



The Highlights

The Weekly Newsletter of Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State

Vision

To be a foremost institution that moves manpower development in direction of self apprenticeship; a first-class University in research, knowledge, character and service to humanity.

Mission

To provide knowledge and skills for self-reliance in a conducive environment where teaching, learning and research can take place.

Vol, XVII No. 5

Monday, July 12, 2021

Akeredolu Appoints Ige Substantive AAUA VC



The Governor of Ondo State and Visitor to Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba Akoko, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN, has appointed Prof. Olugbenga Ebenezer Ige, as the 6th substantive Vice Chancellor of the Institution.

According to the Chief Press Secretary, Professor Ige's appointment was conveyed in a letter signed by the Chief of Staff to the Governor, Chief Olugbenga Ale, to the University's Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, saying, "Governor Akeredolu approved Prof. Ige's appointment having been found appointable."

The Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Richard Olabode, in a statement, said the appointment takes effect from Wednesday, 7th July, 2021, for a one-term of five years.

He said the Governor's approval was in line with the exercise of his

power under Paragraph 3 (8) of Schedule 1 of Adekunle Ajasin University Law.

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Governor Akeredolu, who assured the University community of

his administration's commitment to prioritizing home-grown eggheads for effective management of the institution, congratulated Professor Olugbenga Ige and charged him to work assiduously for the development of the institution.

Prof. Ige, who appreciated the Governor for the opportunity and the confidence reposed in him to administer AAUA in the last one and half years in acting capacity, promised to take the institution to a greater-heights and make it globally competitive.

Prof. Ige joined the services of the then Ondo State University, Ado Ekiti, as a Graduate Assistant in December 1990, and rose steadily through the ranks to become a Professor in October 2011.

A distinguished Professor of Palynology and Palaeoecology, Prof. Olugbenga E. Ige holds a Bachelor of Science (Hons.) degree in Botany from the University of Benin in 1984.

He proceeded to the Nigeria's Premier University, the University of Ibadan, where he bagged a Master of Science degree in Botany in the year 1993 and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Botany with specialisation in Palynology & Palaeoecology in 2004. As a teacher and researcher, Prof. Ige has taught in various institutions in Nigeria. He joined the services of the then Ondo State University, Ado Ekiti, as a Graduate Assistant in December 1990, and rose steadily through the ranks to become a Professor in October 2011.

He is currently a lecturer in the Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology, Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko (AAUA) Ondo State. He has engaged in notable collaborations and research works in the following international academy and institutes of note: The Third World Academy of Science (TWAS), Trieste, Italy; The National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow, India; The Gautam Buddh Technical University, Lucknow,

Prof. Ige Assumes Office, Pledges New Beginning, Unfolds Fiscal Sustainability Plan



"I assure you all that things would start to take a new shape. As the substantive Vice Chancellor, my commitment to making Adekunle Ajasin University the cynosure of all eyes is renewed, we will administer the University within its laws and ensure that the vision and mission of the founding fathers are upheld at all times. We are going to relentlessly work towards positioning the University as the best and attract more meaningful goodwill to the institution both locally and internationally."

These were the words of Professor Olugbenga Ige on Wednesday, July 7, 2021, while speaking at a Welcome Ceremony organized by the University Community to usher him in as the 6th substantive Vice Chancellor of

Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba Akoko.

He appreciated the staff for their dedication to duty and for faithfully turning up at their duty posts despite obvious financial constraints. He assured them that a Fiscal Sustainability Plan (FSP) has been put in motion to end the paucity of funds in the Institution and that things

would normalize soon.

While thanking the Visitor and Governor, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, and the Governing Council for finding him appointable to the exalted position, Prof. Ige reeled out his cardinal vision to include, improving on staff and student's welfare, ensuring the security of members of the University Community, and fostering healthy industrial relations with all staff unions.

Others are deepening academic activities and integrity through purposeful teaching and robust research; continuous upgrading of academic support facilities and stimulating sustainable development; improving on the level



India and The Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra - 835215, Ranchi, India.

He was a beneficiary of the international research grant of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi, India. He is a Member, Botanical Society of Nigeria (BOSON); Member and former Vice President, Palynological Association of Nigeria (PAN); a Fellow of the Society of Ethnobotanists, India; a Fellow Nigeria Conservation Foundation and a Member of the

Association of Vice Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (AVCNU).

As a researcher, Prof. Ige has contributed prolifically to both local and international journals and some of his books have become standard reference materials in the field of Botany.

Prof. Olugbenga Ige has made indelible marks in his commitment to community services. A cerebral leader with infectious charisma and capacity, he was the Chairman, Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-

Akoko branch between the year 2002 and 2006.

Beyond his impactful engagements in the University community, he was appointed the Chairman, Ondo State Independent Electoral Commission (ODIEC) in 2011 by the Ondo State Government for a five-year tenure.

A man of overwhelming administrative experiences, Prof. Olugbenga Ige has contributed in a unique way to the administration and growth of tertiary education in the state through his services in various administrative capacities within the University system. He has chaired several Committees that are central to the development of his University. He was Acting Head, Department of Plant Science and Biotechnology from 2005 to 2007; Acting Director, Industrial Training Unit in 2009; Dean, Students Affairs from 2009 to 2010; Acting Director, Academic Planning Unit in 2010; Acting Dean of the Faculty of Science from 2010 to 2011; Dean, of

Postgraduate School in 2016; the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration) from December 2016 to January, 2020; he was appointed the Acting Vice Chancellor on January 6, 2020, a position he occupied till July 6, 2021, before he was appointed the 6th Substantive Vice Chancellor of Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, on July 7, 2021.

A widely travelled researcher, Prof. Olugbenga Ige has attended several conferences and workshop within and outside the country notably in United Kingdom, Singapore, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, India, Republic of Benin among others.

He hails from Ita Ogbolu, in Akure North Local Government Area of Ondo State. He is married to an amiable wife and they are blessed with children.

Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, wishes him all the best in his capacity as the 6th Substantive Vice Chancellor of the Institution.

of Internally Generated Revenue through relevant innovations, Alumni relations, partnerships, collaborations and internationalization. He also said advancing meaningful community relations through community service and engagements, and rebranding and promoting the image of the University towards local and global

of staff for weathering the current storm together. You have simply demonstrated your love for our dear University and your commitment to duty by doing well to attend to your duties despite obvious financial challenges. The soothing news is that there is hope in sight with the Fiscal



relevance would be given deserved attention.

Prof. Ige, who has occupied the position in acting capacity for the past 18 months, urged all members of staff to join hands with the new Management team in moving the Institution forward.

While acknowledging the financial challenges in the Institution, the Vice Chancellor said, "I salute all members

Sustainability Plan aimed at addressing the situation while I was serving in acting capacity. Together, we hope to drive the University back to financial stability within a short time."

Prof. Ige had earlier been welcomed with fanfare by crowd of staff and students, as well as members of several campus-based Para-military groups who danced



and marched before him from the Eastern Gate to the Senate Building where the formal Welcome Ceremony was held in the Senate Chamber.

Present at the ceremony were the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Dr. Tunji Abayomi;

Registrar, Mr. Gbenga Arajulu; Bursar, Mr. Tobi Orina; as well as senior University officers, including Deans of Faculty, Directors, Heads of Departments and Units and Professors.

Also, present were traditional and religious leaders and other guests from all walks of life.

