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2025 SOUTH SOUTH NIGERIA EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS



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PROF. ROWLAND NDOMA-EGBA.

South South Nigeria Outstanding Leadership Award

Professor Rowland NDOMA-EGBA, Professor of Surgery, sub specialising in Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery at the University of Calabar and the University of Calabar Teaching hospital, Calabar, Nigeria.

I am Dr Jonathan Okonkwo. I have known Professor Rowland Ndoma-Egba since January 1965, when I entered Government Secondary School Afikpo, where he was already in class 3, having entered in 1963. We were in the same Okpara House.

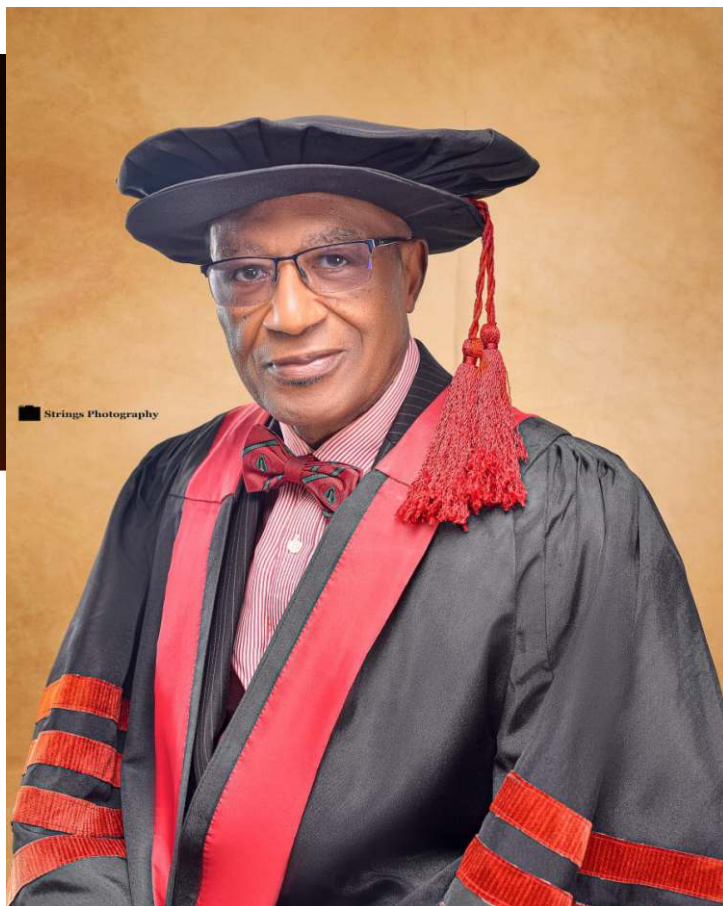
I found him a very hardworking, disciplined, and ambitious senior.

Although the civil war separated us through friends and other colleagues, I was glad to learn that he read medicine and performed exemplarily well at the University of Lagos, Nigeria. I studied the same at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

I also know that he trained as a surgeon in the United Kingdom and had returned to Nigeria settling and practising his craft as a Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgeon, and Teaching both undergraduate medical students and Resident doctors and undertaking Research. He rose to become a professor. He held many academic and administrative roles at the university and the associated teaching hospital. He was the youngest Chief Medical Director of the UCTH when he successfully delivered the project that led to the migration to the new teaching hospital (UCTH.)

Academically, Prof. Ndoma-Egba has many publications and has trained many professors in his speciality.

Administratively, he established the Institute of Tropical Medicine and Research, Faculty of Dentistry at UNICAL/UNICAL TEACHING HOSPITAL. He also established a research journal, "Mary Slessor Journal of



Medicine."

He was appointed the Pro-chancellor and Chairman of the Council at The OAU, Ile-Ife. It was during this time that the Queen of England, Elizabeth II, received him and other heads of commonwealth universities at Buckingham Palace in 2013.

In the Society at large, he has been Chairman of the Red Cross Society, Nigeria Cancer Society (CR), 15yrs, and Chairman of Dysability sports for 20 yrs.

He is a very distinguished Alumnus of our School, Government Secondary School Afikpo, and of the University of Lagos. A Valedictorian of the University of Lagos Medical School. In 1979 he won Honours as the best National Youth Service Corp member while serving in the then Gongola state, Nigeria. Professor Rowland NDOMA-EGBA deserves the Honour being bestowed upon him, the SOUTH SOUTH OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD.

I congratulate him on his numerous achievements in academics, leadership, and administrative spheres. They are well deserved and worth emulating.

I am Dr Jonathan Okonkwo. BM B ch 1978, MRCOG(1987). T(GP)

PROF. LILIAN IMUETINYAN SALAMI

B. Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D., Home Economics/Nutrition
PGDE, Postdoc. FNSN, FIFHE/HEPAN
Vice-Chancellor, University of Benin

South South Nigeria Woman of the Year on Education



Prof. Lilian Salami a native of UhunwondeLGA of Benin City, Edo State. She obtained a B.Sc degree in Home Economics in 1979 and masters' in Nutrition in 1982 both from North Dakota University in the USA. She then returned to Nigeria same 1982 to serve her National Youth Service. Thereafter, Prof Lilian Salami obtained her PHD in Human Nutrition from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka in 1991. She has her PGD in Education from University of Benin in 2001 and a Post-doctoral degree in Tourism and Hospitality from Vaal University of Technology in South Africa in 2005.

She became a Professor in the same 2005. Her teaching has spanned over 30 years in the tertiary education system from University of Ife now ObafemiAwolowo University, university of Maiduguri and University of Benin.

Prof Lilian Salami was a member of the University Senate from 1996–1998, 2005– 2016 and 2019 till date, member of the Governing Council of the University of Benin from 2014–2016. She was the first elected Dean, Faculty of Education 2014–2016. In 2016 to Oct 2019, Prof Lilian Salami was the Director General of a Federal Institution the National Institute for Educational Planning & Administration (NIEPA) located in Ondo town. In 2019, after a credible and transparent interview process, Prof. Lilian Salami was appointed the 10th substantive Vice Chancellor of University of Benin, a position she held till December, 2024.

In the history of Vice Chancellorship of the University, She is the 2nd female Vice Chancellor of the University of Benin, but today, history records her as the first ever female Benin indigene to become a Vice Chancellor. History also has Prof Lilian Salami as the First Female Professor and the First Elected Female Dean in the Faculty of Education, University of Benin. Prof Salami has mentored and supervised many students some of whom are now Professors in their own right. She was the Chairman of the Committee of Vice Chancellors of all Nigerian Universities (Federal, State and Private). Prof Salami is the Vice President of the Association of African Universities and a traditional title holder of the Oganete of Igarra Land and YeyeMeso of Ondo Kingdom. Prof Lilian Salami was married to the late Prof Charles GE Salami who recently passed and blessed with Children and Grandchildren.

PROF. OPUDA ALIOMA EKINE

South South Nigeria Innovation Award

Prof. Opuda Ekine was born in October 1960, from Buguma in Asari-Toru Local Government area of Rivers State, Nigeria. He is an experienced Nigerian academic with a keen focus on innovative feed alternatives and poultry/livestock nutrition and health. with a lot of teaching, research, and agricultural development experience, and over 50 academic publications to his credit. He holds a solid publication record and is recognized both locally and internationally in the field of Animal Science.

He presently, holds a Doctorate (PhD) and Master of Science (MSc) degrees in Animal Science from the Rivers State University (RSU), Nkpolu, Port Harcourt, Nigeria, specializing in Animal Nutrition Physiology, Production and Health. Prof. Opuda Ekine is presently a Professor in the Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Port Harcourt, Choba, Nigeria.

Prof Opuda Ekine is a member of the Nigerian Society for Animal Production (NSAP), Nigeria Institute of Animal Science (NIAS), Animal Science Association of Nigeria (ASAN), Nigerian Association of Animal Health and Husbandry Technologist (NAAHHT) and a Fellow of the Strategic Institute for Natural Resources and Human Development.

He is married to a beautiful woman he met in his youthful age; Princess Irene Ekine (Nee Amachree) and the marriage is blessed with four lovely Children (Dumo, Daopu, Telema and Ibingibo). He is an enthusiast and active participant in Games and Sports, and loves Tourism, Reading, Pet-keeping and Photography.



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DR. CHRISTOPHER FRIDAY OKONGKO

South South Nigeria
Humanitarian Award

has uplifted many communities and faith based organisations – proving that, philanthropy is not just about charity, but a sacred responsibility to all manner of people.

He is highly schooled; a core professional in multifaceted disciplines. He is a Photonics Engineer, a Physicist, an Economist. Also in his kitty is a doctorate degree in International Affairs.

He believes in a common philosophy that knowledge, when rightly harnessed, becomes a tool for both influence and impact.

The man, Dr. Christopher Friday Okongko is a Canadian-based professional, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and youth advocate whose life embodies excellence, compassion, and purpose. A visionary leader; Chief Executive Officer of Okongko Mega Investment Limited and President of Okongko Universal Ventures, whose business establishments reflect his actual drive for creativity, innovation and sustainable growth.

Dr Okongko is a man of due diligence who pays close attention to details and figures in all his dealings. He has a unique blend of strategic thought and real-world application in his approach to corporate management and leadership.

Through the Okongko Charity Foundation, his humanitarian heartbeat, he has touched countless lives across Nigeria and beyond as well as given renewed hope to many. His scholarship schemes have empowered students to further secure appointment with destiny; his programmes for the needy have inspired people leaving with disabilities; his outreach

He is a leader of his own class and style who has held several positions of responsibility in the past; he was a former student union leader while in the University of Calabar where his leadership prowess was first tried and tested. Also, his tenure as President of the Nigerian South-South Heritage Association in Calgary further reveals his deep passion for cultural identity and cemented his greater desire to promote unity in diversity.

More than his titles, Dr. Okongko is literally a movement of impact. A man of deep intellect and humility, who represents a rare blend of enterprise and humanity.

To the next generation, Dr Christopher Okongko represents a voice of courage; to society, he is a bridge builder; and to the world, he stands as a reminder that true greatness is embedded in humility.

PATIENCE DIAGI

South South Nigeria Outstanding Leadership Award



Patience Diagi, popularly known as Pat Diagi is the founder and Global Coordinator of Destiny Prayer Network International – a ministry given to her by God in 2014 with the mandate of connecting men to God through prayers.

Pat Diagi who hails from Delta State, South-South, Nigeria holds a Bachelor of Science and Masters Degrees in Geography and Environmental Management, from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and the University of Port Harcourt, respectively. She is currently a PhD student of Geography and Environmental Management at the University

of Port Harcourt.

Pat Diagi, is a bi-vocational minister of the gospel, with a strong belief that one can be successful in ministry while also flourishing in legitimate business, a conviction that led her to establish Benova, a unisex corporate clothing line 20 years ago. Benova has its corporate headquarters in Port Harcourt and an outlet, Benova Luxury Shop in the heart of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

10 years ago, God led Pat Diagi to start the radio ministry arm of Destiny Prayer Network International – the mandate was clear – connecting men to God through prayers. The prayer programme on radio which is now successfully in its 10th year made its debut on Family Love 97.7FM, Port Harcourt, in 2014 and has since grown to be airing in multiple radio stations, numbering about 20, in Port Harcourt, Abuja and across the country. Destiny Prayer Network International is headquartered in Port Harcourt with a chapter in Abuja. Pat Diagi also holds periodic on-site prayer programmes in Port Harcourt and Abuja.

Pat Diagi, a ferocious prayer warrior whose prayer ministry has endeared many people around the world to her due to the dynamic style of her prayer ministry that has been hugely described as ancient and modern, bridging the gap between the old and the new generation, making them to fall in love with prayers. Pat Diagi's love for God is passionately contagious. She is an ever-smiling philanthropist who gives sacrificially and whose life, ministry and business have been a great source of encouragement to many successful people around the world that she mentors both in business and ministry.

Pat Diagi is a loving wife, caring mother, dedicated pastor and an astute business woman. She loves travelling, reading and learning to God's glory and is married to Pastor Matthew Diagi and they have three lovely adult children.

AMB. DR. MRS CHIESONU IZIGA-ERUCHALU

(PHD, CBA, NIM, FIIMCA)

Advocacy Award



Amb. Dr. Chiesonu hails from Amube in Igbo-Eze North Local Government Area of Enugu State. She attended Community Primary School (CPS) Etiti Ngwo in Enugu State. After her primary education, she gained admission into the famous Queens School Enugu and later completed her secondary school education at the prestigious St Cyprians Special Science School Nsukka from where she obtained her Senior Secondary School Certificate. She proceeded to notable universities and institutes like University of Nigeria Nsukka, The International Business School Americas (IBS Americas) Sao Paulo, Brazil, MSME Business School, Nigerian Institute of Management and African Society for Public Administrators, Leaders and Managers where she obtained her first degree, post-graduate degrees, CBA, chartered management certificate, MasterClass certificate on building brands; Innovation and system

logic and other professional certificates. She is also a Fellow of the Institute of Micro Credit Administrators. She was also awarded a certificate by the Young African Leaders Initiatives in recognition of the successful completion of a course on Effective Communication for Healthy Outcomes.

During her university days, she was a member of House of Representatives of the Faculty of Biological Sciences UNN. She also served as the LOC Chairperson of the publicity committee of the Student's Sectoral Biennial Conference. During her mandatory National Youth Service, she worked at St Gregory Hospital Ado, Ekiti State. To also make her service year count, she taught in schools and also obtained a certificate in Event Management from IMISI Nigeria and was given "The Star Student Award" as the best student. From there, she was gainfully employed by an IT firm in the South Eastern Nigeria where she developed professional IT skills. This gave her numerous opportunities to consult for schools, organizations and NGOs. She is currently the managing director of Glozig Limited, Chieso Life Foundation (CLF) and TConsult360, an Integrated Management Company with over 10 years of experience in writing services, branding, research, data analysis, training etc.

Amb. Dr. Chiesonu is the former National Vice President of Ohaneze Youth Council, the apex youth body of Ohaneze Ndigbo Worldwide. She has also served as a woman leader and secretary of some political organizations. She is in politics to change the narrative, to join her good head with other good heads to bring about positive change and create a working system and society where good policies are made for the development of the people.

Amb. Dr. Chiesonu is the Convener of "Every Child Deserves Education Initiative" (ECDEI), a yearly project of Chieso Life Foundation (CLF). She believes that when we remove

barriers and give every child a chance to succeed through good education, we help make our communities safer and better.

She is a social change person with different dimensions – She is a public health consultant, a researcher and data analyst, a writer, a humanitarian, a serial entrepreneur and a woman who's intentional about changing and redefining narratives for better.

She has over ten years of experience in community development focusing on youth and women empowerment. She has led many developmental and interventional programs and initiatives in rural communities. She has a large heart of service to humanity.

Amb. Dr. Chiesonu was selected as one of the 2025 UN Girls and Women Speak Ambassadors through the Peace Ambassadors Advocacy Network, in affiliation with the International Association of World Peace Advocates (IAWPA) and the United Nations. This ambassadorial recognition positions her to champion the cause of girls and women's voices on both national and international platforms, representing a commitment to amplifying voices that deserve to be heard and ensuring that dreams and potential are unleashed globally.

She also received the prestigious SHE GLOBAL AWARDS from She Global Awards Inc.

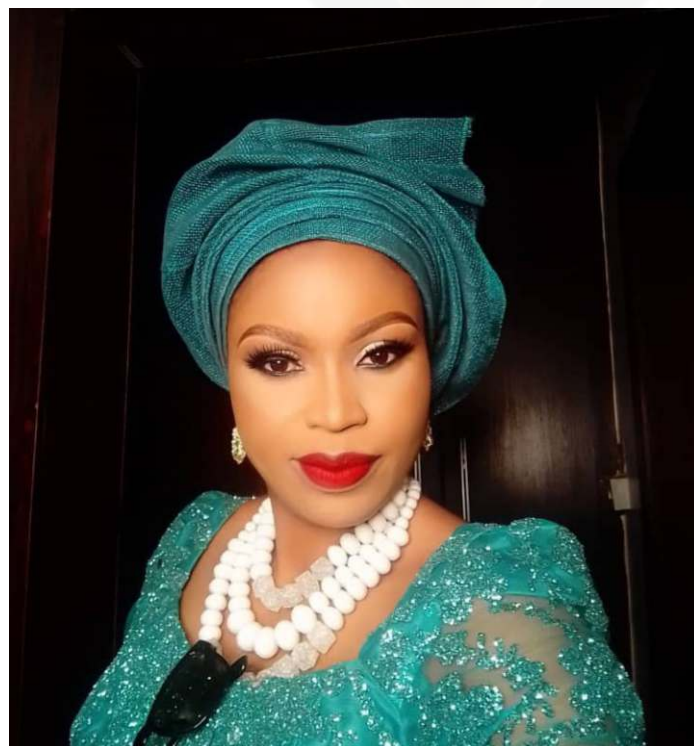
This recognition, under the powerful theme "THE LIPSTICK FORCE," affirms her leadership with purpose and the global impact that resonates when women lead. This award acknowledges her journey of perseverance, community building, and her unwavering commitment to pursuing passion against all odds.

She has been featured by BBC Igbo on live interactive session to discuss the state of the Igbo nation, insecurities and the role of Ohaneze as the Apex Igbo organization. During the review of 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, she presented a joint memorandum for nine civil society organizations to the Senate Committee where she pushed for amendments in the constitution of Nigeria that will enhance and

improve unity, prosperity and good governance in Nigeria – “an environment where justice, fairness and equity shall prevail.

Amb. Dr. Mrs Chiesonu Iziga-Eruchalu is married and blessed with three children. She is very optimistic, focused, empathetic, kind, transparent, highly efficient with a proactive approach to performance, self motivated, positive, genuine and a critical thinker.

All these qualities endeared her to many people and earned her many nicknames like Agbanchala, Mama Ohanaeze, Nwaejiejemba, Nnukwu Ada, Ifekaolaedo, Anyanwunaetiri oha, Beauty and Brains, Adaeze, Little Angel, Ugomba, Flawless Omalicha, mmiri etc.



ABIGAIL OSEREMEN OKPEBHOLO

South South Nigeria Advocacy Award



Abigail Oseremen Okpebholo is a passionate women and girls rights advocate, public speaker, and community mobilizer with over a decade of experience working to improve the lives and promote the rights of women and girls in rural communities across underserved communities in Delta State, Nigeria. She is a dedicated champion for girls' access to quality education in underserved regions working to combat child marriage, and reintegrate former child brides into school.

She is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of

Youngpearl Women and Girls Initiative, a Delta-based nonprofit organisation that influence policies to protect girls' rights at the grassroots level. Through her Back2School Intervention, which she launched in 2012, she works to improve access to education for underprivileged girls and has provided scholarships covering tuition, uniforms, books, writing materials and other essential school supplies for over 6,500 underprivileged girls both those at-risk of child marriage and former child brides, enabling them learn without hassle. This intervention has directly halted over 500 child marriages and reintegrated more than 1,500 former child brides into school.

In addition, Abigail is the Founder and Co-Director of Sunrise Academy, a holistic learning center established in 2017 that provides quality education, safe learning spaces, mentorship, and after-school tutorials to underprivileged girls, particularly reintegrated former child brides. Under her leadership, the academy has empowered over 500 girls, equipping them with essential skills and knowledge to secure a brighter future.

Furthermore, realising that menstruation was a significant factor that keeps girls away from school, she launched the #ProjectEndPeriodPoverty in 2018 to end period poverty among adolescent girls in rural communities across the UDU region, improve school attendance and reduce menstrual related absenteeism. Through this project, she has distributed menstrual hygiene kits to over 4,500 adolescent school girls, carried out menstrual health education in over 30 rural secondary schools and worked with traditional leaders and faith-based organisations to implement menstrual hygiene programs in over 8 rural communities in Delta State. This has drastically reduced the use of unsafe and unhygienic menstrual alternatives such as papers, rags, and leaves, improved school attendance and drastically

reduced harmful menstrual related practices.

Also, recognising the role men and boys play in community matters, she launched the Menstrual Health and Hygiene Boys' Talk Series in 2024 to engage males in advocating for menstrual health awareness. Through this talk series, she has reached over 2,000 males who are all joining hands to end menstrual poverty in their communities and work spaces.

Beyond her organizational leadership, Abigail has made significant contributions to global education advocacy. From 2015 to 2018, she worked with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Nigeria as an Enrollment Drive Campaign Officer, where she played a pivotal role in increasing girls school enrollment by designing and implementing the first-ever Enrollment Drive Campaign (EDC), spearheaded the inauguration of EDC committees in over 50 underserved communities, facilitated over 100 sensitization programs and workshops for inaugurated local EDC committees members.

Currently, she serves as a Board Member at CRIO, an international organization committed to improving the lives of orphans, particularly girls, through education. In her role, she shapes policies that support the educational needs of orphaned girls, spearheads report writing, strategic planning, and ensure that funds are appropriately allocated for the needs of the orphans.

Due to her extraordinary work, she has won numerous awards which includes the 2021 Impactfield Exceptional Youth Award, 2020 Winner, GirlRising and HP Storytelling Challenge and was a finalist in the 2020 Nigeria's Citizenship for Education Award.

Her work has also been featured in several international blogs, websites and podcasts.

Abigail holds a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria. She leverages her strong analytical and problem-solving skills to drive social impact, strengthen grassroots communities, and amplify the voices of women and girls across Delta State, Nigeria.



PROF. ALLEN A. AGIH

South South Nigeria Gold Award of Excellence

Allen A. Agih is a Professor of Educational Management and Planning with the Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State. Professor Agih was the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) of the University from 2019 to March 2021. He was re-elected as Deputy Vice-Chancellor in February, 2021, and served as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) of the University from 2021 to 2023.

Currently, Prof Agih is the 5th Substantive Vice-Chancellor of the Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State.

Professor Agih holds a Ph.D in Educational Management and Planning in 2009 from the University of Port Harcourt.

Professor Agih was employed as an Assistant Lecturer in 2002, and rose from the ranks to become a Professor in 2017. He has served the University meritoriously in various capacities: He was appointed Acting Head of Department, Educational Foundations in the Faculty of Education in 2012. He was elected and served meritoriously as Faculty of Education Representative in Senate.

Professor Agih was a member of the University

Research Committee. He was appointed as the Director of the Advancement and Linkages Centre of the University in 2013, where he facilitated the collaboration of the University with renowned universities and organizations such as Wolverhampton University, United Kingdom; University of Bradford, UK; Research Professionals, South Africa; University of Kwazulu-land, South Africa; Vaal University of Technology (VUT), South Africa; Qingdao University of Agriculture in China, and a host of others.

Similarly, Professor Agih has provided knowledge in various workshops and trainings:

- i. Resource Person at Induction Retreat for Legislators- Elect of the 4th Assembly of Bayelsa State held at the Tinapa Lake Side Hotel, Calabar, Cross Rivers State from 25th – 27th May, 2011. Text of paper presented, “Interdependence of the Arms of Government”;
- ii. Nigerian Academy of Education (NAE) 26th Annual Conference on Quality Assurance Mechanisms in Nigerian Education at the University of Lagos, 21st- 25th November, 2011;
- iii. Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), Conference on Educational Advancement in Africa at Fiesta Royale Hotel Accra, Ghana 29th – 31 October, 2013;
- iv. Quality Assurance Manager, Federal Ministry of Education 2011 MDGs Training Workshop for Basic Junior Secondary and Primary School Teachers in Bayelsa State, 2011.

Professor Allen Agih has travelled widely to attend workshops and conferences which have enriched his performance and experience in University administration. Accordingly, he has participated in some of the following

international workshops:

a. Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), Conference on Educational Advancement in Africa at Ghana;

b. Creating Research Success through Grant-Writing Skills Development: A Professional Development Workshop, organized by Research Africa at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa in 2013;

c. Educational Advancement Workshop by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) at Cape Town in South Africa in 2015;

d. Workshop on the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Engineering Studies in Niger Delta University at Imperial College in the United Kingdom in 2016;

e. National Capacity Building Strategy for Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation conference at the American University in the Emirates, Dubai in 2015;

f. National Disaster Management conference at Dumont Forte University, Leicester– United Kingdom in 2016.

g. Association of African Universities (AAU) workshop on 21st Century Leadership of Africa Higher Education institutions at Victoria Falls, Great Zimbabwe University, Zimbabwe in 2018.

h. Committee of Vice-Chancellors' of Nigerian Universities (CVCNU) in collaboration with the University of Mauritius workshop on, "Building and leading exceptional organization for managing uncertainty, growth and resilience" University of Mauritius, Reduit Moka, Mauritius, 4th – 8th December, 2023.

Professor Agih is a member of the Nigerian Academy of Education (MNAE); member, Commonwealth Council for Educational Administration and Management (CCEAM); Nigerian Association for Educational Administration and Planning (NAEAP); Teachers' Investigation Panel (TIP) of the Teachers' Regulatory Council of Nigeria (TRCN); Member, Special Matters'

Court (SMC) in Bayelsa State and others.

Professor Agih has great interest in teaching and human capacity advancement for sustainable development. His current research interests are in developing the affective with respect to human capital development, effective teaching/learning and education management.

Professor Agih is happily married, and the marriage is blessed with a son.



SNEA

DR. MRS. LEESI NDOR

South South Nigeria Lives Development Award

Dr. (Mrs.) Leesi Ndor was born into the family of the late Edwin Dumle Sigalo of Gokana Local Government Area, Rivers State, Nigeria. She obtained her early education at Baranyowa Dere State School (1970–1975) and later attended Marian High School, Bane, for her secondary education. She earned a Higher National Diploma (HND) from the National Veterinary Research Institute, Vom, Jos, Plateau State, in 1982.

Following her National Youth Service in Kwara State, Dr. Leesi Ndor commenced her professional career with the Rivers State Ministry of Agriculture, where she served with distinction and rose to the position of Director before her retirement. While in service, she furthered her academic pursuits at Rivers State University, where she obtained an MSc in Reproductive Physiology, a PhD in Reproductive Physiology, and a second PhD in Animal Science.

Currently, Dr. Leesi Ndor serves as a Consultant, Service Provider, and Capacity Builder with the Rivers State FADAMA program. She is a member of the National Association of Animal Health and Husbandry Technologists, Nigeria, and has provided advisory services to numerous private and public farms.

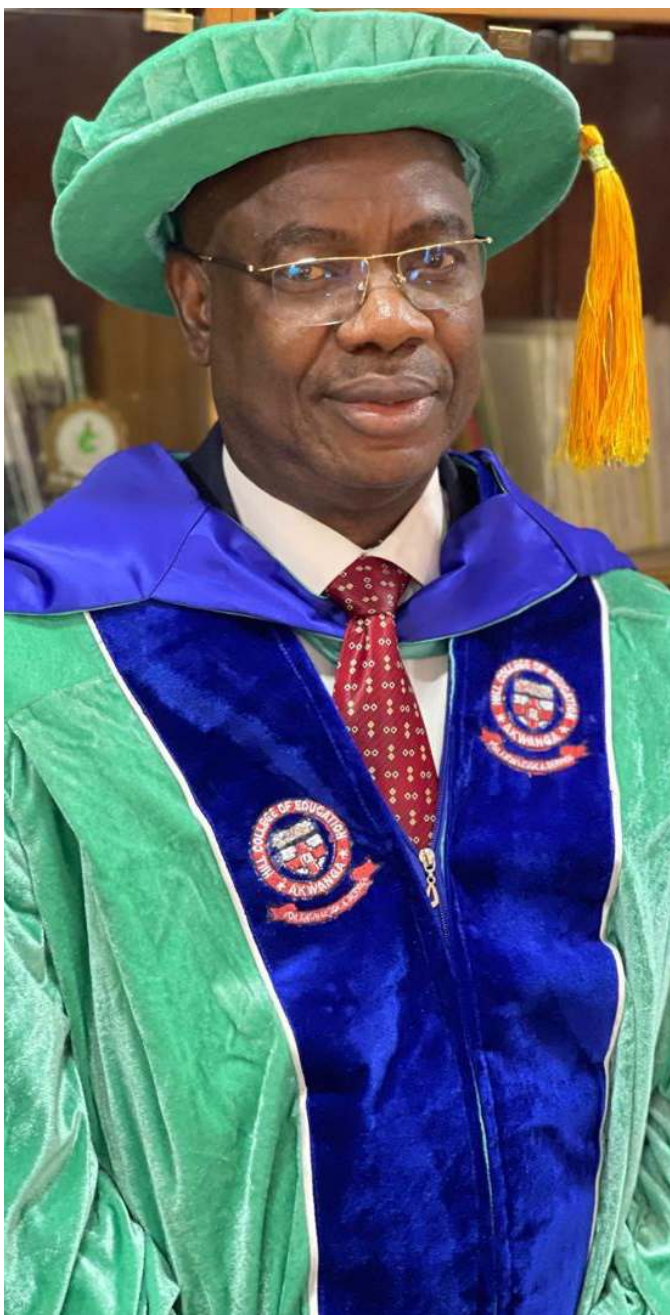
She has published several works in both local and international journals, including *Performance of Broilers on Furazolidone Additive* and *Sustainable Broiler Chicken Production in Nigeria*. Her notable research includes *The Assessment of Artificial Breeding Patterns of Fertility in Rabbits*.

In addition to her professional and academic achievements, Dr. Ndor is actively engaged in Christian service. She is the Women's Coordinator at Deeper Life Bible Church, Rumukpakani, Port Harcourt. She is married to Engr. Morrison Ndor, and they are blessed with four sons.



PROF. PAULINUS CHIJOKE OKWELLE

MNAE, FABEN, FIELP
South South Nigeria
Pillar of Education Award



Professor Paulinus Chijioke Okwelle, from Rumuoro-Ogbakiri in Rivers State, holds degrees in Technical and Industrial Education from Rivers State University, the University of Nigeria Nsukka, and Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, where he obtained a Ph.D. in Technical Education. He is also a certified teacher with the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN).

He has taught in several institutions, including Rivers State University, where he became Professor of Industrial Technology Education in 2018. He has held leadership positions, supervised many postgraduate students, published extensively, and served as External Examiner and Adjunct Professor in other universities. A regular keynote speaker at national and international conferences, he also worked briefly with Geoservices Nigeria Limited, a multinational oil and gas company.

In 2021, Prof. Okwelle was appointed Executive Secretary of the National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE), the Federal agency regulating over 200 Colleges of Education in Nigeria. He also serves on the boards of key education agencies including TETFund, UBEC, TRCN, CPN, JAMB, and NELFUND. A Fellow of several professional bodies and alumnus of the U.S. International Visitor Leadership Programme, he has undertaken global leadership programmes. He is a devout Christian, married, and blessed with children.

DR. KINGSLEY NZE ACHIBOGWU

South South Nigeria Outstanding Academic Mentor of the Year



Dr Kingsley Nze Ashibogwu hails from Ossissa community in Ndokwa East Local Government Area of Delta State. He is a politician, an accountant, a manager and University lecturer. He commenced his teaching career as a classroom teacher at Saint Augustine's College, Asaba in 1998. He was elected Councilor and later became Minority Leader, and chairman House committee on Education of Ndokwa East Legislative Council from (1999–2002). He was also supervisor for Environment in Ndokwa East Local Government Area from (2008–2010). He was also

Secretary of Peoples' Democratic Party in Ndokwa East Local Government Area from (2008–2012). He was later elected chairman of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Ndokwa East Local Government Area from (2012–2016). He was appointed member, Delta State Land use and allocation committee by the Immediate past governor of Delta State, Sen. Dr Arthur Ifeanyi Okowa from (2015–2019). He was also appointed Senior Special Assistant on Youth Development to the Executive Governor of Delta State from (2019–2022). He was appointed Justice of Peace (JP) by the Delta State Government in 2023. He was also appointed Honourable Commissioner for Higher Education and member of the State Executive Council by H.E. Sen. Dr Arthur Ifeanyi Okowa from (2022–2023). He served as member and chairman sub-committee on Human Capital Development for the Transition Implementation Committee of Rt Hon. Sheriff Oborevwori as governor-elect in 2023. He was for the second time nominated and appointed as Honourable Commissioner by Rt Hon. Sheriff Oborevwori in 2023. He is currently the Honourable Commissioner for Primary Education and member of the Delta State Executive Council.

He also holds the following educational qualifications:

- N.C.E. in Business Education with specialty in Accounting obtained from Federal College of Education (Technical), Asaba, Delta State.
- B.Sc(Ed) in Business Education with specialty in Accounting obtained from Delta State University,

Abraka, Delta State.

– B.Sc in Accounting obtained from the National Open University of Nigeria.

– LLB in Law obtained from the National Open University of Nigeria.

– M.Sc in Accountancy with specialty in Financial Accounting obtained from Chukwuemeka Odimegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam, Anambra State.

– M.Sc in Business Education with specialty in Accounting obtained from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State.

– M.Sc in Business Administration (Business Management) obtained from Novena University, Ogume, Delta State.

– LL.M in Law obtained from the National Open University of Nigeria.

– PhD in Business Education with specialty in Accounting obtained from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State.

– PhD in Accounting with specialty in Financial Accounting obtained from Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

– PhD in Business Management obtained from Delta State University, Abraka, Delta State.

He is a member of some professional bodies which includes:

– Fellow, Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN);

– Member, Nigeria Accounting Association (NAA);

– Member, Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN);

– Member, Chartered Institute of Forensics and Certified Fraud Investigators of Nigeria (CIFCFIN);

– Member, Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM);

– Member, Teachers' Registration Council of Nigeria

(TRCN);

– Member, National Association of Business Educators of Nigeria (NABEN)

– Fellow, Association of Management and Social Sciences Researchers of Nigeria (AMSSRN);

– Member, Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators (ICMC);

He has published books and over sixty (60) articles to his credit published in reputable journals. He was the Head of Accounting Department, Novena University, Ogume, Delta State.

He is a staff of the accounting department, Southern Delta University, Ozoro, Delta State.

He is a humble and experienced administrator and happily married with children.





GLOBAL SKILLS HUB, UNITED KINGDOM
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
SOUTH SOUTH NIGERIA EXCELLENCE AWARDS
(RC - 1652941)

Dr. Ebipaeperere Sikpi

South South Nigeria
Outstanding Leadership
Award



Congratulations

Celebrating a Visionary Leader, Mentor, and Patriarch of the Ndoma-Egba Dynasty, Prof. Rowland Ndoma-Egba, FRCS, FICS, FWACS, FNIM.

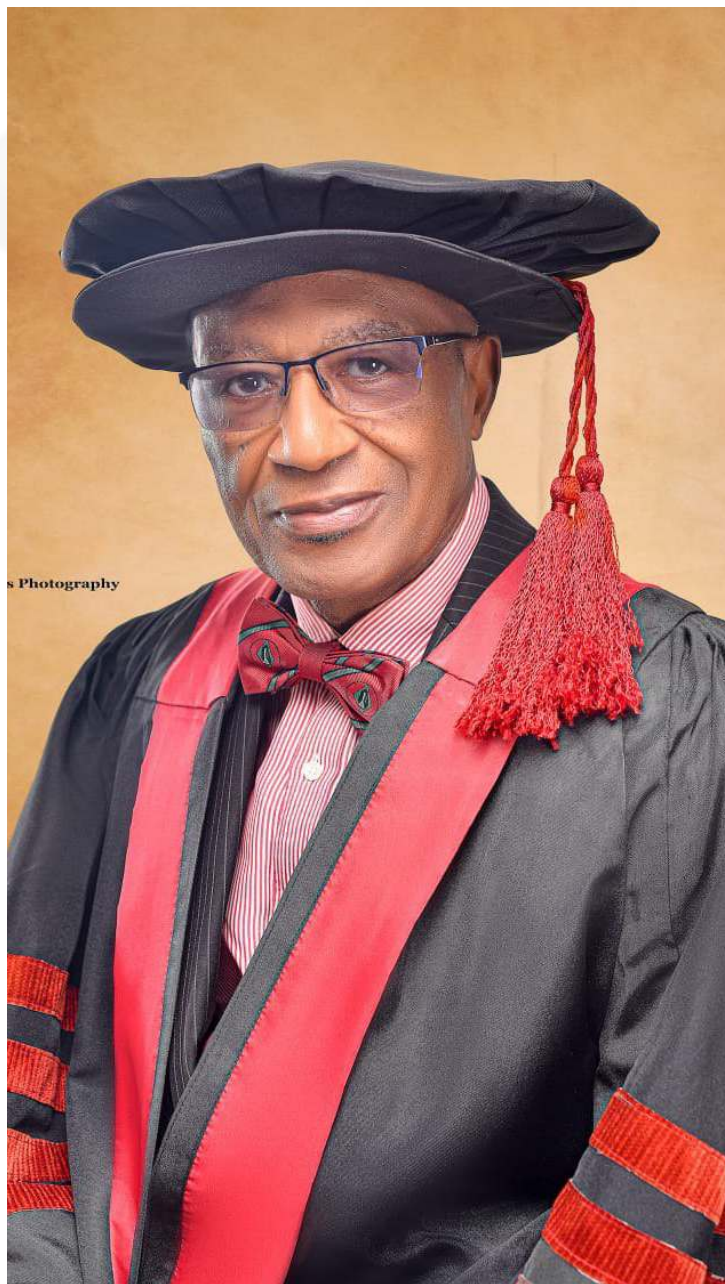
We extend our warmest congratulations to our esteemed leader, mentor, and patriarch, Prof Rowland Ndoma-Egba on being honored with the prestigious South South Leadership Award by the Global Skill Hub, United Kingdom.

2. Your remarkable contributions to the medical profession, and tireless mentoring of future generations have not gone unnoticed. This award, therefore, is a fitting tribute to your staunch commitment to excellence, your visionary leadership, and your selfless service to humanity. It reflects the profound impact you have had on everyone who have had the privilege of associating with you.

3. Your wisdom, and guidance have been a beacon of strength and inspiration, shaping the lives of many including my humble self. May this honour serve as a reminder of the many lives you've touched and the immense value of your lifetime of service.

You make us all proud. Congratulations

With deepest respect and admiration,
Engr. Dr. Amba Ndoma Egba.



Engr. Dr. Amba Ndoma Egba

Ph.D., FNSE, FNIPEtE, FIMS, FIMC, DFAI, R.Eng (COREN), Justice of Peace (JP).

Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission
7 Sylvester Ugho Crescent, Jabi, Abuja, FCT
Email: drndomaegba@gmail.com

Congratulations

PROFESSOR ROWLAND NDOMA-EGBA ,

an uncommon personality, teacher, astute administrator, mentor and father of gastrointestinal surgery.

Sir, I write to congratulate you on yet another well deserved South South Nigeria Outstanding Leadership Award by the Global Skills Hub, United Kingdom. This indeed continues to attest to your uncommon contributions to humanity and the field of medicine. As the one who had the only accepted paper and presentation from sub-saharan Africa. at the conference of "World Association of HPB Surgery " 3rd WORLD CONGRESS in Kensington, London; 3-8 June 1990 (35 years ago!!!), you laid the foundation for the development of this field of surgery in Nigeria and beyond. You were unanimously chosen at the International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (IHPBA) conference in Cape Town, South Africa (2012) to pilot the development of HPB Surgery in the West African sub-region. The Nigerian chapter of IHPBA was inaugurated years ago with you as the Chairman of the body till date. Even more recently, you were featured in the December 2024 member spotlight in HPB by the official journal of IHPBA. Sir, you have made indelible contributions that are worthy of recognition in this field.

We cannot keep count of those you have groomed and mentored not only in the medical field but also in administration. Your wise counsel has pivoted many to greatness. It is indeed not surprising therefore that no other personality other than you was found worthy of the South South Nigeria Outstanding Leadership Award by the Global Skills Hub, United Kingdom.

Once again Sir, as your mentee, I say CONGRATULATIONS to an outstanding visionary leader, mentor and legend of our time

CONGRATULATIONS SIR

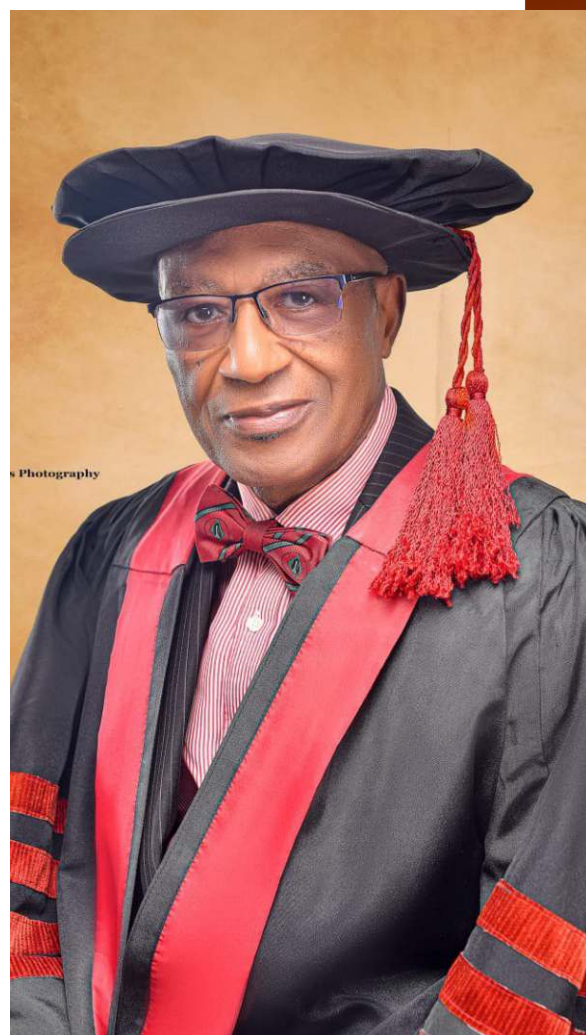
PROFESSOR OGBU EWEZUNGIM

Professor of surgery and consultant

HPB/Laparoscopic/Endoscopic surgeon

Professor of surgery and consultant

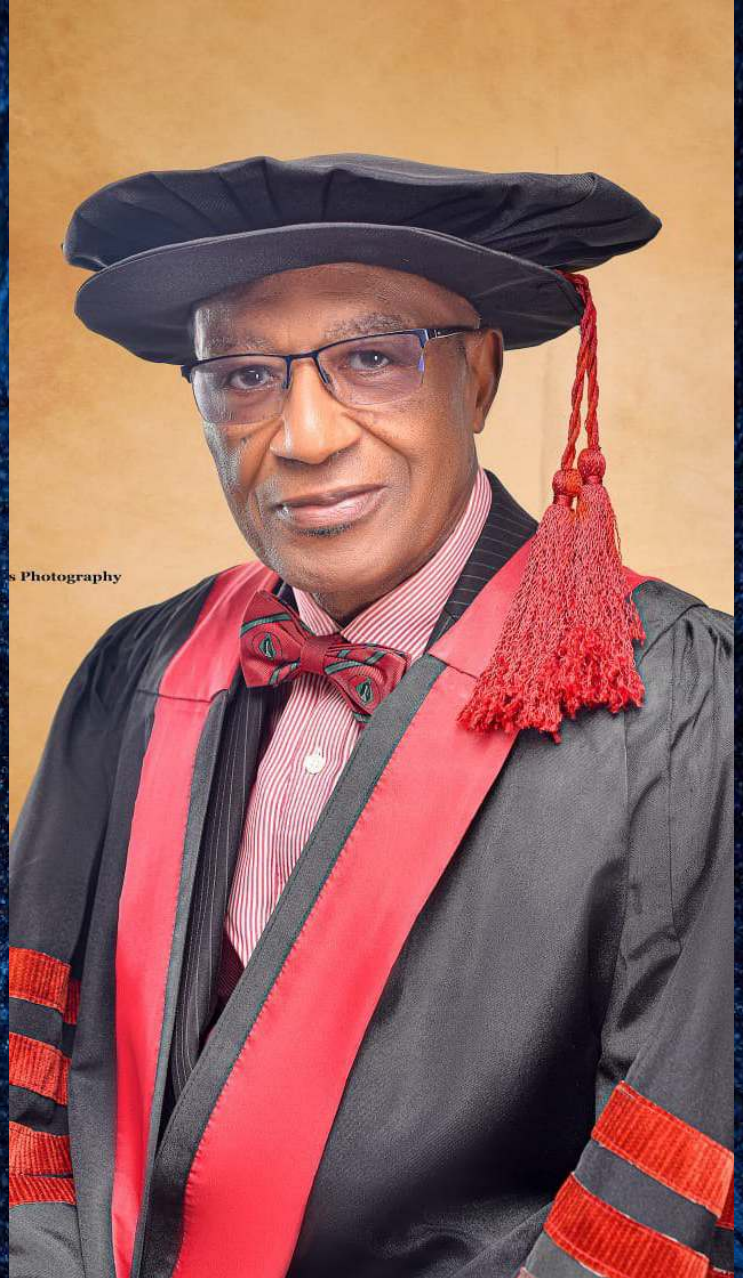
HPB/Laparoscopic/Endoscopic surgeon



Congratulations

Congratulations Prof. Rowland Ndoma-Egba on this fitting recognition of your brilliance, passion, and influence. The mentorship and inspiration you have provided to many makes this achievement even more meaningful. We celebrate both you as well as with you, and wish you even greater heights ahead!

Dr. & Mrs. Amba Ayambem



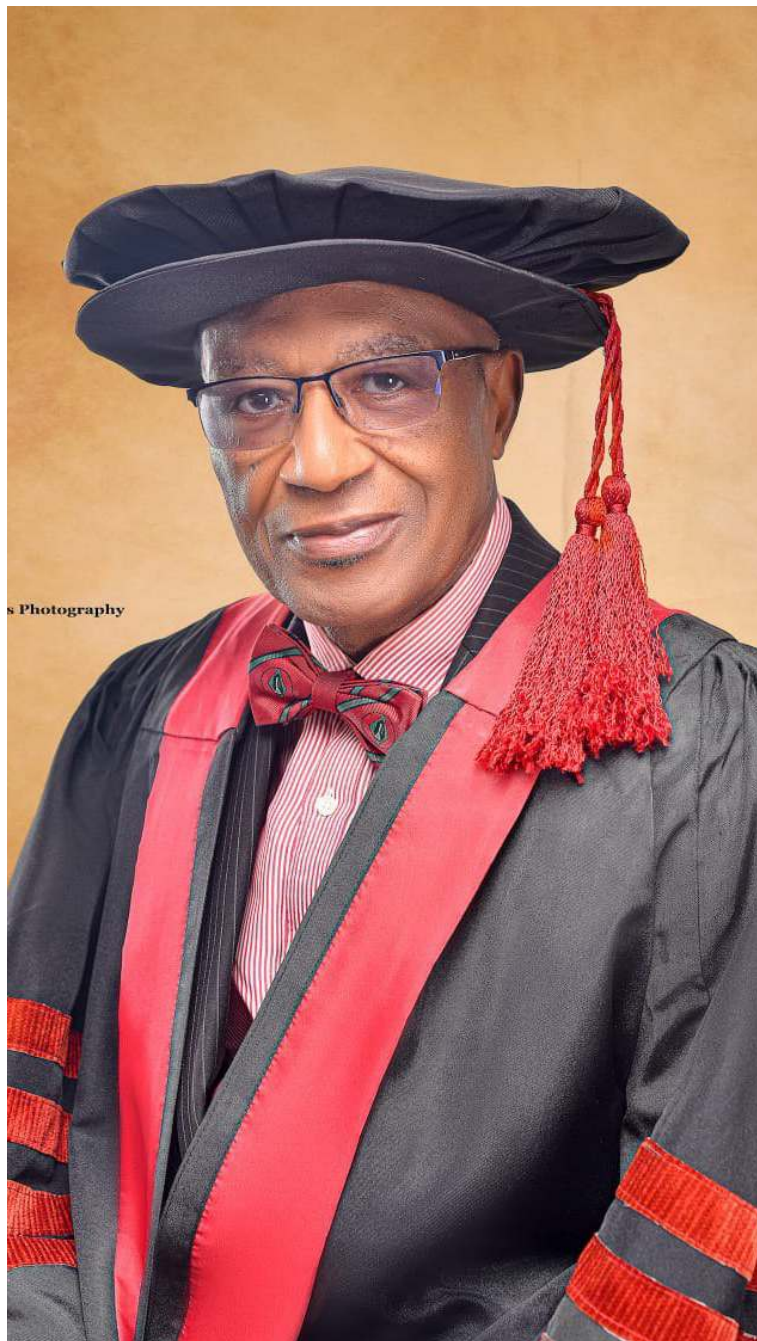
Congratulations

PROFESSOR ROWLAND NDOMA-EGBA ,

Congratulations, Dear Uncle,
on this well deserved and significant honor. You have always embodied excellence, and integrity, serving as an inspiration to our family and the community. Your dedication in all of your endeavors and your outstanding leadership have touched countless lives.

Thank you for showing us what it means to lead with compassion, vision, and commitment. We are truly proud to celebrate this moment with you.

Catherine O. Effimi



Congratulations

Congratulations to Professor Rowland Ndoma-Egba: 2025 South-South Outstanding Leadership Award,

It is with profound admiration and honor that I congratulate Professor Rowland Ndoma-Egba on his well-deserved recognition as recipient of the South-South Outstanding Leadership Award, conferred by the Global Skills Hub UK in partnership with the South-South Nigeria Excellence Awards.

A distinguished Professor of Surgery at the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital, Professor Ndoma-Egba has for decades exemplified excellence as a surgeon, educator, and leader. His expertise in gastrointestinal and hepatobiliary surgery, alongside his pioneering academic contributions in trauma care, gastrointestinal disease, and surgical oncology, have significantly advanced patient care and surgical scholarship in Nigeria.

As my mentor and professor during my training at the College of Medicine, University of Calabar, he profoundly shaped my professional journey. His hallmark discipline, integrity, and insistence on doing the right thing inspired generations of doctors, many of whom, like myself, now practice successfully across the globe. In his presence, excellence was not optional; it was the standard.

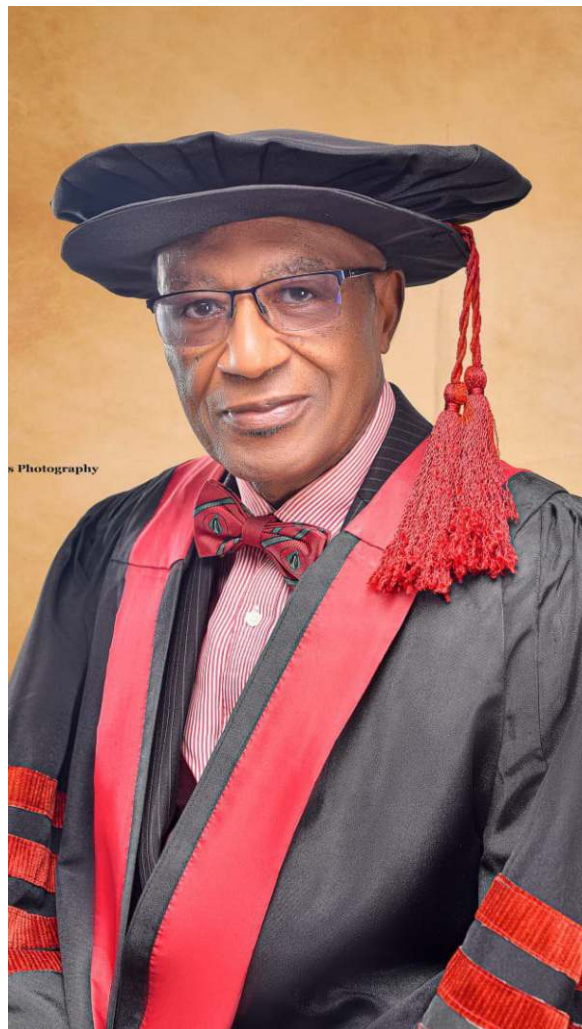
Beyond clinical mastery, he has been a life coach and guide to countless students and doctors, instilling resilience, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to ethical medical practice. His impact extends far beyond the operating theatre or lecture hall, leaving a legacy that continues to ripple across Nigeria and abroad.

This award rightly acknowledges not only his professional brilliance but also his transformative role in mentoring and shaping future leaders in medicine. It is a testament to a career marked by service, vision, and enduring influence. Congratulations once again, Professor Ndoma-Egba. May this honour further inspire generations to follow the extraordinary example you have set.

With deepest respect and admiration,

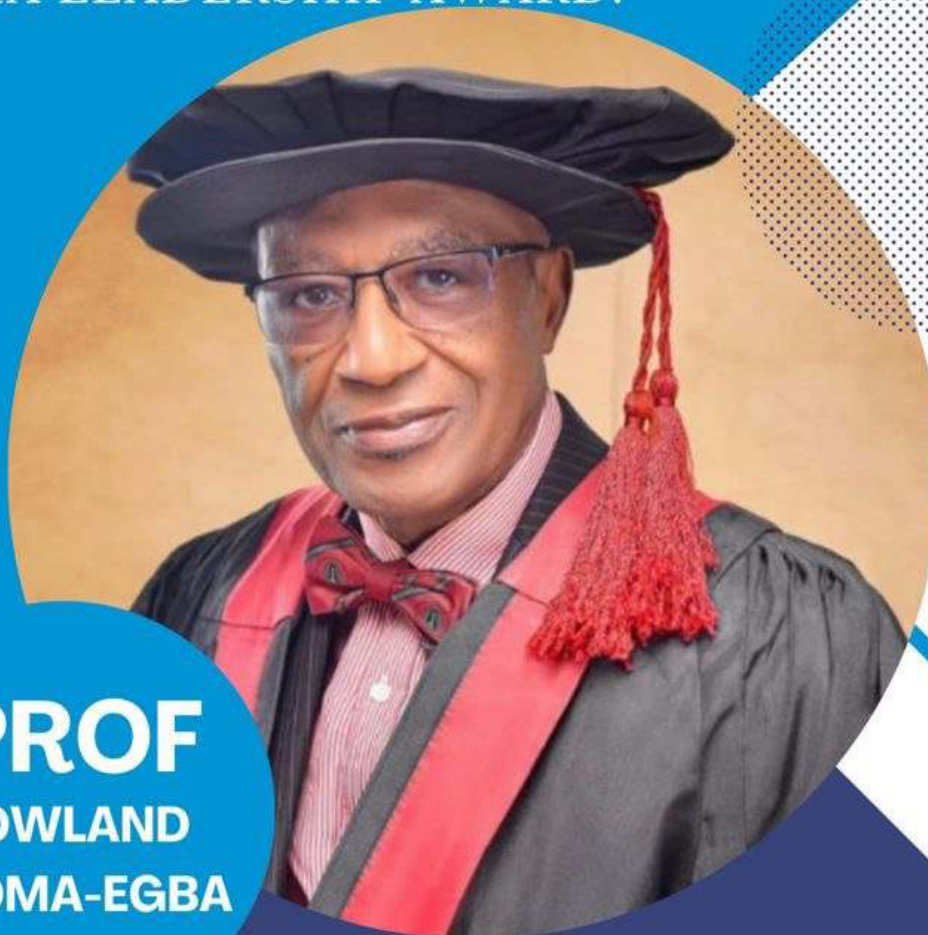
Dr. Robert U. Basake, MBBCh (NG), MSc (UK), MRCP(UK) Part 1, ECFMG (USA)

College of Medicine, University of Calabar – Class of 2018
Medical Doctor, NHS – University of Aberdeen Teaching Hospital, ARI Scotland, United Kingdom.



CONGRATULATIONS

ON YOUR RECENT SOUTH-SOUTH
NIGERIA LEADERSHIP AWARD.



PROF
ROWLAND
NDOMA-EGBA

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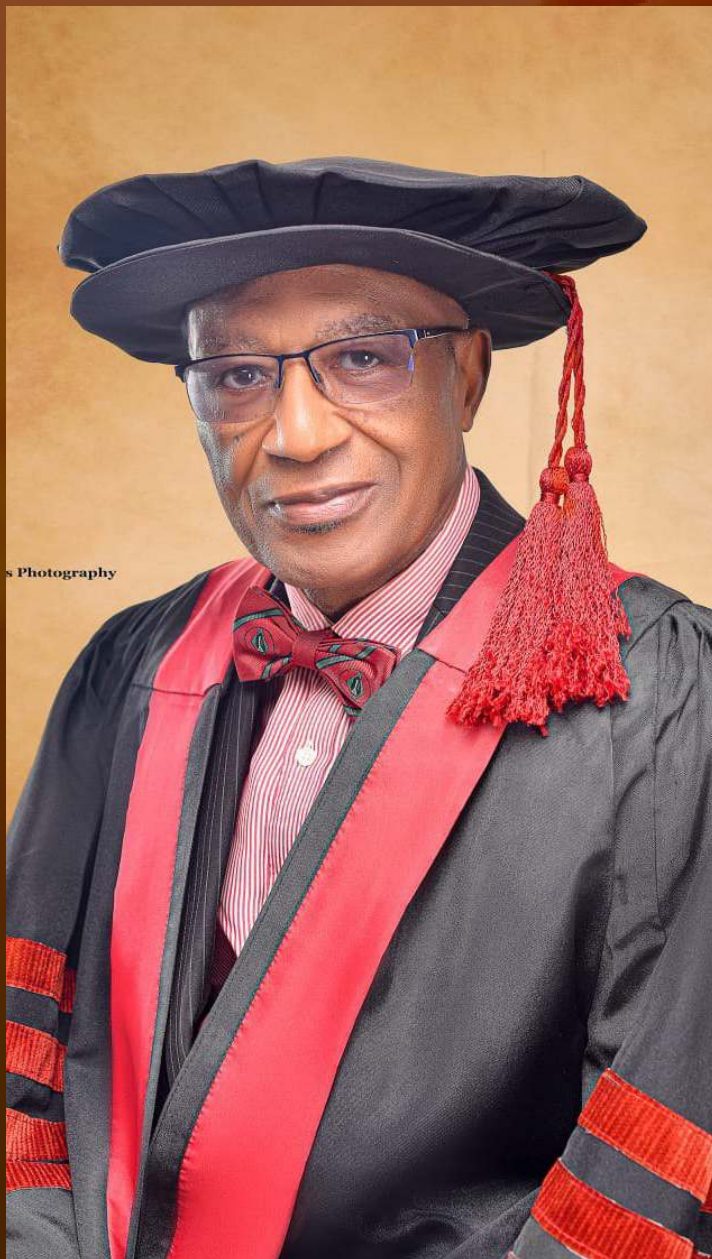
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&
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**SOUTH-SOUTH NIGERIA OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD
FROM GLOBAL SKILLS HUB, UNITED KINGDOM
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE SOUTH-SOUTH NIGERIA EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

LAURELS AND HONOURS WILL
CONTINUE TO LOCATE YOU
EVERYWHERE AND ALWAYS AS
THROUGH HARDWORK,
DILIGENCE AND SERVICE YOU
HAVE EARNED THEM.

FOR:

SENATOR VICTOR NDOMA-EGBA
OFR, CON, SAN
THE NDOMA-EGBA, EGBA ETA,
EGAJUM AND ARAROM FAMILIES
WORLD WIDE



**PROFESSOR ROWLAND
NDOMA-EGBA**

Congratulations

Dear Dad,

We celebrate you on this your special day of conferment of South-South Nigeria Outstanding Leadership Award by the Global Skills Hub, United Kingdom.

You have consistently displayed a unique understanding of issues and challenges in

your many spheres of influence – health, education, surgery, family and society at large, and continually find and provide solutions to these challenges, leading to greater goal. From your days as a Student Union activist campaigning for students' welfare, to leading the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital (UCTH) as the Chief

Medical Director where you moved them to the permanent site, established the Institute of Tropical Medicine and Research, established the UCTH School of Nursing, Dentistry and Dental Care, the Mary Slessor Journal of Medicine etc.

In recognition of your leadership qualities, you were appointed the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State where you equally excelled. You have usually committed yourself to cause whole heartedly.

The results speak for themselves. It is noteworthy that despite all that has been achieved so far, you are still trying to push the envelope daily – your work on the advancement of the Hepato Pancreato Biliary Surgery, the gastroenterology service (laparoscopic surgery and endoscopic interventions) readily come to mind.

Suffice it to mention too that you are the Pioneer President of the International Hepato Pancreato Biliary Association, Nigeria /West Africa Chapter.

We have journeyed with you and seen your tenacity first hand. It is a testament to your hard-work, leadership and dedication that you have been recognized by this esteemed organization. The greater South-South region is very much the better, thanks to your stellar works aiming to improve the lot of society. As you receive this honor today, we are eternally grateful to be your family members. Thank you for always trying to bring out the best in others, your selflessness and your consistent wise



counsel. We pray the Almighty continue to guide and protect you, and you continue to be a beacon of hope and success to all who you encounter.

CONGRATULATIONS again, cannot think of a more worthy recipient of this award.

From:

Your Dear wife, Children, Daughters-in-law and Grandchildren

Congratulations

Professor Rowland NDOMA-EGBA, Professor of Surgery, sub specialising in Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery at the University of Calabar and the University of Calabar Teaching hospital, Calabar. Nigeria.

I am Dr Jonathan Okonkwo. I have known Professor Rowland Ndoma-Egba since January 1965, when I entered Government Secondary School Afikpo, where he was already in class 3, having entered in 1963. We were in the same Okpara House.

I found him a very hardworking, disciplined, and ambitious senior.

Although the civil war separated us through friends and other colleagues, I was glad to learn that he read medicine and performed exemplarily well at the University of Lagos, Nigeria. I studied the same at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

I also know that he trained as a surgeon in the United Kingdom and had returned to Nigeria settling and practising his craft as a Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgeon, and Teaching both undergraduate medical students and Resident doctors and undertaking Research.

He rose to become a professor. He held many academic and administrative roles at the university and the associated teaching hospital. He was the youngest Chief Medical Director of the UCTH when he successfully delivered the project that led to the migration to the new teaching hospital (UCTH.)

Academically, Prof. Ndoma-Egba has many publications and has trained many professors in his speciality.

Administratively; he established the Institute of Tropical Medicine and Research, Faculty of Dentistry at UNICAL/UNICAL TEACHING HOSPITAL. He also established a research journal, "Mary Slessor Journal of Medicine."

He was appointed the Pro-chancellor and Chairman of the Council at The OAU, Ile-Ife. It was during this time that the Queen of England, Elizabeth II, received him and other heads of commonwealth universities at Buckingham Palace in 2013.

In the Society at large, he has been Chairman of the Red



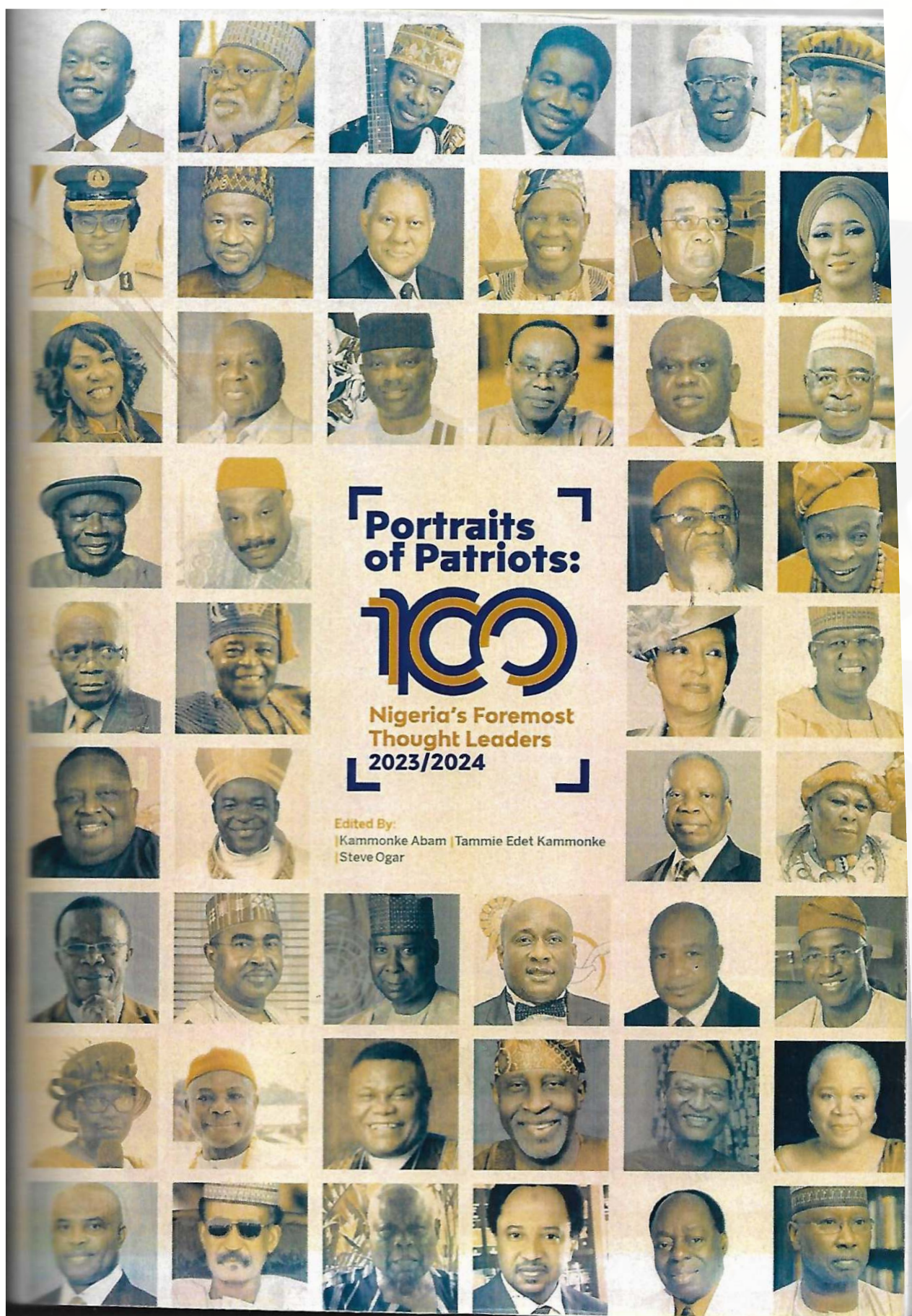
Cross Society, Nigeria Cancer Society (CR), 15yrs, and Chairman of Dysability sports for 20yrs.

He is a very distinguished Alumnus of our School, Government Secondary School Afikpo, and of the University of Lagos. A Valedictorian of the University of Lagos Medical School. In 1979

he won Honours as the best National Youth Service Corp member while serving in the then Gongola state, Nigeria. Professor Rowland NDOMA-EGBA deserves the Honour being bestowed upon him, the SOUTH SOUTH OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD

I congratulate him on his numerous achievements in academics, leadership, and administrative spheres. They are well deserved and worth emulating.

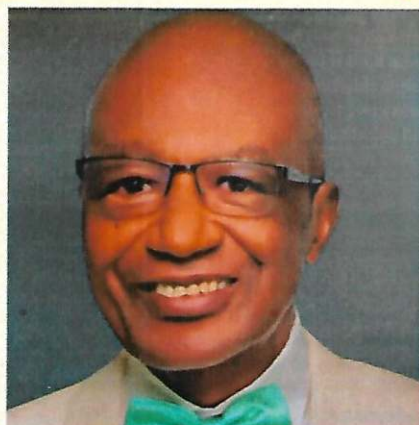
I am Dr Jonathan Okonkwo. BM B ch 1978, MRCOG(1987). T(GP)



He defines surgery. He is passionately in love with surgery as a profession. His world is built around surgery, so much, his close associates agree, if you came to him with headache, he would almost open your head up. He however holds strongly to the philosophy that, to be a good surgeon, you have to be a good physician first. Rowland Ndoma-Egba is a Professor of Surgery in the University of Calabar, Chief Consultant Surgeon, University of Calabar Teaching Hospital, Calabar. He is a reference point in the field of surgery in Nigeria because of his brilliance and dedication to duty.

In 1995, he was appointed as CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR. That appointment was greeted with a lot of applause and enthusiasm. This was because of his demonstrable abilities and commitment as a young doctor. His appointment as CMD was preceded by his appointment as Chairman Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) and Director Clinical Services & Training in 1991, only two years after being appointed CONSULTANT SURGEON to the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital. This is unprecedented in any Teaching Hospital in Nigeria. The CMD is the highest professional position that a medically qualified person could aspire to.

Prof. Ndoma-Egba was the first member of his generation of doctors to be so appointed in Nigeria. He left no one in doubt with his administrative acumen as UCTH witnessed unprecedented growth and development. His exceptional achievements as CMD include among others: the construction and movement of UCTH to its permanent site, the Founding of The Institute of Tropical Medicine and Research (The TMR Research Institute in UCTH), the establishment of The Mary Slessor Journal of Medicine which was indexed by Index Medicus, and Human Capital Development with



Ndoma-Egba,
PROFESSOR ROWLAND

supraspecialization. He is also the first CMD to complete two terms as Chief Medical Director in University of Calabar.

Prof. Ndoma-Egba is one of the most sought after speakers in the medical profession in Nigeria, and most of conferences he speaks at nationally and internationally are always a must-attend. In recognition of his contributions to the development of the medical profession and in the quest to continue rendering service to his fatherland, the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2013 appointed him as the Pro-Chancellor & Chairman of Council, OAU, Ile-Ife, and served till 2017. He has also served as Member, Presidential Project Implementation Committee (PPIC) on FGN/VAMED Projects for all Tertiary Institutions (with Emeritus Prof O.O. Akinkugbe, Emeritus Prof Oluwole Akande & Emeritus Prof O. Mbonu), 2003-2013.

A philanthropist with many International organisations such as the Nigerian Red Cross Society, Cross River State Branch, where he served as Chairman between 2000-2005; Chairman Nigerian Cancer

Society, Cross River State Branch, 1990-2000; Chairman, Sports for the Physically Challenged, Cross River State Branch, 1991-2005; Member, Board of Trustees, Association of Minimal & Laparoscopic Surgeons of Nigeria, 2017 to date; President, International Hepato-pancreatico-Biliary Association, Nigeria chapter, January 2020 till date.

Prof. Rowland Ndoma-Egba is that instinctive man that interrogates issues. He has delivered over 50 public lectures covering various subjects. His presentations are always seminal, generating reactions and discourses from conferences participants. One of the most profound of his public presentations is his inaugural lecture in the University of Calabar in 2016 titled, "Do you have the liver?". The inaugural lecture title revealed his thespian personality with the way he played on the figure of speech, pun. This generated a lot of interest from both the medical and literary publics. That is the stuff that Prof. Ndoma-Egba is made of, a medical doctor who is thespian. He also has over 80 Peer Reviewed Scientific

Publications in reputable local and international journals.

Born July 7, 1951 in Akparabong, Ikom local government area, Cross River State, Prof Ndoma-Egba is married to Dr Margaret Ndoma-Egba and they are blessed with four sons. He is an alumnus of Christ Church Primary School, Uwani, Enugu, 1962; Government Secondary School, Afikpo, 1963-1966; Mary Knoll College, Okuku, Ogoja, 1970, where he passed WAEC with Distinction and School Academic Record. He also won first prize, Festival of Arts in Poetry, 1970; College of Medicine, University of Lagos, 1972-1977 on federal government scholarship; Class Valedictorian House Officer, Lagos University Teaching Hospital, 1977-78. He undertook the compulsory National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), in Gongola State, April 1978-March 1979 and was awarded the Best Corper & Presidential National award.

Apart from MB,BS; he holds FRCS(GLAS), 1986; FWACS, 1994; FICS, 1991; F & D(MAS), 2004; CERT(ENDOSCOPY) CERT(ATOM), 2004. He has been serving as Chief Consultant Surgeon, October 1988 till date. He is a professor of Surgery (Hepato-Pancreatico-Biliary) University of Calabar, October 2010 till date.

He has been honoured with different awards and recognitions including Cross River State Millennium Gold Award, 1990; Minen Iyamba of Ekparabong Bosok, 1995; Ada Idaha Ke Efik Eburutu, 2002; Ntufam of the Qua Kingdom, 2002; Ugwuimba of Nkisi Community, Ikwuano, 2003; Distinguished Alumnus, Mary Knoll College, Okuku, Ogoja, 2003; Distinguished Alumnus, Government Secondary School, Afikpo, 2003; Distinguished Alumnus, University of Lagos, 2012; Outstanding Alumnus, College of Medicine, University of Lagos, 2020.



THE ASSOCIATION OF AKPARABONG-BAFEH INDIGENES IN DIASPORA

C/O 113A NDIDEM USANG ISO ROAD, CALABAR, CROSS RIVER STATE.

Email: akparabongbafehindiaspora@gmail.com



Professor Rowland Ndoma-Egba

CELEBRATION OF GOD'S GRACE IN YOUR LIFE

We, your Kin and Kindred - Akparabong-Bafeh Nation join the esteemed body - THE GLOBAL SKILLS HUB, UNITED KINGDOM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SOUTH -SOUTH NIGERIA AWARDS, your admirers and well wishers all over the globe to appreciate God's faithfulness in your life for this laudable and deserving Award of SOUTH-SOUTH NIGERIA OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP OF EXCELLENCE! We are always proud of your all -round outstanding leadership acumen.

We are not surprised at all, that others also hold you in this high Regard. We proudly identify with you in all that God has used you to bless humanity to His glory!

May this additional feather in your CAP of Achievements bring to bear all that is "left" in you for mankind and the society at large, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen!

You are a very superb Ambassador of your immediate community, Cross River State, Nigeria and a global Achiever of no mean repute! It has been God all the way.

We remain United in the service to humanity!

Sir Samuel NKANG JP
President, Worldwide

Dr. Nsan Njar Nsan
Secretary, Worldwide



NIGER DELTA UNIVERSITY

Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State

NDU/REG/VC/VOL.1/140

**P.M.B. 071,
YENAGOA,
BAYELSA STATE**

Our Ref

August 28, 2025

Your Ref

Date:

Prof. Allen A. Agih
Vice-Chancellor
Niger Delta University
Wilberforce Island
Bayelsa State

GOODWILL MESSAGE

On behalf of the Governing Council, Senate, Management, Staff and Students of Niger Delta University, I congratulate you on your conferment of the prestigious South-South Nigeria Gold Award of Excellence.

This is a well-deserved award and a testament of your outstanding leadership and unwavering commitment to excellence in education.

Your calm disposition, and forward thinking approach to University administration has significantly contributed to the growth and success of our University.

Thank you for being an inspiration to your colleagues, students and the University community at large.

Congratulations sir.


Mr. Benjamin Joffa
Registrar

A HEARTFELT
Congratulations
 TO PROFESSOR PAULINUS CHIJOKE

Executive Secretary, National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE), Abuja, FCT, Nigeria
 On behalf of the Electronic Education Initiative (E-DON), I extend our warmest and most profound congratulations on your recent and richly deserved conferment as a Pillar of Education by the South South of Nigeria Excellence Awards 2025.

This honor is not merely a recognition—it is a resounding affirmation of your lifelong dedication, visionary leadership, and unwavering passion for the advancement of education. It is no small wonder that your brilliance and commitment have transcended the borders of Nigeria, resonating with admiration across the global academic and policy-making communities.

Professor Chijoke, your distinguished service continues to serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration—not only to your peers in the educational sector but to generations of young scholars, educators, and institutions looking for genuine models of excellence. Today, we do not only celebrate a title; we celebrate a legacy in motion.

Your deep understanding of the critical role technology plays in the future of teacher education, and your zeal to enhance its integration into the Nigerian college system, have been truly inspiring. It is this forward-thinking vision that brought us, at E-DON, to join hands in advancing digital learning solutions and innovative strategies within the Colleges of Education. Together, we are witnessing firsthand how these efforts are transforming the learning experience for students across the country—equipping them not just with knowledge, but with 21st-century skills that are essential for national growth and global competitiveness.

This moment of pride is deeply personal to me, to my team at E-DON, and to countless Nigerians at home and in the diaspora who have watched your journey with admiration. You carry not only the torch of intellect but the heart of a nation yearning for transformative leadership in education.

As you mark this historic milestone, please be assured of our continued partnership and unwavering support. We at the Electronic Education Initiative remain committed to working alongside visionary leaders like you who are making the future of education a promise worth keeping for the next generation.

Once again, congratulations on this exceptional achievement, Sir.
 A standing ovation from Team Electronic Education (E-DON).
 May God continue to bless, guide, and grant you greater wisdom as you lead with integrity and purpose.

With deep respect and admiration,

DR. IDONUAGBE O. AKOGUN (MNHSS)
 Founder & Program Coordinator
 Electronic Education Initiative (E-DON), USA





FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, OBUDU

P.M.B. 1038, OBUDU CROSS RIVER STATE - NIGERIA.

PROVOST

DR. RICHARD UGBAHA UTUBAKU

NCE, B.SC (Ed), M.Ed (Unical) & Ph.D (Uni Agric Makurdi)



Professor Paulinus Chijioke Okwelle
Executive Secretary
National Commission for Colleges of Education
Abuja.

Dear Professor Okwelle,


CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

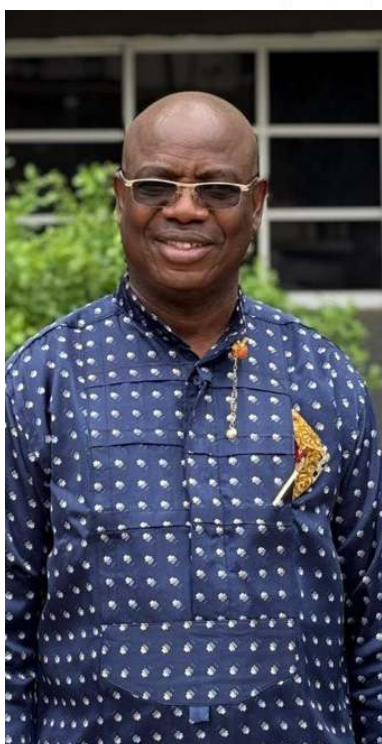
I am delighted to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you on your conferment with the **Pillar of Education Award** by the *Global Skills Hub, United Kingdom*, in partnership with the *South-South Nigeria Excellence Awards*. This prestigious recognition is a testament to your tireless efforts, exceptional leadership, and unwavering commitment to excellence in the education sector.

Your appointment as *Executive Secretary* of the *National Commission for Colleges of Education* has been instrumental in shaping the future of teacher education in Nigeria. Again, your visionary leadership and dedication towards promoting quality education have earned you admiration and respect from your peers and the academic community.

I am proud to represent the Federal College of Education, Obudu in celebrating this remarkable achievement. This award serves as an inspiration to all of us, and we are grateful for your contributions to the education sector.

Please, accept our warmest congratulations and best wishes for your continued success. May this award mark the beginning of even greater accomplishments in the years to come.


Richard Ugbaha Utubaku
Provost



provost@fcebuduedu.ng
 utubakurichard@gmail.com
 0706 283 8991, 0805 326 2133

Congratulations

FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL) GOMBE
P.M.B 60, GOMBE – GOMBE STATE
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

Congratulatory Message to the Executive Secretary, National Commission for Colleges of Education
On behalf of the entire academic community of Federal College of Education (Technical) Gombe, I extend my warmest congratulations to the Executive Secretary of the National Commission for Colleges of Education on the well-deserved recognition as the South-South Nigeria Pillar of Education.

This prestigious award is not merely a personal accolade—it is a testament to your unwavering commitment, visionary leadership, and transformative impact on teacher education across Nigeria. Your tenure has been marked by bold reforms, strategic innovation, and an unrelenting pursuit of excellence in our colleges of education. You have not only elevated standards but have inspired a new generation of educators to dream bigger and reach higher.

Your dedication to capacity building, curriculum enhancement, and institutional development has left an indelible mark on the educational landscape. You have been a tireless advocate for equity, quality, and relevance in teacher training, and your efforts have brought renewed dignity and purpose to our noble profession.

As a Provost, I have witnessed firsthand the ripple effects of your leadership—our institutions are stronger, our staff more empowered, and our students better prepared to shape the future. You are, indeed, a pillar—not just of the South-South, but of the entire nation.

May this recognition serve as a beacon for continued excellence and a reminder that true leadership is measured not by titles, but by impact.

Congratulations once again, Sir. We celebrate you.



Ali Adamu, PhD, mni
Provost





COMMITTEE OF PROVOSTS OF COLLEGES OF EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

National Chairman:

Prof. Faruk R. Haruna

Federal College of Education,

Kontagora, Niger State

0703 518 9999, 08037008045

farukharuna75@gmail.com



A Salute to Excellence: Celebrating Prof. Paulinus Chijioke Okwelle MCNAI, FABEN

Congratulatory Message from the Committee of Provosts

On behalf of the entire Committee of Provosts of Colleges of Education in Nigeria, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to *Prof. Paulinus Chijioke Okwelle*, Executive Secretary of the National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE), on the well-deserved conferment of the **Pillar of Education Award** by the South-South Nigeria Excellence Awards.

This recognition is not merely a celebration of an individual—it is a tribute to a visionary leader whose unwavering commitment to the advancement of teacher education has transformed the landscape of our nation's educational system.

Prof. Okwelle stands as a beacon of innovation, integrity, and impact. Under his stewardship, the NCCE has witnessed a renaissance in policy direction, institutional strengthening, and academic relevance. His strategic foresight has propelled the Commission into a new era of responsiveness and excellence, ensuring that Colleges of Education are not only producing competent teachers but also shaping future leaders.

Through his tireless efforts, Prof. Okwelle has championed the actualization of the **dual mandate** of Colleges of Education—now that our Colleges will begin to award both NCE and degree. His leadership has bridged the gap between theory and practice, aligning teacher education with global standards while remaining deeply rooted in local realities.

He has been instrumental in:

- Strengthening institutional frameworks for quality assurance and accreditation
- Promoting curriculum reforms that reflect 21st-century pedagogical needs
- Fostering partnerships with international bodies and development agencies

- Advocating for digital transformation and inclusive education across colleges

Prof. Okwelle's legacy is etched in the hearts of educators, students, and stakeholders who have witnessed his relentless pursuit of excellence. His humility, intellect, and passion for service continue to inspire us all.

As we celebrate this milestone, we reaffirm our collective support and admiration for a man who has truly become the *pillar* upon which the future of teacher education stands.

Congratulations, Sir. You have made us proud.



Ali Adamu, PhD, mni

Chairman, Committee of Federal Provosts Colleges of Education, Nigeria

Congratulations

Celebrating Our Pillar of Education!

Dearest Husband and Daddy,

Huge congratulations on your incredible achievement as you are honoured with the South-South Nigeria Pillar of Education Award. We are so proud of you!

Your unwavering dedication to education is truly inspiring. As a husband, father, and mentor, you embody the values of passion, resilience, and faith. Your love for learning and tireless commitment to shaping lives have not only blessed our family but also touched countless students, communities, and institutions across the nation.

You are not only a pillar of education but also a shining star in our country, state, local government, the church, and our community. We are grateful to God for the privilege of walking this journey with you. As our father in the Lord, Pastor E.A. Adeboye, has taught us—we can rise to the peak of God's divine plan for our lives. May you continue to soar higher and shine even brighter, in Jesus' name, Amen.

This award is a true testament to your hard work, passion, and the many seeds you have planted that will blossom into a brighter tomorrow for generations to come. We are honoured to have a husband and father who makes such a positive impact on so many lives. We wish you even greater success as you continue to transform the world of education.

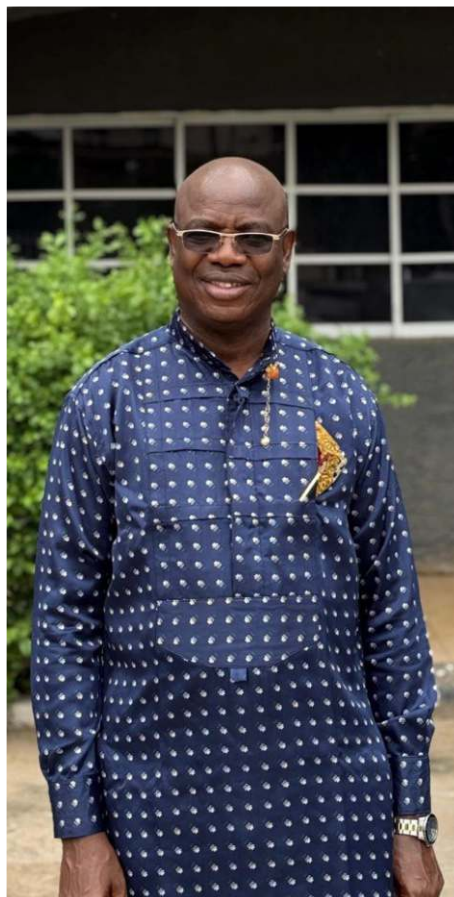
We celebrate you today and always—our one and only husband, father, and inspiration.

With all our love,

Your wife and children,

Dr. Mrs. Stella (wife)

Arc. Treasure, Laura, Daniel & Princess Dominion (Children)



INSTITUTE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION NIGER DELTA UNIVERSITY

Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State, Nigeria

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



CONGRATULATIONS TO A TRAIL BLAZER, OUR AMIABLE VICE CHANCELLOR: PROFESSOR ALLEN A. AGIH

Your GOLD Award of Excellence by the Global Skills Hub, United Kingdom, brings great joy and unbounded pride to us in the *Institute of Continuing Education, Niger Delta University*, as we have always known you to be an astute *Administrator par Excellence*. Therefore, it did not come to us as a surprise. Your wisdom, tact, altruism, gentleness, sincerity, openness and confidence made you a **LEADER** that can fit into the global village of the 21st century.

The exemplary and visionary leadership that you have always exhibited in the different positions you have held both in the University community and beyond, including the Institute, is an attestation to your extraordinary leadership skills.

The Institute is very proud of your outstanding achievements, which have earned you this enviable award. You are indeed creating in the Nigerian educational sector an indelible mark in the sands of time. Our Dear, amiable, unassuming but resourceful VC sir, this is the genesis of greater honours coming your way.

May your light keep shining all through to brighten the path of Nigerian society using education as the platform for the benefit of humanity, even as we pray that the good Lord will continue to guide and protect you in all your endeavours. On behalf of the staff and students of the Institute of Continuing Education, Niger Delta University, please accept our warm Congratulations.

Prof. Fibainmine G. Paulley, PhD
Director, Institute of Continuing Education
Niger Delta University,
Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR COLLEGES OF EDUCATION

Plot 829 Cadastral Zone A01, Ralph Shodeinde Street, P.M.B. 0394, Garki, Abuja.
Tel: 092346531 Email: info@ncce.edu.ng

NCCE/SD/GC/29/VOL.I/105

4th September, 2025

Prof. Paulinus Chijioke Okwelle
The Executive Secretary,
National Commission for Colleges of Education
Plot 829, Ralph Shodeinde Road,
Off Ahmadu Bello Way, CBD, Garki,
Abuja.

Dear Sir,

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE ON THE CONFERMENT OF SOUTH-SOUTH NIGERIA PILLAR OF EDUCATION AWARD BY GLOBAL SKILLS HUB, UNITED KINGDOM ON PROFESSOR PAULINUS CHIJOKE OKWELLE, MNAE, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR COLLEGES OF EDUCATION (NCCE), ABUJA

The Management and entire staff of National Commission for Colleges of Education felicitates with our indefatigable, selfless, transforming and focused Executive Secretary, **Professor Paulinus Chijioke Okwelle** on the conferment of **South-South Pillar of Education Award** on him by the Global Skills Hub, United Kingdom today, 25th September, 2025.

This prestigious award is well deserved and not a surprise to staff of the Commission. It is indeed a recognition of your visionary leadership and immense contributions to the field of Education both as an excellent University Don and administrator par excellence. Since your appointment as the Executive Secretary of the Commission (NCCE), you have demonstrated candour, great commitment, unparalleled passion and love for the teaching profession. Your tenure has witnessed great transformation and development of Teacher Education both in Nigeria and at the global stage.

Sir, we are proud to be associated with you on this auspicious occasion. The award is therefore a challenge. It will definitely act as impetus in propelling you to aim for greater heights in the nearest future.

Once again, Congratulations, Sir.

Lawrence B. Aremu (Mr.)

Director Special Duties

For: Management

Website: www.ncce.edu.ng



FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, EHA-AMUFU

P.M.B. 2001, EHA-AMUFU, ENUGU STATE, NIGERIA

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

PROVOST: Dr. (Mrs) Pauline N. Ikwuegbu

B.Sc.Ed., M.Ed., Ph D. Dip

E-mail: paulineikwuegbu@yahoo.com

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FOR PROFESSOR PAULINUS CHIJOKE OKWELLE

On behalf of the 7th Governing Council, College Management and the entire staff and students of Federal College of Education, Eha-Amufu, Enugu State, Nigeria, I extend our profound congratulations to Professor Paulinus Chijioke Okwelle, an eminent scholar in the field of Education and Policy Studies, on the conferment of this prestigious award - *Pillar of Education*.

This honour is a clear recognition of Professor Okwelle's sustained scholarship, exemplary leadership, and outstanding contributions to the advancement of teacher education, curriculum development, and educational policy reform.

His intellectual rigor, commitment to institutional growth, and passion for capacity building has left an indelible mark on the educational landscape, both within Nigeria and internationally.

The award is not merely a personal achievement but a collective celebration of academic excellence and dedication to service. It underscores the values of perseverance, innovation, and integrity which Professor Okwelle continues to embody in his professional journey.

We join colleagues, students, and the wider scholarly community in applauding this well-deserved recognition and in wishing him continued success in his future endeavors.

Congratulations, Professor Okwelle.

Prof. (Mrs.) Pauline Ngozi Ikwuegbu
Provost

★ DISCIPLINE

★ KNOWLEDGE

★ DEVOTION

SENIOR STAFF UNION IN COLLEGES OF EDUCATION, NIGERIA (SSUCOEN)

(An Affiliate of Nigeria Labour Congress, NLC)

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Motto: Labour for Honour and Survival

Certificate of Reg. No: No: 0118

National Secretariat: c/o B.O. Ukeje Building
National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE)
Plot 829 Ralph Shodeinde Street,
Off Ahmadu Bello Way, Central District, Garki, Abuja.
ssucoenat@gmail.com

Our Ref:..... **Your Ref:**..... **Date:**.....

SSUCOEN/NS/NCCE/52/25

4TH August, 2025

Prof. Paulinus Chijioke Okwelle,

The Executive Secretary,
National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE),
Plot 829, Ralph Shodeinde Street,
Off Ahmadu Bello Way, CBD, Garki, Abuja.

Dear Sir,

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO PROFESSOR PAULINUS CHIJOKE OKWELLE, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR COLLEGES OF EDUCATION (NCCE), ON THE CONFERMENT OF AWARD BY GLOBAL SKILLS UK.

The Senior Staff Union in Colleges of Education, Nigeria (SSUCOEN), on behalf of its National Executive Council and the entire membership, nationwide, extends its warmest congratulations to **Professor Paulinus Chijioke Okwelle**, Executive Secretary, NCCE, on the conferment of the prestigious award of excellence, for the '**South-South Nigeria Pillar of Education Award (2025)**', by the Global Skills Hub United Kingdom.

This meritorious recognition reflects your outstanding dedication, visionary leadership, and tireless efforts in repositioning Teacher Education in Nigeria. Your steadfast commitment to skills development, academic excellence, and institutional reforms has continued to set a benchmark within the education sector and beyond.

As a Union, we are proud of your exceptional accomplishments and deeply inspired by the transformative impacts of your leadership. We trust that this award will further energize your resolve to elevate the Colleges of Education sub-sector, in particular and the education sector, in general, to a globally competitive standard.

Once again, Prof., we celebrate this milestone with you and wish you continued success in all your endeavours.

Congratulations, Sir!!

In solidarity,

Comrd. Danladi Ali Msheliza, FCPM, FNLI, FANC, MNIM.
(President)

Comrd. Leo Isioma Nwenyi
(National Secretary)

National Vice President:

Comrd. OLASAN MATTHEW ADEWOLE

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National Auditor

ZUWAIARA ABUBAKAR ANACHE

National Woman Leader

Comrd. ESTHER EZIE NWAKAEGO



OKONGKO CHARITY FOUNDATION


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118 Atiku Abubakar Highway, Uyo,
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07041687493

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Dr. Christopher Okongko
President, Okongko Charity Foundation

20th September, 2025

Dear Sir,

GOODWILL MESSAGE

The Board of Trustees, Management and Staff of Okongko Charity Foundation profoundly celebrate our President, Dr Christopher Friday Okongko on his meritorious selection for and conferment of the South South Nigerian Humanitarian Award — a prestigious category under South South Nigeria Excellence Awards 2025, anchored by Global Skills Hub, United Kingdom and holding at Autograph, New G.R.A. Port Harcourt.

This deserving laurel of honour represents yet another bold signature and global seal affirming the numerous humanitarian services rendered by Dr. Christopher Okongko, President of Okongko Charity Foundation. Undoubtedly, this Award does not come as a surprise considering your numerous welfare packages to ease tension in our society as well as ameliorate the suffering of the needy and the vulnerable in Africa.

Beyond global recognition, it is a testament to your incredible commitment to sustained humanitarian efforts and your unwavering dedication to making positive impacts in Africa where many lives have been touched and hope rekindled.

May this Award inspire you to do more in your continued engagement to fulfilling your greater commitment of serving humanity and empowering the communities.

Congratulation!

Yours sincerely,

Sir Daniel Ekanem

African Representative

ABOUT GLOBAL SKILLS HUB, UNITED KINGDOM

Building Capacity Through Training and Conferencing

Global Skills Hub (GSH) is a premier Training and Conference Organizing Company based in the United Kingdom, proudly registered as a Learning Provider under UKPRN Number 10090430. We specialize in hosting impactful events such as the annual Africa Education Summit and the Africa Health Summit fostering meaningful dialogue and advancing global development.

As publishers of the International Research and Innovation Journal (www.irijournal.org) and a proud member of the CPD Certification Service, we are committed to driving excellence in professional growth and lifelong learning.

Our partnerships with leading experts and professionals across various fields enable us to deliver world-class training workshops. Our programs span multiple sectors, including health, leadership, finance, budgeting, business, and environmental training. Notably, our flagship program on Mental Health and Leadership in the Workplace has garnered global recognition and is highly sought after by organizations worldwide.

AT GSH, WE ARE DEDICATED TO EMPOWERING TEAMS AT EVERY LEVEL:

- We offer tailored training for staff, management teams, and boards of directors, ensuring immediate improvements in workforce productivity and workplace attitudes.
- Our innovative approach to training and retraining has established GSH as a trusted hub for professional orientation, skill development, and mentorship across the UK and beyond.

Recognizing the critical role of leadership and mental health in organizational success, we design comprehensive programs that equip management teams with practical leadership skills and enhance overall employee well-being. We believe that happy staff create thriving organizations.

WE OFFER UNPARALLELED FLEXIBILITY:

- Invite our team to conduct workshops at your company or organization, designed to meet your specific needs.
- Alternatively, send your staff to our pre-scheduled events, or take advantage of our new online training programs, thoughtfully designed to deliver the same transformative impact as our in-person sessions.

Global Skills Hub stands as a beacon of excellence in professional training and development, with the mission of unlocking the full potential of businesses and organizations worldwide.

Inspire 2025

**Meet the South-South Nigeria
Excellence Awards Winners**

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