his own part by submitting the name of Ibrahim Magu to the Senate for confirmation and the Senate has played its own role by rejecting his confirmation as substantive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

In fact, there is nowhere in the Nigerian Constitution that says that the Senate must give reasons for the rejection. I don't think people should start reading their personal interest into the Senate's action. It is unnecessary. The Senate merely looked at the report presented to it by the Department of State Service (DSS), and the report questioned the integrity of Magu.





Olaolu Ali fetes Prof. Oladimeji

Sunday 19th of January 2020 would remain indelible in the memories of the family of Abdullateef Oladimeji, a new Professor of Islamic Studies at Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin.

It was the day set aside to celebrate the Oko-Ode-born don, who has risen to the zenith of his career in his sojourn in the academia.

The event was at the instance of a frontline legal luminary, Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali, who threw a feast at his Atiku Road, Adewole Area of Ilorin sprawling residential building in commemoration of the achievement of Oladimeji.

Though the gathering was primarily designed as a luncheon for Oladimeji, it was used for a reflection on the sojourn of life of the celebrant widely believed to have carved a niche for himself in the expansion of frontiers of Islam as a religion.

It also became an avenue to remind the new Professor to tread softly and be humble with his new academic height.

The Head of the Department of Islamic Studies at Al-Hikmah University, Dr Yusuf Kolawole Jimoh, admonished those in positions

of authority to shun arrogance.

He pointed out that success is associated with arrogance while failure is associated with humility, adding that instances abound for whoever would listen to the divine words.

The Islamic scholar identified repercussion of arrogance as destruction and urged those who Almighty God has blessed to extend same kind gesture to those at the lower rung of the ladder around them in order to receive more favour.

Speaking on the rationale behind the event, Yusuf Ali, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) told the gathering that it has been his attitude to rejoice with people, who attain one success or another in life.

The constitutional lawyer, who described himself as a detribalized Nigerian, said he is usually less concerned about creed, colour, religion or ethnic affiliation of people he relates with.

Describing the new Professor of Islamic Studies, Abdullateef Oladimeji, as a thoroughbred scholar, Ali said the celebrant has always exhibited traits that he is destined for greatness in life.

The frontline legal luminary, who recalled the contributions of

the don to effective propagation of Islam during his days as a member of Muslim Students Society of Nigeria (MSSN), said he never held the belief that Oladimeji hails from Kwara but Lagos.

He, however, described the luncheon as a moment for family members and friends to unite and share good old memories.

Yusuf Olaolu Ali said, "It is the teaching I picked from my religion that you should felicitate and rejoice with people, who God has favoured, and that once you do so, Allah will also favour you. It is always good to rejoice with people.

"When you organise event like this, people you have not seen for a long time; friends, acquaintances and even family members will come. I also see it as an act of sadaka (alms giving)", he added.

Dignitaries at the luncheon were the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Professor Sulyman Age Abdulkareem; his counterpart from the University of Abuja, Professor Abdurashed Na'Allah; a Kadi in Kwara State Sharia Court of Appeal, Justice Masud Oniye; traditional rulers and dons among others.

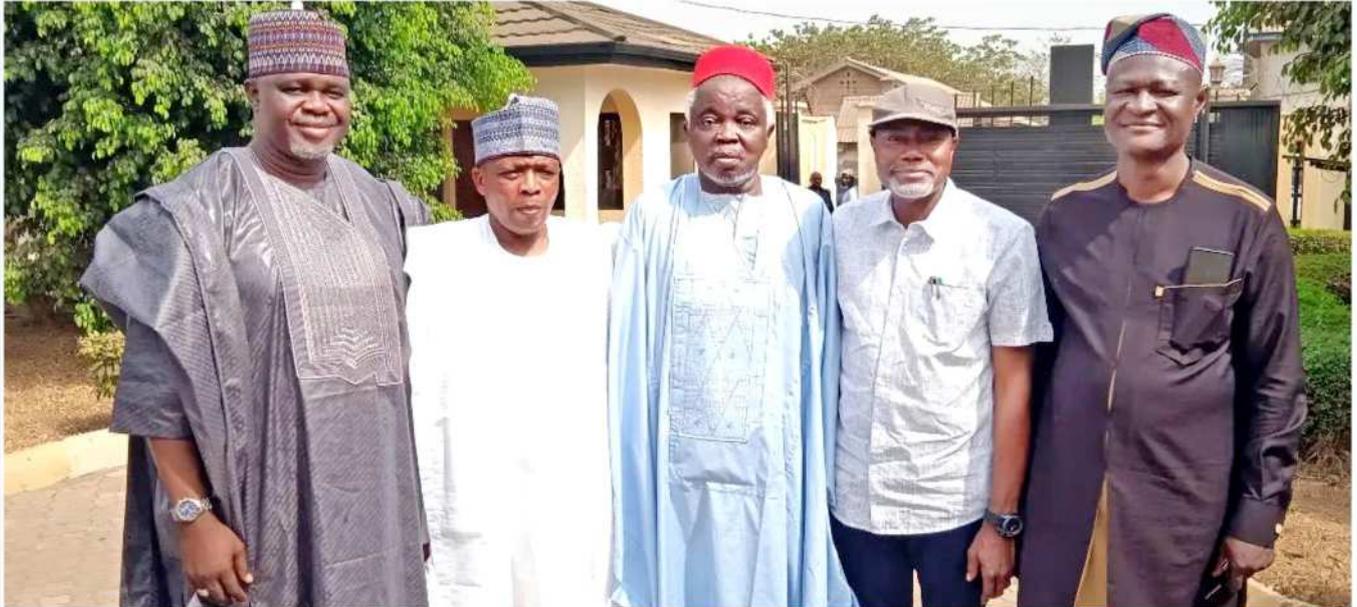
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FOR THE RECORD





Yusuf Ali, SAN organises luncheon to honour 4 new SANs

It was a very joyous mood today 20th February, 2022, at the residence of Yusuf Ali SAN, as four legal practitioners were honoured by the learned silk at a luncheon.

The luncheon was the legal luminary, known celebrity organised and fully sponsored by the achievements and success of others.

The four new learned silks were elevated to the prestigious rank on the 8th of December, 2021, by the Legal Practitioners Privileges

Committee (LPPC) in the Supreme Court of Nigeria, Abuja.

It will interest you to know that, this is not the first of its kind by the Principal Partner of Yusuf O. Ali & Co., he has honoured so many personalities who have attained one feat or the other in the past.

According to the learned silk, he organises such occasion "to celebrate success and achievements" and that, it is his own little way of thanking God for and on behalf of each celebrant."

The honorees are: Prof. Rasidi

Jimoh Ijaodola SAN; Alhaji Tajudeen Olaseni Oladoja SAN; Alhaji Salman Ayinla Jawondo SAN (AG, Kwara State) and Dr. Adeola Omotunde SAN.

Spouses, friends, associates, family members and other well-wishers were equally present to witness and rejoice with the celebrants.

Highlights of the programme was a short but very rich speech by the host, Yusuf Ali SAN; refreshments of different types (item 7), exchange of pleasantries, and photograph session.

'Lawyers can't dump NBA like politicians switch parties over disputes'

Seeming misunderstanding in the NBA, I stand on the side of peace. I stand on the belief that the



strength of the NBA is in the largeness of the members. I say that we should not do anything that will take away that strength. The forefathers of our profession had the vision of a united Nigeria. That is why we had a united Bar. And that is why when you are called to Bar, you are called to the Nigerian Bar, not Northern Bar, Southern Bar, Yoruba Bar, Urhobo Bar, Itsekiri Bar, or Kanuri Bar. The profession was to be fulcrum for the unity of our country. So, we should not lose that. We should not lose sight of it and we should not lose that very important role. That is why despite the fact that we have many

campuses of the Nigerian Law School, everyone is called to the Nigerian Bar. And that is why the call to the Bar is central. It is to make a statement that we are all the same, notwithstanding where God and geography have decided to locate us. So, for me there is nothing like the new bar or old bar. It is just one Nigerian Bar Association. And as lawyers, we must cherish, keep and protect the Nigerian Bar Association. We would have challenges, it is normal. Challenges would come either in this form or that form. What is important is for all of us to have a rallying point, a united Bar..."



The Night California stood still for Yusuf Ali

Call it honour across the sea you will not be mistaken as the legal icon, Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, bagged the 2018 Peace Humanitarian Award in United States of America. Funke Olaode, who was at the event, reports that the need for all humans to embrace peace was the crux of discourse at the august gathering.

Saturday, April 28 was a memorable day as many distinguished Africans were honoured in Sacramento, the capital city of California, United States of America. There was excitement and a sense of togetherness as African drumbeats rent the air. Of course, traditional attires depicting different heritage of the African continent were on display. It was a gathering that reminded everyone of their root. The music of the defunct PSquare resonated from a corner of the hall as people mingled, giggled and danced their heart out.

Indeed, that night will remain memorable in the hearts of the people of Sacramento as the city played host to the who's who in Africa, including the President of Ghana, Nana Akufo Addo. The event was the peace awards organised annually by the board of Centre for African Peace and Conflict Resolution (CAPCR) of the California State University in honour of Africans, who have rendered selfless service for humanity.

CAPCR is an institute that provides conflict resolution, peace education services and research in and about Africa and the Diaspora. The board is a highly trained interdisciplinary team of faculty, staff, and conflict resolution experts committed to the centre mission, among many other partners. To date, CAPCR has provided over 500 workshops on conflict resolution and peace-building techniques to more than 5,000 Africans, with activities held in Africa and the US, including Nigeria.

Past recipients of the award include the first female and former Chief Justice of Ghana, Georgina Theodora Wood; Dr Joseph Marshall of the Omega Boys Club and Street Soldiers (2012); Ambassador Jeanette Ndhlovu of South Africa; Archbishop Desmond Tutu; Dr. David Covin; Professor Emeritus (Sac State),



Isaac Albert of the University of Ibadan; Daniel Yamshon; Judge Barry Loncke (Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento); Kevin Johnson, former Mayor of Sacramento, and Hon. Barbara Lee, US congresswoman, among others in the past 27 years.

In 2018, legal icon, Mallam Yusuf Ali, SAN, was among the recipients as he was conferred with the Peace Humanitarian Award for his outstanding contributions of his talent, time and treasure in promoting peaceable communities, institutions, and organisations as well as numerous charitable work in various parts of Nigeria.

The award was presented to him at the end of the institute's 27th Annual Africa and Diaspora conference on the theme of African Peace and Security Architecture.

The main event held at the ballroom of the University Union on the campus. To ensure that it was an unforgettable night, African cuisines representing different countries of Africa were on display, cultural performances as well as keynote lecture delivered by President Akufo-Addo.

Some of the dignitaries that accompanied the renowned lawyer were Managing Director, Istabaraqim, Alhaji Rafiu Ebiti; Executive Chairman, Kwara State Internal Revenue Services, Professor Muritala Awodun, Director for Peace and Strategic Studies, University of Ibadan; Prof. Olawale Albert; Vice-Chancellor, Osun State University.; Prof.

Labode Popoola; Communication Consultant, Y.K.O. Abdulkareem; Texas based Peace and Conflict Management practitioner and Hon. Akin Akinteye, among others.

An elated President of California State University, Dr Robert Nelsen, enthused as he told the guests that it was a historic day for them, adding, this campus is dedicated to create a haven where everybody belongs. It doesn't matter who you are or your nationals because we are family. America needs Africa in terms of partnership. CAPCR, as an institute, has done tremendous things since inception. What we need now are African students in our campus, an opportunity to learn. It is an honour to have the President of Ghana this evening. Welcome here, let's celebrate. Let's bring peace to United States, Africa and the troubled world because we are all brothers.

In his opening remarks, the Ghanaian President said, I am grateful to all of you for participating. Africa, as a continent, is moving forward. Though we have challenges, the most important thing is how to educate our youth with skills that will equip them to face the 21st century. The work of governance is to cater to the welfare of the citizens, provide education and jobs for our people. Coming here is to see how this great university can collaborate. We have extremely good relationship with America since

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The Night California stood...

independence over six decades ago.

Today, Ghana is thriving in democracy, transferring power and being hailed as a symbol of democracy on the continent of Africa. So, coming here to participate in this event, symbolises friendship.

He continued: The issue of Africa is not going to be solved if disparities in access to qualitative education and good life still widen. It is important looking at it from humanity that both developed and the Third World countries are in the same boat because education and access to quality life is not a continental dilemma. It is global and that is the only thing that can help us survive as human race. Everyone has a role to play but what we pray for is sense of commonality and I hope we will all build a society that all of us will be able to live together.

In his remarks, the Director of Centre for African Peace and Conflict Resolution of the university, Prof. Ernest Uwazie, noted that the journey of the institute began 27 years ago precisely in 1990 "when the department was formed with origin in Africa. The decision, he disclosed, was borne out of the need to institutionalise and Africanise Africans in Sacramento. He assured that over the years, the conveners have stayed true to the commitment as people were brought together to celebrate inter-cultural heritage, which they have done close to three decades. He stated that over the years, they have grown

bigger and better with

the support they received.

Peace is about making everywhere safe. Although Africa remains a focal point, we are also working to make our society safe. For the past 27 years, we have made this event our Nobel Peace Prize award where we celebrate unsung

heroes and individuals, who have made significant contributions to humanity. We are blessed to have the Ghanaian president, a champion of human rights, a model for good governance not only in Ghana but in Africa in our midst, Uwazie said.

Walking majestically to receive his 2018 Humanitarian Peace Award from the Associate Dean, College of Health and Human Services of the university, Dr. Robin Carter, one could feel that sense of fulfilment and accomplishment for Ali with his laudable recognition in far-away Sacramento. A man of few words, the Nigerian lawyer expressed his gratitude to the institute for finding him worthy of the honour.

"I am honoured to be here this evening. This has equally challenged me to do more. The subject Peace is significant to us in our various societies because it brings development. So, it is important to buy into peace-making and peace-building. I thank everyone present", Ali remarked.

Shortly before he stepped out of the podium, a plaque with the bold inscription California Legislative Assembly Resolution signed by Chris Holden, the Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus, was presented to Ali for serving humanity selflessly.

Award ceremony over, everyone let their hair down as they took to the dance floor and wriggle to sweet African music. The takeaway is not the glitz and glamour. It is the need for human beings to be their brother's keeper. It is about the significance of being a constant help to humanity.





Promise Kept: Yusuf Ali, SAN donates vehicle to Unilorin centre

In fulfillment of his pledge for continued support towards the promotion of peace scholarship and practice in Nigeria, an Ilorin-based and widely celebrated legal luminary in Nigeria, Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali (SAN) has donated a Sienna Space-Bus to the Centre for Peace and Strategic Studies (CPSS), University of Ilorin.

He made the donation on Saturday (January 18, 2020) when the leadership of the Centre, led by the Director, Professor Noah Yusuf, paid him a visit in his office to present the plaque of the Peace Ambassador Award conferred on him along side some notable Nigerians during the CPSS 10th anniversary celebration held in December, 2019.

Speaking shortly before the presentation of the vehicle, Mallam Yusuf Ali said no amount of money or resources is too much to be invested in peace, saying that peace is the ultimate in human existence.

He said there can never be justice without peace and there can never be development without peace, adding that justice is precursor for the attainment of peace.

Ali recalled that his relationship with peace scholarship and peace building predated the University of Ilorin Centre for Peace and Strategic Studies (CPSS) saying that he was privileged to be privy to the conceptualization of the CPSS when Professor Is'haq Oloyede was about to establish the centre over 10 years ago.

He disclosed that a close friend of his, late Alhaji Nurudeen Olarinde, who was former Commissioner for Finance in Oyo State, introduced him to Professor Albert through who in turn, introduced it.

He disclosed that he later became one of the BOTs of the SPSP and had bagged peace awards nationally and internationally.

According to him, he had received peace international award presented to him by WANE in Ghana and another one by California State University in 2017.

He thanked the University of Ilorin CPSS for always identifying with him, pointing out that God has used the centre to impact his life. He added that he would continue to remain eternally

grateful to it.

He thanked the centre for the honour and apologized for his inability to attend the 10th anniversary celebration.

Earlier in his remarks, the Director of the CPSS, Professor Noah Yusuf, said Mallam Ali's invaluable contributions to the centre and promotion of peace across the country and beyond earned him the CPSS Peace Ambassador Award.

Professor Yusuf commended Mallam Ali for his usual support and assistance

towards promotion of the peace scholarship and practice in the country.

Receiving the vehicle on behalf of the centre, Professor Yusuf said the gift came as a surprise and expressed gratitude for the gesture, saying that it could not have come at a better time than now when the centre was in dire need of utility vehicles.

Also speaking, a lecturer at the Centre, Dr (Mrs) Biola Adimula, said the gesture would take peace scholarship to the next level.



HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS!



I, Alhaji Yakubu Garba Gobir, the Sarkin Gobir of Ilorin Emirate, Waziri Kasar Hausa, and the Madawaki of Ilorin Emirate, extend my heartfelt congratulations to my dear brother and distinguished legal luminary, Prof. Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN, on his well-deserved turbaning as the first Kuliya Ngeri of Ilorin by our revered father, His Royal Highness Alhaji (Dr.) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR, the Emir of Ilorin and Chairman of the Kwara State Traditional Rulers Council.

This prestigious honour is not only a recognition of your unwavering dedication, integrity, and service to the Ilorin Emirate but also a testament to your lifelong commitment to justice, community development, and the betterment of Nigeria at large. Your noble character, humility, and selfless contributions continue to inspire many across the nation.

As you step into this new and significant role, I pray that Almighty Allah (SWT) bestows upon you greater wisdom, sound health, divine guidance, and the strength to carry out your responsibilities with excellence and grace. May your reign as Kuliya Ngeri usher in an era of peace, unity, and prosperity for our people.

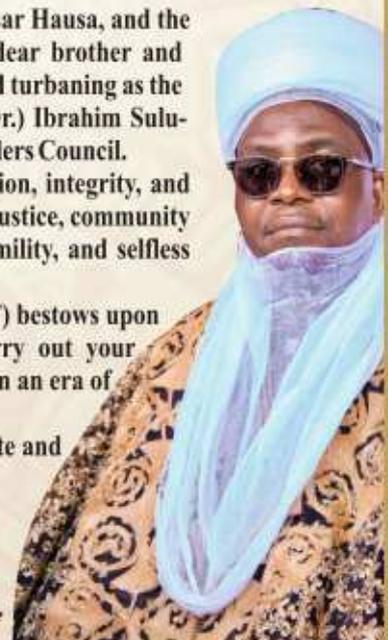
Once again, congratulations on this historic milestone. The entire Ilorin Emirate and beyond stand proud of you.

MASSALAM

SIGNED

Alhaji Yakubu Garba Gobir,

Sarkin Gobir of Ilorin Emirate, Waziri Kasar Hausa and the Madawaki of Ilorin Emirate



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