



PRESENTATION OF PROF. PIUS AUGUSTINE IKE (PAI) OBANYA
THE 17TH CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL

TO

HER EXCELLENCY ELLEN JOHNSON-SIRLEAF
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

BY

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ALHAJA (MRS.) MULIKAT A. BELLO
REGISTRAR TO COUNCIL

ON THE OCCASION OF
THE CHAIRMAN'S COURTESY VISIT TO
THE PRESIDENT

ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2012

Your Excellency, President of the Republic of Liberia
Honourable Minister of Education
Deputy Minister of Instruction (Chief Government Nominee of Liberia on Council)
Other Government Officials
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my singular honour and privilege to be here this morning as I bring you compliments of the West African Examinations Council (WAEC) in the five member countries (The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone).

Permit me to inform you, Your Excellency, that it is part of the Council's tradition to present key office holders of the Council to the Governments of member countries whenever there is a change of baton.

It is in fulfillment of that tradition that I am here today to present to you the new Chairman of Council.

As you are well aware, the chairmanship of Council is rotated among member countries. Each chairman has a three-year tenure starting from the Annual Council Meeting at which he/she is elected.

In March this year, the 60th Annual Meeting of the Governing Council of WAEC was held in Abuja, Nigeria. The high point of that meeting was the election of the 17th Chairman of Council.

By way of introduction, let me start by saying that this new Chairman of Council is a worthy son of Africa, an eminent citizen of the West African Sub-region and a distinguished indigene of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It will interest you to know that he took over from a distinguished Sierra Leonean, Prof. Jonas Abioseh Redwood-Sawyerr. Liberia will, by God's grace, produce the next Chairman of Council to whom the current Chairman will hand over in 2015.

The new Chairman of Council is a thorough-bred Educationist by profession. He holds a First Class Honours Bachelor's degree in Education/French with Distinction in Practice Teaching from Nigeria's premier University, the University of Ibadan; a PhD in Education, also from the University of Ibadan; Diplôme Supérieur d'Etudes Françaises from the University of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. He had part of his Post-Graduate Training from the University of Dakar, Senegal [Centre de Linguistique Appliquée de Dakar - CLAD] and his Post-Doctoral Training at the University of Aix-en-Provence (France); University of York, UK; Institute of International Education, University of Stockholm (Sweden).

Your Excellency, the current Chairman of Council is an erudite Scholar, a Researcher of international repute, a Consultant of world renown, an accomplished educator and educationist, a prolific writer and a seasoned administrator.

Prior to his election as the 17th Chairman of Council, the man I am talking about was at different times a Primary School Teacher, a Clerical/Library Assistant, a Secondary School Teacher, a University Lecturer, a Research Fellow, a Senior Research Fellow and a Professor.

At the national level, he was at different times the Sub-Dean of Post Graduate Studies, Director of Institute of Education (both of the University of Ibadan) and Foundation Dean of Education at the Lagos State University. He is a Fellow of the Nigerian Association of Teachers of Technology; Fellow, Nigerian Academy of Education; and Fellow, Nigerian Institute of Management.

His international career includes being, at different times, the Executive Secretary, African Curriculum Organisation (ACO); Programme Coordinator (Education) of the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession - Morges (Switzerland); and Director, UNESCO Regional Office for Education in Africa (BREDA), to mention just a few.

He is a prolific writer with over 260 publications to his credit.

The new Chairman of Council is the fourth Nigerian to be elected Chairman of Council after Prof. Adeoye Lambo (1969 – 71) (Deceased), Prof. M. O. Oyawoye (1985 – 88) and Dr. Yahaya Hamza (1997-2000). From all indications, each of the previous three Nigerian Chairmen of Council had a successful tenure. And, I have no cause to imagine that the current Chairman will break the tradition. Rather, I am confident that God the Almighty who has ordained him will sustain him with divine wisdom, guidance and protection. Our prayer is that it may please God to bless him in his new position and bless the new position for him, amen.

On this note, Your Excellency, , it is my singular honour and privilege to present to you Prof. PAI Obanya, the 17th *Chairman of Council*, as I invite him to address you.

Thank you once again, Your Excellency, for the honour of this audience even in the face of your very busy schedule.

MULIKAT A. BELLO (ALHAJA, MRS.)
REGISTRAR/CHIEF EXECUTIVE, WAEC
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