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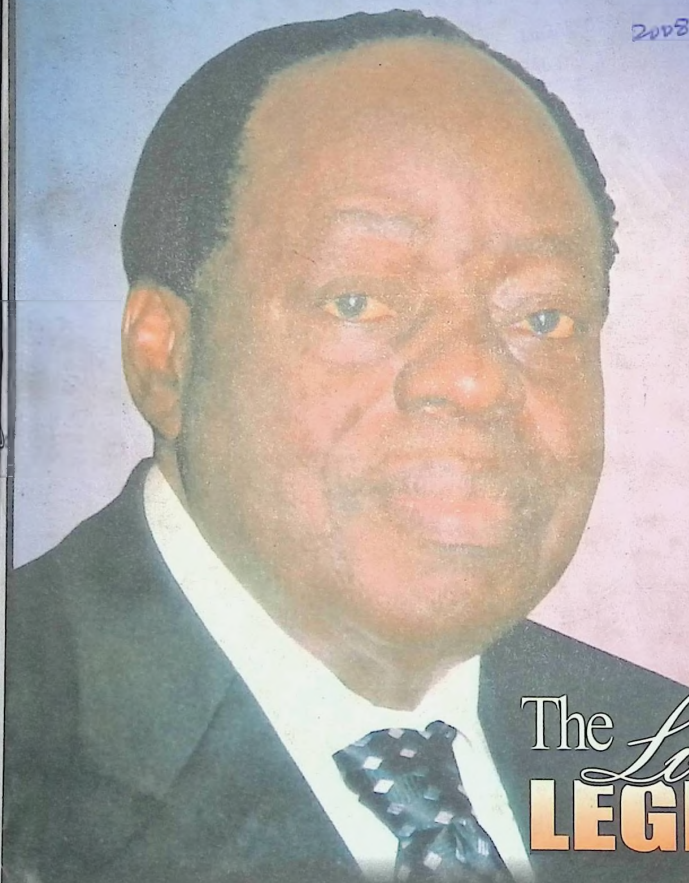
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Afe Babalola

2008-2266



The *Living*
LEGEND

Vol. 1

"He (Chief Afe Babalola) is a person who is open handed, somebody who loves to give and give to others; somebody who loves his people passionately and always sees beyond his love for himself. I have not seen many people like him. He had a thoroughbred upbringing as an Ekiti man, honest to a fault. He is a true specimen of what Ekiti truly is. For us, he is an icon, a role model, an institution worthy of emulation, worthy of all accolades"

- Engr. Segun Oni,
Executive Governor of
Ekiti State

"Once you are a friend of Afe he does not desert you. He never does, whenever you have a problem or you are on trial ... Afe is a complete man, an absolutely dedicated human being. He does not engage in social life but he is a promoter of life in a way most people would not know. Not many people know that Afe contributes to NGOs unannounced."

- Oba Lamidi Olayiwola Adeyemi III,
Alaafin of Oyo

"I think Chief Afe Babalola's achievement has to do with the society he grew up in. Our school, Emmanuel Anglican School, was part of that society which respected and admired people for what they achieved and what values they added to the society. The human being was judged by what he was able to do. It was a village, and village values are always very basic."

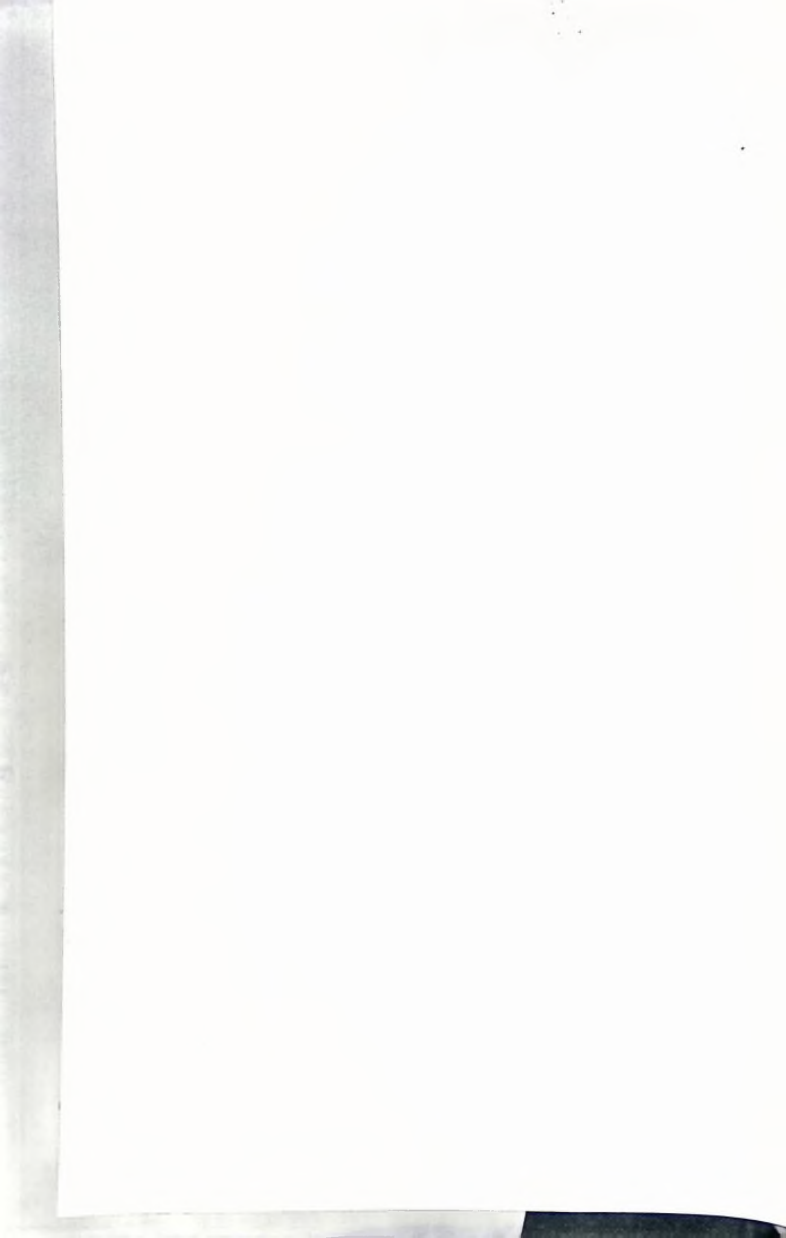
- Dr Christopher Kolade,
Formerly, Nigerian High
Commissioner to the U.K.

"Chief Afe Babalola spent a lot of money to build our St. Paul's Anglican Church, Odo Ado in Ado-Ekiti. If you go to that Church today, it singles itself out by the structure and the beauty, and it is through the instrumentality of Chief Afe Babalola."

- Most Revd. S. A. Abe, Bishop
of Ekiti & Archbishop of Ondo
Anglican Communion

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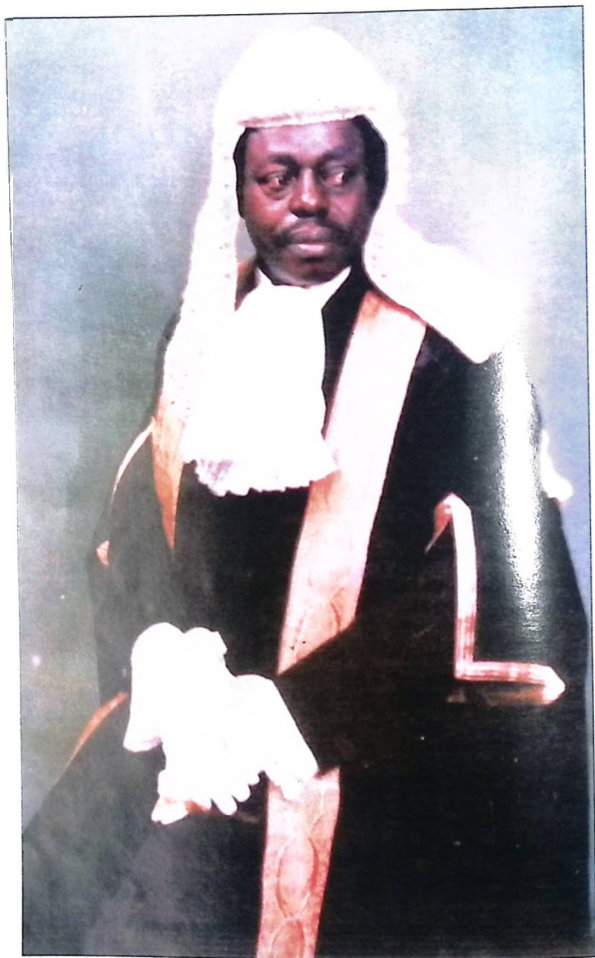
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LEGEND

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Vol. I



CHIEF AFE EMMANUEL BABALOLA
OFR. CON, SAN, FNIALS, FCI Arb., LL.D, FPPA

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2008-2266

AfE Babalola

The *Living*
LEGEND

Vol. I

Authorised Biography
by

Ayo Olanrewaju, Esq.
Basi Fawehinmi-Biobaku (Mrs.)

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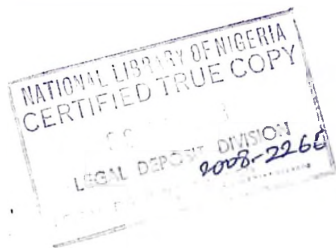
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DEDICATION

To a better Nigeria where in the absence of connection, influence, wealth and god-fatherism, the ordinary citizen can rely on industry and faith and still get to the top





**VICE PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

SH/VP/376/Vol. 11/21

June 17, 2008

Chief Afe Babalola, OFR, CON, SAN
Emmanuel Chambers,
80, Fajuyi Road,
Ekotedo,
P. O. Box 1594,
Ibadan.

Dear Chief Babalola,

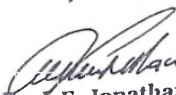
CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

It is with great pleasure that I write to congratulate you Sir, as you celebrate 45 years of active practice in the legal profession, of which the last 21 years came after you had attained the status of a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN).

2. Indeed, the legendary battles you have fought in the courtroom have led to the creation of many judicial precedents and landmark decisions. In addition, Sir, you are greatly admired and respected for your strong compassionate spirit and philanthropic activities in this nation.

3. May the good Lord bless you and bless the work of your hands. Once again, accept, Sir, my sincere congratulations as well as the assurances of my highest esteem.

Yours Sincerely,


Dr. Goodluck E. Jonathan, GCON
Vice President
Federal Republic of Nigeria

PREFACE

As Biographies go, there is a yawning dearth of them in Nigeria. This is not because there are no subjects to write about or who deserve to be written about. There is an ever increasing number of Nigerians making giant strides in different spheres of human endeavor and monumental contributions to National development.

Some have attributed the reason for such paucity of Biographies, or Autobiographies for that matter, in these shores to our poor reading culture or absolutely lack of any reading culture. Our people simply do not read.

Still, others have posited that because the sources of wealth of many influential Nigerians and those that the society looks upon as achievers are questionable, or at most dubious, they do not want everything about them publicly revealed, something that a biography, or an autobiography, is bound to do.

However, one can still point to genuine achievers in our country. Individuals who, by dint of hard work, honesty and integrity have risen to the top of their professions, have made a success of their lives and in the process have impacted positively on the lives of other people. Individuals that have transcended self and local origin and have become national and international icons.

In chronicling the lives of such people, society itself stands to benefit. The stories of how they achieved their successes serve as sources of inspiration to emerging generations. They become role models for colleagues, young adults and the society at large. **CHIEF AFE EMMANUEL BABALOLA, SAN, CON, OFR, LL.D, FNIALS, FCI Arb., FFPA** undoubtedly belongs in that category of institutionalised individuals.

From a background that could be termed, at most, ordinary, Chief Afe Babalola surmounted all the obstacles placed in his way by the society

and circumstances of his birth and rose to become a great icon. His is a success story that is worth telling, and re-telling, and re-telling.

The life of Chief Afe Babalola is as intriguing as it is unique in more ways than one. And when the history of Legal Profession as well as those of great nationalists comes to be told, his name will definitely be in the forefront, and written in glittering gold.

In his practice of the Law Profession, Chief Afe Babalola has achieved a string of firsts. His promotion of success is as legendary as the success he has made of his own career and life. He has, arguably, trained more Lawyers and made more Senior Advocates of Nigeria (SANs) than any other single legal practitioner in Nigeria. Perhaps that aspect of him has become public knowledge over time.

However, there is a bigger side of him that is not as widely known. One may attribute this fact to his modesty but not a few people will be surprised to learn that Chief Afe Babalola is one of the biggest philanthropists of this or any other age in the history of Nigeria. Indeed, he has institutionalized philanthropy. Through his efforts he has touched and continues to touch and will continue to touch millions of lives in diverse spheres, be it in health, education, sports and even farming.

Yes, farming. As someone who practically grew up in the farm, Chief Afe Babalola loves farming and, in his own words, "prefers it to Law practice". His only known physical hobby is tending to the farm. He has a sprawling farm on Ikere Road in Ado-Ekiti which is on a land of about 50 acres. On the farm is a cocoa plantation, a palm plantation, Teak trees of more than 500,000 stands and three fish lakes. He has other farmlands in Ado-Ekiti and in Ibadan and a small farm in his residence in Ibadan where he tends to yams and vegetables and other farm products, a favourite past time of his.

Getting to do a biography on Chief Afe Babalola was very challenging. For a man of so many parts we had to cover a lot of grounds and mileage.

P R E F A C E

We practically took up residence in Ibadan, the home base of Chief Afe Babalola. Our research on him took us from Ibadan to Ilorin, from Abuja to Port-Harcourt, from Ado-Ekiti to Oyo. In Lagos, we visited places and people to see and hear for ourselves the impact of Chief Afe Babalola. In our sojourn at Ado-Ekiti, we were lavished with the traditional Ekiti hospitality and warmth. Of course, "Iyan" (pounded yam) and vegetable soup laced with dry fish, the favourite of Chief Afe Babalola, was always on the card. In Ado-Ekiti, the Ewi of Ado-Ekiti and the Governor of Ekiti State welcomed us heartily. In Oyo, the Alaafin was enthusiastic to receive us in the splendour of his Palace.

We were with Chief Afe Babalola at the opening and closing ceremonies of the Nigeria Polytechnic Games (NIPOGA) which held at the Federal Polytechnic, Ado Ekiti from April 26 to May 4, 2008. Chief Afe Babalola was the Grand Custodian of the Games. We witnessed the spectacular and colourful opening and closing ceremonies and the show of undiluted affection and love for Chief Afe Babalola.

At every turn we were confronted with and witnessed first-hand the awe in which Chief Afe Babalola is held, and the respect that he commands from a large spectrum of the Nigerian Society. We were his guests at the Presidential Award Dinner of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators of Nigeria (Chief Afe Babalola is the President) at Sheraton Hotels & Towers in Lagos on May 2, 2008. The attendance of invited Guests at the occasion was a who-is-who of the cream of the Nigerian Judiciary, led by the Chief Justice of Nigeria, **Hon. Justice Idris Legbo Kutigi**, and the leading captains of Industry and Business in Nigeria.

It is generally accepted that the real character of a person can only be deciphered by what he does, what he says and what other people say of him. This book is thus structured in three parts. The first and second parts which are contained in Volume 1 deal with the life and activities of Chief Afe Babalola on the one hand and what people say of him on the other hand. Volume 2 is wholly devoted to his thoughts and views which can be found in the articles, lectures and speeches which he has written

and delivered at different fora over several years on diverse issues of national and international relevance and importance.

We have inserted the views of 28 (twenty eight) people that know Chief Afe Babalola intimately from birth to the present. Those he grew up with, those he went to school with and those he interacted with. Of course, those who he brought up, those who worked (and still work) with him and those he touched their lives. We obtained their views through personal interviews that we conducted with each and every one of them. One interesting but unique fact that we discovered through this process is that even though most have never met themselves and they are in totally different locations and places, they were unanimous in their views about certain character traits of Chief Afe Babalola as if they had read them from a source book. Of his penchant for Hardwork, Honesty, Integrity, Courage, Selflessness and the propensity to give and to make people happy, there was an uncanny unanimity of opinion.

We met Mrs. Bolanle Austen - Peters, the only one of Chief Afe Babalola's children that was available for us to meet. An amiable, highly intelligent and accomodating young woman, we found her to be a chip off the old block.

There is no doubt that Chief Afe Babalola has not only fulfilled his destiny, he is helping others to fulfill theirs.

When we started the project, our mission was to chronicle and present, as much as possible, the many facets of the life and activities of Chief Afe Babalola. We hope we have been able to achieve that in this book.

July, 2008

AYO OLANREWAJU, ESQ.

BASI FAWEHINMI-BIOBAKU (MRS.)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This book is a product of several months of research, travelling, writing and reading.

Chief Afe Babalola, SAN, the subject of this book gave us full co-operation in our task. He kept his doors open and made himself, his offices and homes available to us at all times. We practically laid siege on his Chambers, where he and his able, competent and hardworking Lieutenants provided every of our requests. We are grateful to him for all that and thank him for giving us the opportunity to write his biography.

We also thank every single member of staff of **Afe Babalola, SAN & Co. (Emmanuel Chambers)** and those of his houses, especially **Mr Adebayo Adenipekun, SAN**, Head of the Chambers, **Mr Isiaka Iyadunni**, Chief Afe Babalola's long-serving Personal Assistant of twenty six (26) years and Barristers **Tayo Aluko** and **Oluwasesan Dada**. Whenever we

called him for information or materials, even at odd hours, Isiaka always obliged us and never complained.

We are indebted to the Executive Governor of Ekiti State, **Engr. Segun Oni**, who graciously squeezed time from his very tight State duties to grant us an interview. He made himself available to us between 12 midnight and 1.00 a.m. and thereafter treated our team to a sumptuous dinner in the State House at such wee hours of the day.

Two first class Monarchs opened their palatial Palaces to us at very short notices. The Alaafin of Oyo, Iku Baba Yeye, **Oba (Dr.) Lamidi Olayiwola Adeyemi III** was a joy to talk and interact with in his beautiful garden inside the ancient Palace at Oyo. **Oba Adeyemo Adejugbe Aladesanmi II**, the Ewi of Ado Ekiti, gladly accepted to talk to us even when we did not give him previous notice. We are grateful to these fantastic monarchs for their royal endorsements and blessings.

We personally visited and intruded on the time of each person whose view on Chief Afe Babalola is featured in this book. Not one of them complained or turned us back. We hereby express our heart-felt gratitude to the following people, but not in any particular order of importance, that is :- The **Most Revd. Samuel Adedayo Abe**, Bishop of Ekiti & Archbishop of Ondo Diocese; **Hon. Justice M.O. Onalaja**, Rtd. Justice of the Court of Appeal and Chairman, Council of Legal Education in Nigeria; **Dr. Christopher Kolade**, former Nigerian High Commissioner to the U.K.; **Professor Oyewusi Ibidapo-Obe**, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Lagos; **Professor Abiodun Ilesanmi**, Chief Medical Director, University College Hospital, Ibadan; **Professor (Mrs) Bola Osifo**, Consultant and Head, Department of Nuclear Medicine, UCH, Ibadan and the staff of the Department; **Professor Olawunmi Ajaja**, former Rector, Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti; **Mr. Oluwarotimi O.**

A. Shodimu, Registrar & Secretary of Council, Unilag; **Chief Julius Adeleye Fasuba**; **High Chief Dr. J.E. Babatola**; **Chief Gabriel Ojo Falegan**; **Dr. Alex Ajayi**; **Chief Michael Adebayo Falaye**; the memory of **late Elder Lucas Adeusi**; **Elder Samuel Adeleye Ajibade**; **Mr. Micheal Ojo Adelusi**; **Pa Micheal Alabi**; **Pa James Kowe Ojaloni**; **Chief Akin Akeju**; **Prince (Dr.) Fredrick Obateru Akinruntan**, Chairman, Obat Group; **Madam Aina Fatoba**; **Mrs. Eburn Bailey**; **Adewunmi Adedipe**; **Adebowale A. Adeoye** and **Mrs. Bolanle Austen-Peters**.

After the harduous task of travelling, research and collection of materials, there came the even more harduous task of writing, collating, arranging and producing the book. In these aspects, we were lucky to have the assistance of a very dedicated group of professionals and other individuals who shared in our passion for the work. Barristers **Sikiru Akinrele**, **Simon Evivie** and **Kola Arigbede**, young, brilliant and fiercely dedicated lawyers, did a lot in reading through the manuscripts and making useful and invaluable suggestions. We thank them for their excellent contributions.

We must also acknowledge the efforts of the other group of even younger lawyers that did their Law office attachment of the Law School Programme in **Ayo Olanrewaju & Co** which programme fell within the period that this book was in the closing stages of production. They helped in the proof-reading and arrangement of the book. They are: **Edith Igezunya (Miss)**, **Vitalis Ihidigbo**, **Lateef Animashaun**, **Charles Okafor**, **Olusegun Ogundiran** and **Ugochukwu Ezekiel**.

We were also blessed with a team of Administrative Staff that was hardworking, dedicated and focused. We drove them hard and they responded positively and totally devoted their energy into the project. They toiled till late hours for days and weeks. We acknowledge the efforts

of **Samuel Oladele** and **Gbenga Olofin**, as well as those of **Aderinola Adebayo**, the computer expert who led the team of **Mrs. Florence Makanjuola** and **Miss Joyce Abah**. The keying and typesetting were done by the team. **Folorunsho Oloro**, the amiable and ever-smiling young photographer/camera man followed us to all the places and all the people that we visited. He was with us on the road during the days and at nights; in the sun and in the rain. He took and produced all our photographs and recorded the interviews on audio and video.

Our success in the production of this book is as much the success of everyone mentioned above.

Work on the book entailed and necessitated long hours, days, weeks and months away from our homes and families. We therefore thank our lovely and loyal **spouses and children** for their support and understanding and the denials they suffered during the production of this book.

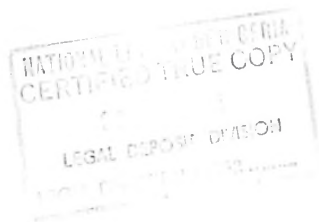
The ultimate appreciation and glory goes to **Almighty God** for the life of Chief Afe Babalola and for making this project possible.

Any thing human is susceptible to errors. The same may be true of this book. We therefore take responsibility for, and regret, any error that may have crept into this book. It is not intentional.

July, 2008

AYO OLANREWAJU, ESQ.

BASI FAWEHINMI-BIOBAKU (MRS.)



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THE BEGINNING

CHIEFAFE BABALOLA was not born in his father's house. It was not that his father's house was much to talk about. It was an unplastered mud-house with roof thatched with leaves, and the floor was bare and harsh. He was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth either. There was none.

At the time of his birth, his mother had become desperate for a child. When she eventually became pregnant, she consulted an *Ifa* (local deity) divinity priest who told her to relocate or move temporarily from Ado, where the family was resident, to another village if she wanted the child she was expecting to survive after birth. She followed the advice of the priest. She went to Ikere to stay with a herbalist and had her baby in the herbalist's home.

The new-born was named **AJISAFE** (literally meaning 'one who loves to look good'). At the time, a child's body was usually robbed with local pomade, a reddish mixture made from grinding together of local herbs, called "osun". When Afe's body was thus robbed, it glowed and sparkled and radiated in resplendent beauty. And that was how he derived his name, so his mother told. He was indeed a fine baby boy, so the story went. With time, the name was shortened to simply 'Afe'.

He was duly taken home, to his father's house, when he turned three.

Afe was the product of the union between his father, **JOSHUA ADUBIARO BABALOLA**, and his mother, **ABIGAIL AJAYI BABALOLA**.

Although no one remembered exactly the date and time he was born, Chief Afe Babalola adopted October 19, 1932 as his birth date. He arrived at this date from stories subsequently related to him by his parents chronicling events that occurred simultaneously and at the time he was born. Some of his contemporaries claim he was born much earlier and therefore that he is older than he claims to be.

Joshua Adubiaro Babalola was, through to the prevailing custom, polygamous. He had two other wives aside from Afe's mother.

Chief Afe Babalola was born into a predominantly rural life. The society was, in contemporary sense and in hindsight, backward. Life was characterised by high rate of infant mortality and unnatural deaths mostly caused by poor sanitary and unhygienic conditions that people lived in. It was in such circumstances and conditions that Chief Afe Babalola's mother gave birth to ten children. However, only four of them survived. Chief Afe Babalola is the eldest of the four. The others are Aima, Egun and Taiwo.



ANCESTRY

CHIEF AFE BABALOLA has his ancestry in Ilotin family of Ado- Ekiti. He is a descendant from a long line of *Olotins*

Olotin is the chieftaincy title for the Ilotin family under the native law and custom of Ado-Ekiti. As far back as human memory of oral traditionalists could go, the following is the list of those who have been *Olotin*:

Olotin Gbo-Igi

Olotin Asigbala

Olotin Adesua

Olotin Ogunbiyi

Olotin Ajayi

Olotin Osaloni (present holder)

OGUNBIYIADESUA was Chief Afe Babalola's grandfather. He was originally from Odofin compound in Idofin Street, Odo Ado quarters of Ado-Ekiti. He was a farmer, a herbalist, warrior and hunter, all in one. He was reputed to be a brave man and he was highly respected in the society. The story was that he was in line to become the Odofin. Being a warrior, he was away from home most of the time. When he was away on one of his military expeditions, the reigning Odofin died and the people, without waiting for him (as the natural successor) installed one of his relatives as the new Odofin. When he returned, he fought to claim his rightful title but he did not succeed. He felt betrayed and left for Ilotin. He took with him the deity, known as "*Orisa Ogbolu*", to Ilotin and build a shrine for it there.

Oral history also claimed that *Olotin Adesua* begat *Olotin Ogunbiyi*. *Olotin Ogunbiyi* had seven wives namely:- **Oja**, who had two children, Omoidu and Okunrinpo; **Fasuba**, whose children were Ogunleye and Adepoju; **Isibaka**, who bore Faremilekun, Babalola, Ajayi and Osaloni; **Osayiba** who had no child; **Adeyemi**, the mother of Akindele, Ojo, Fakorede and Wada; **Falale**, the 6th wife had four children, namely Ibidun, Aina, Adesoro and Omonilale and **Folakemi**, the last wife who also sired four children - Arate, Dolapo, Ojuola and Omorubu.

Chief Afe Babalola's maternal grandfather was **OSHUNKUNLE**. He was a warrior and a popular farmer. He hailed from Ile Asa in Idofin, Ado-Ekiti. His father was Odofin Aripin Omolore.

Chief Afe Babalola's mother's mother was **IWE**. Her grand mother was known as **OJA OLOFINSEKUN** whose own father was **APATA PARI**. He was also known as Shaji and he was a warrior. Stories were told that when he died many bullets were removed from his body.

OSHUNKUNLE had three wives, namely:- Eye Ibilola, Eye Famontemi and Eye Iwe. The children of Ibilola were Ogungbadero Ola, Dada, Ibidapo,

Adejugbe. Famontemi had a child named Towobola. The children of Iwe (Afe's grand mother) were Fanimeyere, Omotimleye, Ajayi (Afe's mother), Famoroti (Julius) Ibironke. Afe's grandmother had another child when her husband died named Ogunboya.

The brothers and sisters of Afe's grandmother were Famoriyele, Famosanya, Ogunlade, Iwe, Ogunmola, Adeseye, Omojolagbe (these were all born of the same mother, Oja). Famoriyele, Famosanya, Ogunlade and Iwe (Afe's grand mother) and Ogunmola were of the same father (Oshunkunle). Omojolagbe and Adeseye were from another father called Ojuko.



THREE



GROWING UP

Afe grew up in the farm. His father was a farmer. His brothers, uncles and cousins were also farmers. Farming was clearly the predominant occupation of Afe's family members. There were few barbers, tailors, blacksmiths, and carpenters, but farming was their main occupation.

Afe's father inherited a portion of his own father's farm at Ajipon, in Ado Ekiti. He later moved to Odo Asa at Igirigiri. He left Ajipon because Ajipon had become a grassland due to intensive cultivation, and was not good for cocoa which was then newly introduced into Ekiti by the white men. As a young boy, Afe went with his father to the new farm settlement at Odo Asa where he planted cocoa. He later moved to a virgin forest on the hills known as Alayegbe because cocoa did not grow well at Odo Asa land. Because of the long distance from their home in Ado Ekiti which

is about 16 kilometers, Afe's family made the farm its homestead and stayed of the farm, on the farm, sometimes for upwards of 3 months at a stretch. They usually went home to participate in annual festivals like Ogun or Egungun. As a young boy, Afe found life on the farm very interesting and he was happy.

The young Afe did not wear clothes on the farm. His father never wore shoes or slippers throughout his life. That was the vogue. The other farmers, as was the norm, also, did not have footwear. So, all through his time on the farm and until he passed out from Primary School, Afe had no shoes or slippers. It was after his Primary School education and he started to work as a Pupil teacher that his mother bought his first shoes. It was a pair of white canvas shoes, which he wore only on Sundays to church. He was then about 16 years of age.

However, despite the seeming deprivations suffered at the farmstead, the family in which Afe grew up in was happy on the farm. For the young Afe, there was no life as enjoyable as life on the farm. It was therefore a matter of regret for him when his father decided to withdraw him from the farm to attend school.

Afe's mother is an intelligent, highly enterprising, industrious and fearless woman. She understands English although she did not go to school. Even now, at the ripe age of over 100 years she still exhibits all those traits. She listens to the radio and watches the television everyday intently monitoring and digesting everyday news.

In her younger days, she engaged her hand in almost everything. She made thread from cotton collected from her husband's farm and made clothes for her children at her loom. She wove Afe's uniform when he was in school. She also had a farm near the house and made the heaps herself. She collected firewood from the forest and sold them. She made and

sold pap in the mornings. She sold kerosene. She carried maize or yam for farmers for a fee, usually paid in kind in form of tubers of yam or measures of maize. She kept hens and goats which she sold to pay part of Afe's school fees.

To date, at well over 100 years, Mama, as she is fondly called, still goes to the market to buy ingredients to make soup and she still prepares her own meals and delicacies.



CALL OF SCHOOL

Afe's parents and family were neither Christians nor Muslims. They worshiped *Ogun*. The name of Afe's grandfather was Ogunbiyi meaning "offspring of *Ogun*" The missionaries went round to preach Christianity to Afe's family. Pa John was the first convert.

The missionaries also went to persuade Afe's parents to send their children to school. Afe was the first male child in his family compound to go to school. His uncles derided his father for sending him to school. Today, he still remembers vividly what his uncles said about him and his father for sending him to school.

Afe's school, Emmanuel Anglican Primary School, was about 2 1/2 miles from his parents' house. Discipline was rigorously enforced and lateness punished severely.

The Emmanuel Anglican Primary School still stands in the exact location in the centre of Ado-Ekiti where it was and exactly how it was when young Afe attended there. It is a non-descript block of classrooms which housed classes 1 to 6 and the teachers' room. All around, modern buildings have conspired to emphasize its age and the "batterings" it has endured from the vagaries of the weather over the years. Chief Afe Babalola is finalising plans rebuild school into a modern one.

A few years after Afe's enrolment as a student in Emmanuel School, he was baptized and the name "Emmanuel" given to him. Later, his parents became Christians.

Chief Afe Babalola would later say that he did not know why his father decided to send him to school. He needed Afe's support on the farm. Besides, none of the members of the family sent their children to school. Rather, they were useful helpers on the farm. Again, Afe was the only son. That made it more compelling for him to remain on the farm.

What was probably more important was that Afe's father chose to send him to Emmanuel Anglican School, which was about four kilometers from their family compound, even though St. Gregory's Catholic School was less than two kilometers from the compound. His uncle was also running an Islamic school. Furthermore, Chief Akinyede, who was the Baba Egbe of Catholic Church, tried to persuade Afe's father that it was wrong to send his child to *Aladamo* School as it was then called. He promised to ensure that Afe was paid bursary if he was withdrawn from Emmanuel Anglican Primary School. However, Afe's father did not bridge. Looking back, Afe believed that his father's decision was directed by God.

Afe's school was rated the best primary school in Ondo/ Lokoja Diocese. Most of its teachers were trained at St. Andrew's College, Oyo, which was then the leading Teachers Training College in Nigeria. It was the

highest institution of learning in Nigeria. The teachers at Emmanuel Anglican Primary School were disciplined and highly professional. Punctuality was religiously enforced. Late coming was punished. Cleanliness was given priority. Every morning, the pupils lined up for inspection of their hair, nails, and teeth. This was followed by morning prayers. They would thereafter march to their classrooms for the first lesson, which was Christian Religious Knowledge (scriptures). Later they would file out for physical exercises, which were followed by two other lessons. Then they had a 30 minute break during which they also had their afternoon meals. At 2 p.m. the pupils closed for the day with prayers and songs.

The teachers were very dedicated. They knew each pupil by name and visited them at home where they advised their parents on how to raise their children, and briefed them of each child's progress or otherwise at school.

Teachers then were divided into four grades. Most junior teachers who had less than 2 years experience in teaching were rated as C.D. Teachers. Grade C teachers were those who had passed the Preliminary Teachers' Examination and were usually those who had acquired over 2 years of teaching experience. CS were old teachers who could not pass examinations to Teachers Training Colleges. Grade A teachers were those who had passed out from St Andrew's College, Oyo. Teachers wore brown khaki knickers and white short-sleeved shirts. In most cases, pupil teachers did not wear shoes but the Andrians (Teachers who had passed out from St. Andrew's College, Oyo) wore white canvas shoes and white helmets like the white men. They dressed more prestigiously because they earned better salaries.

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to greet them. A pupil could be given as many as 40 strokes of the cane in one day. Afe was not spared too. He still has several scars all over his body which bear testimony to the wounds he received in course of being flogged by his teachers.

Afe ran away from school several times because of the corporal punishments but his father would insist that he went back to school.

Afe observed that his teachers were very careful people who taught by examples, that they were neat and smart. Afe thought that they were some kind of gods and never urinated or ate openly. Generally, the children so much feared them to the extent that if per chance they saw a teacher outside the school, they hid somewhere until he had gone out of sight.

Afe's school uniform was fashioned after the English small-square patterned check. However, his parents could not afford to buy the English check cloth for the uniforms. So, his mother wove the cloth for Afe's uniform on her loom.

Apart from academic work, students at Emmanuel Anglican Primary School were taught handiwork, which included carpentry, cane work, carving, weaving, dyeing, basket work, etc.

Afe's favourite subject and one in which he most excelled was Geography. When he was in Standard Five, Afe could draw the map of the world to scale and fix any climatic or physical features and virtually all the towns and rivers and mountains in the world without looking at any book. It was therefore not surprising that he came first in Geography in Ondo/Lokoja Students' examinations. In Geography, Afe's teacher used to add 2 marks to his award of full marks for Afe thereby scoring him 12 over 10.

Afe's school mates included **Ben Oni, Francis Oguntoyinbo, Simeon Akeju, Yaya Salawu, Festus, Adeleye Ajibade, Akinwumi, Kayode, Israel, Owoeye, Jonathan Akinola, Gidado Gbolahan, Ajibade,**

Christopher Kolade, Justice Ogunleye, Ojo Pupa, Ojo Dudu, Adun Dorcas, Folorunso, Alice and Fatima. it was the same **Christopher Kolade** who later became a corporate guru and served as Nigeria's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. He was the son of Revd. Kolade, the Pastor of Emmanuel Church. He was therefore respected by the teachers and treated with special care.

When Afe was at Emmanuel Anglican Primary School, fees ranged from two shillings to three shillings, six pence per term. But Ekiti was then an agrarian community. Everybody had enough food to eat. People did not buy food.. Consequently, money was hard to come by. And when Afe and some of his co-pupils failed to pay their fees, they were driven out of school. Some of the time they were beaten by teachers for failure to pay their school fees.

Pupil Teacher

Afe completed his primary school education in December of 1945. He passed out as one of the best pupils in his class. He was second in the final examinations. Unknown to him at the time, that would be the only educational institution that he would ever attend full time. When Afe left primary school in December, 1945, he was offered the rare opportunity of going on straight to Form Three in Christ's School because of his excellent result. Without that, he would have started as was normal in Class One. The School fee was £6 (six pounds). His father could have managed to pay that but at the end, he was not able to. The story went that Afe's father inherited, by tradition, a woman named Omoti, the wife of Afe's late uncle. Although the only child Omoti had for Afe's father at that time named Marcus was still very young and not yet of school age, she always insisted that whenever Afe's father paid Afe's school fees in Emmanuel Anglican Primary School, she too must be given the same amount. Afe's father knew that if he had to pay £6 (six pounds) for Afe's

continued education in Christ School, he would have to pay another £6 (six pounds) to the woman. He could not afford what amounted to double payment and that put paid to Afe's ambition to proceed to a Secondary School. Because of his performance in the final examination, it was not difficult for him to secure employment as a pupil teacher.

The School Board posted him to St. Paul's School, Ikere Ekiti which was one of the best schools in Ekiti at that time. Ikere Ekiti was sixteen kilometers from Ado Ekiti. There were no motorcycles, taxis or lorries. So, Afe travelled to and from Ikere on foot and carried his box and food on his head. At the time teaching was the only work available in Ekiti for those who passed out of primary school and whose parents could not afford to send them to secondary school. Teachers who failed the teachers' preliminary examinations at the end of two years' pupilage were disengaged.

Most weekends, Afe travelled from Ikere to his father's plantation, spent the weekend on the farm and returned to Ikere on Sunday. He lived in a rented room in an unplastered mud house near the school. Other teachers who lived in the same building at that time included Henry Adenipekun and Emmanuel Adeniyi. He was put in charge of Standard II.

As a teacher, it was part of Afe's duties to inspect and punish students who did not comply with hygiene rules. He earned a salary of one pound a month. Nevertheless, he was able to save five pounds at the end of the first year! The young Afe did not wear shoes to school. The white canvas shoes his mother bought for him in December of 1945 was used only to the church on Sundays. On his return from the church he washed the shoes, applied white Nugget, dried and kept them till the following Sunday. Afe and other pupil teachers spent the evenings reading and preparing for teachers' preliminary examinations for pupil teachers.

At the end of 1946 after a year in Ikare, Afe was transferred to his *alma mater*, Emmanuel Anglican Primary School. This was very rare for a young pupil teacher because only exceptionally brilliant students were employed as teachers by their *alma maters* in those days. And Emmanuel Anglican Primary School was the leading primary school in Ekiti. Entrance examination was conducted for students from other schools in Ekiti for admission into Emmanuel School. The teachers at the school were the best in Ekiti. The best of teachers were sent from St. Andrew's College Oyo to Emmanuel School. It was a pride to be a teacher in Emmanuel School just as it was to be a pupil. For a former pupil to be employed as a teacher in Emmanuel School, he must have been very outstanding.

Afe resumed teaching in Emmanuel Anglican Primary School in January 1947. He lived in a room in the parsonage about a hundred metres from the school. Six senior teachers also lived in the building. He did his domestic chores, and also went to the market to purchase food stuffs, and cooked his food. Afe was the most junior teacher in the school- a second year pupil teacher. Most of his former teachers were still teachers in the school.

He prepared for the Teachers' qualifying examination and he passed very easily. This qualified him as a Grade 'C' Teacher. He then started preparing for the preliminary examination to St. Andrew's College, Oyo. During his preparation for the examination, he slept in the classroom where he studied all night with other teachers who were also preparing for that examination. To avoid sleeping off, it was a common practice in those days to put their legs in buckets of water and covered their heads with wet towels. Such rigorous study was necessary because the entrance examination to St. Andrew's College was most competitive. Only 25 students were admitted yearly from the whole country. The entrance examination in Ekiti took place in Emmanuel Anglican Primary School. There were over 200 teacher candidates at the examinations held in

Emmanuel Anglican Primary School. Generally, teachers with more than six years experience stood better chances of passing the examination. However, when the result was published, the young Afe was one of the only two candidates who passed the entrance examination in Emmanuel School. The other one was 'Oga' Adewumi, a much older man from Are Ekiti. In later life, he became the Oba of Are.

Afe's achievement was a record. It was announced in Emmanuel Church the following Sunday. However, at the subsequent interview, Afe was rejected on the ground that he was too young and inexperienced. Justifiably, Afe was very unhappy with the result of the interview.

Truly, Afe was very unhappy with the decision of the authorities of St. Andrew's College not to offer him admission because of his age but he took it as a challenge. One of those to provide inspiration for him at that stage of his life was one man named *Ojo* a native of Igbale. He was reputed to be the most brilliant man in Nigeria, and equalled then only by Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe. The legendary Ojo Igbale, an Andrian, was a teacher in Christ School. Afe learnt that he passed the matriculation examination privately and obtained B.Sc (Hons) 1st Class in Physics also at home. Ojo Igbale was alleged to be so poor that he could not buy recommended text books. Legend had it that what he did was to go to the CMS Bookshop the foremost bookshop in Lagos and pretend that he wanted to buy a book. He would collect a book and read it while standing on his legs in the bookshop, and by the time he left the bookshop, he would have memorised the book! When trekking or eating he held a book and read. Mr. Omoju also a native of Igbale and one of the teachers in Emmanuel Primary School was one of Afe's friends although much older. Mr. Omoju was preparing for his Senior Cambridge Examination by private study. It was he who advised Afe on how and where to order tuition notes overseas. He gave Afe the address of his tuition house in Oxford. Within a week of the disappointing result from St. Andrew's College, Afe contacted Wosley

Hall Oxford which sent necessary papers to him on how he could prepare himself for the Cambridge examinations in four years.

At the end of December 1947, Afe made up his mind to leave Ado- Ekiti in the hope that there would be better opportunities to improve his lot. It appeared, however, that the main reason why Afe left Ado Ekiti was that his colleagues in elementary school who were then in Class II or III in Christ School used to visit him on Saturdays at the teachers lodge. They would eat his food and discuss with pride the new subjects they were being taught in school. When they departed, the younger Afe would be downcast.

Afe could not bear the experience, which to him was an humiliation, any longer and he made up his mind to leave town. On 5th January, 1948, he took with him the sum of five pounds which he had saved that year, his books, his pair of white canvas shoes and his few shirts and knickers, and told his mother that he was going to Ikere to visit his friend, Adeniyi. That was not true. His father was away to the farm. He did not know anything about Afe's decision. In fact it was a secret Afe kept to himself. The truth was that he had made up his mind to go to Ibadan for better or for worse. It was a bold step and indeed an adventure into the unknown. With that decision even Afe did not know that he was fulfilling a destiny that had been prophesed for him by the Ifa oracle to his parents when he was 6 years old! It was like the journey of the Israelites to the promised land. Of course, at the time, the young and seemingly adventurous Afe did not know what fate had in store for him.



IBADAN - FIRST COMING

As early as 5 am, he boarded the only lorry that plied the Ibadan - Ado-Ekiti once a week. Before he left home he promised himself and prayed to God that he would not return to Ado-Ekiti route until he had obtained a University degree.

The lorry left Ado-Ekiti at about 5 am. and, after inexplicable intermittent stops by the driver during which time he ate and drank palmwine, arrived Ibadan, a distance of about 60 miles, at 4.00 am of the following day!

It was Afe's first ride in an automobile. Throughout the 23-hour journey over narrow, untarred, bumpy, winding road and wooden bridges, Afe did not sleep for a second, even though all passengers sat uncomfortably on wooden bench with their legs hanging over the passengers' loads. Afe

observed and studied everything on the road, including rivers and villages. He was told that there was electricity in Ibadan. He did not know what it looked like. At Ibadan, Afe saw electric bulbs for the first time in his life.

In 1986, when Chief Afe Babalola completed the building of his present law office at 80, Fajuyi Road, he invited one of his aunties named Omotola to Ibadan. That aunty was the eldest child of his father's elder sister, Fare. She was used as *Iwofa* (collateral), to secure the loan Afe's father borrowed to pay the bride price of Afe's mother. She died in 2005. She climbed to the top floor of the new building housing the law office which afforded her on aerial view of a large part of Ibadan. Instead of congratulating Chief Afe Babalola, she broke down and wept. The Chief appealed to her to stop. She did. He then asked her why she was crying. She started weeping again. After a long time she stopped and said:

***“How much I wish your father were alive today.
(When you were a toddler) I carried you on my back to
Ifa priest at Oke Ila (a quarter in Ado-Ekiti) in company
of your father and mother.”***

According to her, the Ifa Priest chanted the “*odu ifa*” and consulted the oracle. He asked Afe's mother to say to him that she would not offend him. Afe's mother wondered how she could do without offending her baby. But the Ifa Priest insisted. Afe's mother then said reluctantly that she would not offend me. The Ifa Priest continued with the divination with a lot of songs. Later, the priest asked Ifa what the baby was going to do at Ibadan. He went on with the exercise. He then told Afe's parents that Ifa said that Afe would leave Ado to settle at Ibadan where he would be successful, and then leave Ibadan to go abroad. At that time Afe's parents did not know anything about overseas trips. The Ifa Priest went on with the incantation. He told Afe's father that Ifa said Afe would return from

the overseas trip to settle at Ibadan, and would do many good things for Ibadan. Afe's aunty then concluded by saying that everything which the Priest said on that day had come true.

Arrival at Ibadan

Afe slept at Ogunpa Motor Park. He had written to Henry Adenipekun, the teacher he met at Ikere that he was coming to Ibadan. Adenipekun was then a clerk at United Trading Company, (UTC) in Ibadan. Afe got to Adenipekun's office at about 9a.m. and had to wait until 5p.m. when the office closed. At 5p.m., they went to Adenipekun's house at Idi-Ikan. Afe slept on a mat on the floor while Adenipekun slept on the single bed in his one room apartment. The following morning he dressed up at about 7.30a.m. Afe also dressed up. He called on a woman who was selling "muke" (beans) and "dodo" (fried plantain). He bought some. Adenipekun asked Afe if he wanted to eat beans. Afe answered in the affirmative. Adenipekun then asked him to buy and pay for whatever he wanted. Afe did. That was how Afe started to feed himself. Adenipekun never cooked any food while Afe stayed with him. Afe felt Adenipekun was not hospitable as much as Afe expected of him. Afe therefore set about looking for other Ado-Ekiti indigenes in Ibadan.

He found *Oga* Aladelohun, a former teacher at Emmanuel Anglican Primary School, Ado-Ekiti. He was kind and humane. Afe moved into his house and he gave Afe the addresses of schools to which Afe applied for a teaching job. Afe wrote more than 500 applications between January and May 1948 but there was no positive reply to any of them. Afe went to Lebanon Street and applied for employment either as a shop messenger or a clerk. There was no positive response. The Supervisor of Anglican Schools in Ibadan was one Sijuade who lived near the bridge at *Oranyan*. Afe wrote an application to him. He asked Afe to report regularly at his office. Afe trekked every morning from Oke Ado to Sijuade's house at

Oranyan to carry his books and files to his office at Oja-Igbo in Aremo area. That was a distance of about 10 miles to and fro. Afe did that for about 5 months daily in the hope that he would employ him. Instead of employing Afe, Sijuade employed Ibadan boys and girls. Yet Afe did not lose hope.

The lucky break soon came. In the morning of one week-day in May 1948 (5 months after Afe arrived Ibadan from Ado-Ekiti) he went to St. Peter's Primary School, Ibadan to visit Mr. Alade who was a teacher in the school. About 12.30p.m., he asked Mr. Alade to let him handle a teaching session for primary II students. The subject was *story* and *drama*. Afe took the children out of the classroom and sat them under a tree in the school compound. Afe taught them story of a fabled Yoruba mythology.

Afe did not know that the headmaster of the school, Mr. Oduntan, was watching him through his office window. When Afe went back with the children to the classroom, Mr. Oduntan invited Mr. Alade to his office. He asked him who Afe was. He told the headmaster that Afe was a teacher at Ado- Ekiti but was looking for a teaching job in Ibadan. Mr. Oduntan called Afe into his office and told him that he was highly impressed with Afe's teaching. He then wrote a letter in long hand to Mr. Sijuade, the same Supervisor who had refused to employ Afe earlier, and told him that he wanted Afe urgently and at all costs. Mr. Oduntan added that he had seen and watched Afe teach and was impressed. He did not give Mr. Sijuade any option. Mr. Sijuade had no alternative but to employ Afe immediately.

Mr. Oduntan, the headmaster of St. Peter's School, Aremo, posted Afe to infant Class I. Afe's pupils were the youngest. St. Peter's School was then one of the best primary schools in Ibadan. The school also shared the same premises with the senior primary school. Reverend Canon Adebisi was in charge of the church. Rev. Alayande had just returned from Fourah Bay College, Sierra Leone, and he used to be the organist in

the Church on Sundays. Afe taught in Sunday school every Sunday, and played the organ which he learnt on his own. He lived at Oja Igbo about a kilometer from the school. He lived briefly in the house of the parents of Barrister Idowu who was then in England. Later, he moved to the house of Mr. Aribisala.

Teachers - training School

A month after Afe Babalola started teaching in St. Peter's School, Aremo, teachers in Oyo Province, which then included the present Osun State, took a teachers' qualifying test. Afe participated in the exercise and emerged first. . Later, the teachers took the entrance examination to a then new institution called Teachers Training Centre, Molete. Afe participated in the test and he was one of the best in Oyo Province. It was a two-year teacher- training course.

Afe left St. Peter's School, Aremo, for the two-year teacher training course in 1949. The school buildings at Molete were still under construction. The authorities hired some buildings at Yemetu which they used as temporary site. Twice a week Afe and the other students trekked from Yemetu through Adeoyo Hospital to Beere, Mapo, Oja'ba, Kudeti, to the new site of the school, which is now the present St. Luke's College. The seniors who were only so by a single year treated the juniors like slaves. Because Afe was one of the youngest, they tasked him with a lot of work.

In retrospect, the two-year course turned out to be a misadventure and total waste of time for Afe Babalola. The training was meant for those who would teach only children in infants I and II and primaries I and II. What was taught was how to write figures and alphabets correctly, Arithmetic up to Standard IV, and English for children up to Primary II.

Afe's ambition was to improve his education and pass Cambridge School Certificate Examination. Clearly, a Teacher-Training Certificate was not for him. Whenever he was in the class, he refused to listen to the teachers who included Mr. Oni and Mr. Awani. The principal of the Centre was the late Reverend. S. A. Banjo, an Andrian of repute and a highly religious and disciplined man. His children, amongst whom are Bayo Banjo, who distinguished himself in the medical profession, and Professor. Ayo Banjo, who later became the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ibadan, and one of the best Vice - Chancellors in the country, were then studying outside Nigeria.

Afe was driven out of the class most of the time by Mr. Awani because he was not interested in class work but instead was busy studying Algebra, Geometry and Geography. Afe stayed in the library when others were attending classes.

Afe completed the two-year course in December of 1950 but regretted going to the Teachers Training Centre because apart from school method and psychology, he learnt nothing new. To him they were two wasted years towards his ambition.

Back to Teaching

In January 1951, Afe Babalola was posted to a small village called Jago near *River Osun* on the way to *Ikire* outside Ibadan. Jago was then a village in the heart of a large cocoa plantation. There were not more than 50 houses in the village then but there were hundreds of huts spread over a large area of cocoa plantation.

On arrival at Jago, Afe Babalola worked hard, uprooted trees, including palm trees with hoe and cutlass. He had a farm, and also bought a native

was for hunting. After school, Afe spent most of his time reading using a lantern. The advantage Afe had by going to the village was serenity and freedom from distraction and he utilized them to the fullest. It enabled him to concentrate on his studies.

A person who attended a two-year teacher-training course was expected to teach for two years and seek re-admission into a teacher-training college to undergo a further two-year course for the Grade II Certificate. Instead of waiting for two years in order to go back to the college, Afe applied to take the Teachers Grade II Certificate examination privately in December 1951, a year after leaving the two-year training course. About 19 of his classmates from the Teacher-Training Centre also sat for the examination. Early in 1952 when the result was published, Afe was the only one who had a clear pass. Two others had references in one or two subjects but the rest failed. He thus collected the Grade II Teachers Certificate.

Grade II teacher in Gbongan

As a holder of a Grade II Teachers Certificate, Afe became too qualified to teach in a village school. He was thus transferred to St. Paul's School, Gbongan, in 1952 where he taught Standard III in the first year in 1952 and Standard V in 1953.

Gbongan was a famous and relatively big town along the Lagos-Benin Road. St. Paul's Church built with stones was one of the most beautiful Churches in the country at that time. St. Paul's School and the church lay beside the busy highway, which passed through Ibadan from Lagos to Abeokuta. Traffic was very heavy. Commercial activities were brisk. There were over 400 students in the school. It served as a central school for all the surrounding smaller towns and villages.

Afe lived in a rented room in the house of the Akinbamis. Mr. Akinbami and his wife were devoted Christians. Mr. Akinbami was working in another town but the wife who was living in the house is remembered as a most pleasant woman. She was gentle, kind, industrious and caring. At night Afe studied till the early hours of the morning. On seeing the glow from Afe's reading lamp, the kind woman would knock at his door, ask him to put off the light and sleep. But Afe would cover his lantern with newspaper so that she would not know that he was still reading.

Afe's students loved him and he too loved them. He spent two weeks of his four weeks holidays in every quarter of the year to teach them without charging them any fees. He also organized extra coaching for them free of charge. Schools then were run on quarterly sessions annually, as against the present three terms per year. Each quarter ran for 3 months and the school year ran from January to December of each year.

Chief Afe Babalola still vividly remembers one Adenuga, a cocoa magnate who took his son, Segun Adenuga, to live with him so that Afe could help the young kid in his studies. Adenuga asked Afe how much he wanted as fees, but Afe replied that he never charged students for coaching them. Segun lived with Afe and improved in his education. He later went overseas and returned to work in the University of Ife, now Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. His sister Yemisi is now the wife of Hon. Justice Ajakaiye, the first Chief Judge of Ekiti State. He of the Afe Babalola Chambers. Afe also helped her in her studies free of charge and assisted her in leaving Nigeria to study overseas.

Afe saved much of his salary. He was able to buy a **Raleigh bicycle** within six months of his arriving at *Gbongan* and a **gramophone** before the end of his first year at St. Paul's School. Bicycles and gramophones were status symbols in those austere years.

During Christmas holidays in 1952, Afe travelled to Ado-Ekiti to show off his 'wealth' of the new bicycle and gramophone. People looked at him like a very rich man, a millionaire. On his return to Gbongan, Afe took his younger sister, Egun and his half brother, Marcus, the son of Omoti, to live with him. In 1954 he passed four subjects at the GCE Advanced Level at a single sitting, an impressive record by all standards.

Before the end of 1953, an incident happened. Afe beat a student with a cane. The student, one master Longe, who refused to attend for coaching during the vacation. The student was hurt but Afe was not told of this. The parents reported the matter to the Inspector of Schools, Mr. Lasebikan, who constituted himself into an investigating tribunal and sat on a small committee to investigate the complaint. Without giving Afe prior notice, the inspector went from Ibadan to the school where Afe was teaching and invited him to the office of the District Officer on Ibadan road Gbongan to explain his role in the matter. Afe told him that he was caught unawares and that he needed more time to respond. However, Afe was suspended without a hearing. He wrote a petition to the higher authorities but did not receive a reply to his petition for several months until the end of the year. Afe therefore left the School and secured another employment as a clerk in Ibadan Secretariat. The school authorities later wrote to him, acquitting him of all blame and requested that he should report back to St. Paul's School. He did not.

When Afe was suspended from teaching service in July, 1953, he had mixed feelings. In the first place, he was not happy because he knew that the decision was unjust. Secondly, it had always been his wish to leave teaching for the civil service where he believed there were better opportunities.

Afe therefore made up his mind not to go back to teaching even if he was recalled. He left Gbongan for Ibadan in July 1953. He rented a room at

No.34, Surulere Street, Oke-Bola, Ibadan. He paid for his tuition in preparation for GCE Advanced Level examinations. He applied to many government departments for employment. He was offered employment in the Post and Telegraphs Department but he was posted to Ogwashi-Ukwu, now in Delta State. He turned down the offer. He later got employed as a Co-operative Inspector in the year 1955. The Cooperative department was then very popular. Inspectors who passed out of training college were given motor-cycles whereas other civil servants rode bicycles. In addition, they usually amassed a lot of wealth within a few years. Most of them resigned within 5 years after making a lot of money and proceeded to the United Kingdom for further studies.

There was a training college for Co-operative Inspectors situated at Iyaganku, Ibadan near the Railway crossing. The intensive training in the College lasted for 9 months. Subjects offered included Book keeping, Marketing, Economics, Accounting and Co-operative System. Afe Babalola enrolled in the College in the year 1958. There were 25 in his class. Some of the trainee Inspectors came from Sierra-Leone, Cameroon, Uganda and Kenya. At the end of the intensive course, there was a final examination. Afe came second in the final examination. Furthermore, while Afe was still in training, the result of the G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination he took in June of the same year was published. Afe was one of the three Nigerians that passed 4 subjects at a sitting.

Afe thought that he would be posted to an area rich in cocoa. But because of his performance at the Co-operative College examination and his result at the G.C.E. Advanced Level examinations, he was retained in the College to teach new students.

Afe taught Economics and Marketing at the Co-operative College between 1956 and 1957. When the College was on recess, Afe assisted in checking

some cocoa stores. On one occasion, he detected of fraud in one of the stores on Ijebu Road. He wrote a report and gave a copy to the Secretary of Stores who got the elders to plead with him to reverse his report. Afe refused all attempts made to bribe him. The Secretary then resorted to threats to make Afe change his report.. He threatened that he would take other steps to ensure that Afe's report never saw the light of the day. Truly, he did. He left for Ibadan and met with the Deputy Registrar, a Nigerian. When Afe submitted his report, the Deputy Registrar surprisingly turned it down. Afe was enraged by the unpleasant action of the Deputy Registrar who instead of commending him turned down his report. In anger, Afe tendered his resignation in protest and paid one month's salary in lieu of notice. The Chief Registrar who was the head of Cooperative Department, Mr. Price, a white man was on holidays in England. Afe left for his house and he did not report for work again.

Some six weeks there after, Mr Price, the Chief Registrar, returned from England. Apparently, he asked after Afe Babalola and he was informed that Afe had resigned his appointment in protest. After readding Afe's letter of protest he recalled him and also offered his salaries in arrears.

However, on his return, he was posted to Abeokuta as a Cooperative Inspector.

Denial of Scholarship

In the fifties, the Western Region of Nigeria was controlled by the Action Group, a powerful and well organized political party.

In 1954, the Western Nigerian government invited qualified candidates to apply for scholarships to read such courses as Medicine, Engineering, Accounting and Economics. for a scholarship in Economics, the mandatory educational requirements of any applicant was a good

Cambridge School Certificate, which must include passes in Mathematics, English, Geography and at least two subjects at GCE Advanced Level, which in turn must include Economics. Afe submitted his application. He was confident that he would be awarded a Scholarship because of the impressive educational qualifications he submitted, namely: (a) Teachers High Elementary Certificate, Grade II – by private study; Cambridge School Certificate including Mathematics, English and Geography by private study; six subjects at London GCE Ordinary Level including Mathematics, English and Geography; four subjects at London GCE Advanced Level at the same sitting including Geography and Economics.

It turned out Afe Babalola was the most qualified in the Region that year. However, to his utmost surprise, his name was missing in the list of scholarship awards when it was published. Under the then prevailing political arrangement, Ekiti was entitled to one scholarship in Economics. The slot for Ekiti was awarded to the son of the Chairman of Action Group in Ekiti. What was most annoying to Afe Babalola and which he considered immoral in the whole exercise was that the candidate chosen for the scholarship award had only Cambridge School Certificate and did not meet the mandatory requirements advertised by the government.

Afe resigned his appointment at the Co-operatives Training College in January 1958 to devote more time to his studies for the B.Sc (Economics) Degree examination. He spent his evenings and weekends preparing for the examination. His work as a Co-operative Inspector involved a lot of travelling mostly on rough roads. As a holder of GCE Advanced Level, Afe figured that he would earn more money from teaching and still have more time to read. He therefore decided to resign his appointment, and went back to teaching. He took up teaching appointment at Epe Grammar School on certain conditions. Holders of Degrees or GCE Advanced level in Geography were few. They were

greatly sought after because it was a condition that a Grammar School must have teachers with GCE Advanced level in Geography before it could offer the subject Afe's agreement with Epe Grammar School was that he would attend school to teach Geography to Classes I to VI between Mondays and Wednesday to teach each of the classes two lessons. Afe insisted on this arrangement so as to ensure that he could spend the whole of Thursdays to Sundays on his private studies for his B.Sc (Economics) Examination.

The arrangement worked well. Afe left Ibadan for Epe on Mondays and went back to Ibadan on Wednesdays. He also earned over N15 more than what he earned in Co-operative Department. His income per month was about 30 pounds.

Afe sat for B.Sc Economics Part I Finals in June 1958. There were over 75 candidates who sat for the examination at Ibadan Centre as private candidates. Only three candidates. He was one of them.

Following Afe's success at the B.Sc Economics Part I Final examination, he applied, once again, to the Western Nigeria Scholarship Board for scholarship to read M.Sc. Degree in Economics. He did so because he believed that on the completion of his Part II final papers of the B.Sc Economics examination, it would be a nice thing to read for M.Sc. degree in Economics.

When the awards were announced, his application was impliedly refused because instead of an award for M.Sc (Economics) he was awarded a down-graded scholarship to read Diploma in Estate Management at Enugu College of Technology after completing his degree in B.Sc Economics. Afe quickly rejected the award in a letter he wrote to the Scholarships Board, and told them that the scholarship award for a diploma course was an insult to his intelligence.

As it later transpired, if Afe had accepted the award, he would have travelled by train with a government warrant. Other awardees in fact travelled on the *particular* train which picked up students at Abeokuta, Ibadan, Offa, Ilorin and Jos to Enugu. Unfortunately, that was involved train, a fatal accident at Lalupon. Many of the students on it lost their lives in the accident.

Afe Babalola entered for the 1959 final examinations. In the meantime, he took up an appointment as Executive Officer in the Ministry of Works at the Secretariat Ibadan. He was in charge of Internal Audit of the Ministry of Works but spent any available time studying for his B.Sc final examination. As soon as he left the Secretariat at the end of day's work, he went to a near by primary school with his lamp and remained there pouring over his books till about 12 midnight. This he also did on Saturdays and Sundays. That self-training still stands him in good stead today as Chief Afe Babalola still works on Saturdays and Sunday

Afe sat for the B.Sc Economics papers in June 1959. His examination Centre was the British Council in Lagos. He was the only candidate who sat for the B.Sc (Hons) Economics paper of the London University in the Lagos Centre that year. As can now be expected, he passed. And although the success in the examination earned him a promotion, and increased emoluments, he resigned from the ministry.

In January of 1960, Afe Babalola took up a teaching appointment as a graduate teacher, at Ibadan City Academy, Eleta. It was a private comprehensive school.

Afe was made the Vice Principal. There was no residential building near the school so he had to walk about two kilometers before sighting a taxi. Afe taught Geography and English to students in Classes III, IV and VI. He was also the Sports master. Some of the members of the first eleven

in the School's Football team he coached later featured prominently in the Shooting Stars Football club of Ibadan (then HICC Shooting Stars and now 3 SC Football Club) one of the most formidable football clubs in Nigeria, in the early 60s, namely Niyi Akande, Sam Ojebode. These players went on to play in the Nigerian national team, the Green Eagles.

Afe would arrive in school before all other teachers and supervise the clearing and cleaning of the school compound and its surroundings. He was also in charge of general administration of the school, including inspection of notes of lessons. Afe was full of energy and his colleagues wondered where he got his energy from

Afe took the Intermediate Law examination of the London University as an external candidate in June 1960. The result was released in September, 1960 and he passed.

He then registered for Part I Final of the examination and started reading for it.

At the time, there was no law school in Nigeria. To qualify to practise as a lawyer therefore, a person had to register in one of the four Inns of Court in London and dine for 18 months. It became imperative that Afe would have to go to England. He had saved sufficient money to enable him pay for his registration in Lincoln's Inn, and his passage to England and still had sufficient money at hand when he left Nigeria.

Afe resigned from teaching at the City Academy in December 1960. On 2nd January 1961, he left Nigeria for England to complete his law studies. Before he left Nigeria, he made adequate arrangement for the education of his sister, Egun, who was attending Yejide Grammar School. He left her in care of a good and trusted friend. Even whilst in England he was sending money home to her.



LONDON

On getting to London, Afe Babalola was met at the airport by a childhood friend, Julius Adeyemo, who took him to his place at No. 49, Heyford Avenue Lambeth SW8 London.

Within a few days of Afe's arrival in London, he went to see the Secretary to the Senate of the University of London. He filled a form on the strength of the manner Afe was given the opportunity to attend classes as an occasional student of the University of London.

Afe later went to Lincoln's Inn where he filled in all necessary forms preparatory to his eighteen dinners in which he passed his examination (by private study)

Afe also made use of the University library and canteen. By June 1962, he had passed the LL.B Part I Final and Part I of the Bar Final. There were many Nigerians studying Law in Britain and Ireland at the time. Most of them went for the Bar Examination. Nigerian government did not offer scholarship for Law. Consequently, most of them combined reading with work.

Afe spent more time on Students' Union activities than on his studies. Though his fellow students believed that the Bar authorities would fail him, he scored a double in June and July 1963. It was rare then to take the LL.B. degree Finals with the Bar Final. Afe did. When the results of the Degree and the Bar Final was released, he was successful in the two examinations taken in June and July 1963 respectively.

News from home

Throughout his 3 – year sojourn in England, Afe did not write to his parents. But he wrote to Egun, his sister, who was studying at Yejide Grammar School, Ibadan. He sent her school fees and maintenance allowance regularly from London through his friend Mr. Adepoju. It was after Afe completed the June examination in 1962 that he received news of the death of his father.

Before Afe left Nigeria, he informed his father that he was going to complete his law degree. He told his father that the money he had would be enough for his passage and maintenance for about one and a half years and that he would work for the rest of his stay in England. Afe's father visited him at Ibadan and promised that he would make efforts to send some money to him later because he was expecting money from his new cocoa plantation, which was then about to start bearing.

Afe's father loved him profoundly and wished him well. It was Afe's hope and wish that he would reciprocate his father's love by taking care of him

very well on his return from England. The day his father died remains the saddest day in his's life. He had no money to travel home for his burial.

For the following one and a half years of his stay in England, Afe had to study and work. He worked in a paper industry at Chelsea, a soft drink manufacturing industry at Fulham, as remover of refuse for Lambeth Bureau, Post and Telegraph, North and South London and as football pools checker for Copes Pools Ltd. at Surrey on Saturdays and Sundays.

To enable him return to Nigeria, Afe needed money to purchase a return ticket. He also needed money to buy a second-hand car to use at home when he starts work because he had no relation that would assist him on his arrival in Nigeria. Though he knew he could secure employment with his degrees in Law and Economics in England, he felt the salary was only good enough for those who wanted to stay permanently in England.

Afe therefore decided to work in factories where he would make more money in form of overtime pay. He worked in South London by in the day and North London night. On weekends, he travelled to Surrey to work as checker in football pools for Copes Pools Limited. He had learnt permutation when he was in Nigeria. He was paid 10 shillings per hour, which was good money. He worked on Saturday evenings from 5.30p.m. to 11 p.m. and Sunday mornings from 7a.m. to 12 noon. The journey back to and from London took three hours.

Finally, Afe returned to Nigeria in a cargo ship. The last lap of his journey to Nigeria was by sea from Marseilles, a busy French port on the Mediterranean Sea overlooking Africa. Recalling his homeward journey, Chief Afe Babalola now says:

“If there had been a road across Sahara Desert to Nigeria I would have preferred to drive my car to Nigeria as I was terribly short of money”.

On the morning of 1st of January, 1964 the ship carrying Afe berthed at Apapa port. On hand to meet him were his friends Julius Ogunleye and Francis Oguntoyinbo (Franco). He had previously written to the two of them. They went to the house of *Oga* Franco who was living at Ipaja, then an underdeveloped outskirt of Lagos.

Afe did not inform his mother that he was returning to Nigeria and when he arrived he did not contact her either. That was deliberate. Afe felt that if he told her, he would have caused her unnecessary anxiety and hardship. She had no money to travel to Lagos. Yet friends and relations would have urged her to meet Afe in Lagos, and that would have caused her to borrow money to pay her fare to Lagos. Afe did not go to Ado-Ekiti for months yet.



THE LAWSCHOOL

The three months course negotiated through serious agitation by the Students' Union in London under the leadership of Dr. Okereke (Chairman) and Afe Babalola (Secretary) ended with the last batch in March 1964.

Recalling his experience of going to the Law School, Chief Afe Babalola would later say:

“The government knew that I could truncate the whole arrangement. Special reception was arranged for me. They assured me that all I needed was to register and attend some classes. Every other thing was mere formality. I spent more time in the grammar school where I was

teaching than in the Law School. I needed money to keep body and soul together. My salary in the grammar school was a pleasant source of income while I was in Lagos”.

Before Afe left Lagos in March 1964, he received a letter from the Ado-Ekiti Progressive Union inviting him to Ado-Ekiti for a reception. The other Ado man slated to be received with him was Michael Ojo Adelusi, who has just qualified as a Chartered Accountant. The idea to hold a reception for Afe Babalola and Michael Adelusi was that of Dr Lucas Akeju, Director of TEDRO, West African Examinations Council, Yaba, who had collected donations from Ado people in Lagos and Ibadan for the purpose.

Afe arrived at Ado on March 31, 1964. He met his father's house in a state of utter disrepair. Nevertheless, he slept there. About six hours before the time fixed for the reception, a message was sent to him from Ado Ekiti Progressive Union that the reception had been cancelled. The reason for the cancellation which Afe later got to know, was that both Peter Ajibade and Gilbert Akinyede, the two Ado lawyers who had qualified before Afe, told the executive committee of the Union that there was no reason why a reception should be held for Adelusi and Afe since none was held for them when they arrived in Nigeria. There were protests but the view of Messrs Ajibade and Akinyede prevailed.

However, Chief Bob Longe, one of those who protested vehemently against the cancellation of the planned reception, personally organized a befitting reception party for Mr. Adelusi and Afe that evening in his house at his own cost. Afe went to the party. It was very grand. Afe took the opportunity to lecture those who cancelled the arranged reception for Mr. Adelusi and him. He told them that the reception arranged by Chief. Bob Longe was a turning point in Ado-Ekiti and that those who loved and

appreciated good things would henceforth hold receptions for any Ado-Ekiti son who achieved great things.

The morning following the reception, Afe Babalola left for Ibadan.



IBADAN - SECOND COMING

Afe returned to Ibadan in April 1964. He stayed with his friend Julius deyemo with whom he had attended Emmanuel Anglican Primary School, Ado-Ekiti. Like Afe Babalola did not have secondary education.

Pupil Lawyer

Before Afe left Nigeria for England, he knew Mr. Olu Ayoola, who later became a Judge, to be the most popular lawyer in Ibadan. He had his law office at Agbeni, a business district in the heart of Ibadan. What impressed Afe most about him was his string of academic degrees and laurels. He had a large notice board in front of his office on which was boldly written the degrees he had earned, to wit: B.A., B.Sc. (Econs.), M.A., LL.M., M.Sc., Dip. Ed., Dip., Admn, etc. There was no educated person who would

pass through Agbeni who failed to look at the awe-inspiring Notice Board. Mr. Olu Ayoola handled the most important cases at the time. He was a household name in Nigeria. His name achievements and fame inspired Afe who hoped and dreamt to be a great lawyer like Olu Ayoola.

By the time Afe returned from London, Mr. Olu Ayoola had built an imposing law office at Adamasingba, Ibadan and had the highest number of lawyers in his Law Chambers in the country at that time. Afe went to Olu Ayoola early in April 1964, to ask whether he could be employed him as a pupil lawyer. Afe reasonably believed that he had little or no chance of being employed because the other applicants were either children of Ministers or very rich businessmen or First Class Obas, but he was pleasantly surprised when Olu Ayoola decided to employ him and other five lawyers of the over twenty applicants. The other five were children of important people like Aderemi, the son of the then *Oni* of Ife, or Akintola or a relation of Chief Omole, the business tycoon of Ilesha. Mr. Olu Ayoola told the new recruits that for the first six months they would not be entitled to salaries because there was nothing they could usefully contribute to his practise. He told them that after six months he would reconsider the position.

About a month after Afe joined Mr. Olu Ayoola's law firm, the appeal filed by Chief Obafemi Awolowo the leading Politician from the Western Region of Nigeria against his conviction for treasonable felony came up for hearing in Lagos. Ayoola was to lead the team representing Chief Obafemi Awolowo. He left for Lagos. While he was in Lagos for the case, a case involving a Lebanese being handed in the chambers came up before Hon. Justice Somolu at High Court No.3, Ibadan. The Lebanese, Mr. Haddad, was charged with contempt of court for disobeying a prohibitory order made against him to vacate his hotel premises at Lebanon Street, Ibadan. When Mr. Olu Ayoola was about to leave for Lagos, he asked Afe attend the court and defend the man. Lawyer Olusola,

who hailed from Ilawe Ekiti, counsel for the Judgment Creditor, argued his application for the committal of Haddad. Apparently impressed, the court adjourned the case to the following day for Haddad to show cause why he should not be sent to prison.

Haddad was very worried. He went to his lawyer's office at about 5p.m. that evening and spoke to Mr. Olu Ayoola who was then in Lagos on telephone. He pleaded with Olu Ayoola to attend court personally the following day. Mr. Ayoola agreed. But as soon as the man left, Mr. Olu Ayoola telephoned back to the office and asked Afe Babalola to go for the case the following day. He could not leave Awolowo's case. Afe was very sad at the turn of events. He knew that he did not have the requisite experience at that stage in his career needed to handle such a technical case. But he could not disobey the orders made by his senior. He went home but he did not sleep throughout the night. Worse still, Afe had no electricity in his rented flat. He read by the light of a kerosene lantern. At about 5a.m., he heard a knock on his door. He opened the door and saw Mr. Olayinka Ayoola, the younger brother of Olu Ayoola and his partner in the law firm Olayinka Ayoola later rose to become a Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria and he is currently the Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC). He greeted Afe and told him that he brought some authorities on the case and advised me on how to handle the case.

Afe went to court in the morning. Mr. Haddad asked for Olu Ayoola. Afe told him that he would soon join them. The court sat at 9a.m. and Afe started his submissions. After about 3 hours of submissions, Justice Somolu called on Olusola, the lawyer representing the student Creditor to address him on some points which Afe had raised. To the surprise of the Judge and the large crowd in the court, Olusola said: "***Sir, I did not know that such technical points would be raised and was therefore not prepared to reply to the issues.***" The Judge then adjourned the case for judgment which he delivered an hour later and dismissed the case.

Afe's name was the headlines on the television, radio and on all national newspapers.

After he became a successful lawyer in his own right, Chief Afe Babalola would go on to claim that he owed much of his achievements in law to Yinka Ayoola, the younger brother of Olu Ayoola.

The two brothers were Partners in the firm of Ayoola & Co. Olu Ayoola was an aggressive and charismatic litigation lawyer. His advocacy was so impressive that the courts were always flooded with lawyers and spectators whenever he was in court. The courts were filled to capacity to the extent that lawyers had to listen to proceedings from outside, through the windows. He handed many important cases.

The younger Ayoola, as he was then, is still a very simple, soft-spoken man with easy and calm disposition. He holds M.A. in English and LL.M. from Oxford University, London. He is a practising Christian with a moralist bent and he approached his practice of law the same way.

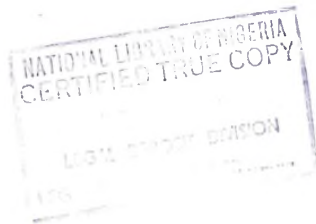
Mr. Olu Ayoola was also an educationist. He established an evening school, which was very helpful and beneficial to students who had no opportunity, financial or otherwise, of attending sixth form (H.S.C) and the University. The school offered courses leading to the G.C.E. Advanced Level of London University, Intermediate and Final Degrees leading to LL.B. degree of London University and the B.Sc Economics, London University. Afe taught in the school in order to earn extra money. Afe taught Economics and Geography in the Department of Social Sciences, and Law in the Law Department.

When Afe joined the firm of the Ayoolas with other five others as pupil lawyers, Mr. Olu Ayoola told them that he would not pay them any salary for the first six months, as there was nothing useful that they could

contribute to the office during that period. However, at the end of the first month and the successful handling of the contempt case against Haddad, Mr. Olu Ayoola felt satisfied with his performance, and he decided to pay him a salary of £40 (forty pounds) per month while the others were paid nothing. After six months, Afe's colleagues started on the salary of £40 (forty pounds) while Afe's was increased to £60 (sixty pounds).

After about 1 1/2 years of pupillage with the Ayoolas, Afe informed them that he wanted to establish his own office. He was offered a partnership but he declined.

When Afe Babalola was leaving the Ayoolas, he wrote two letters- one to Mr Olu Ayoola, the senior, and the other to Mr. Olayinka Ayoola, the junior. But he did not know they would show the letters to each other. With hindsight, Chief Afe Babalola later recanted that if he knew that would happen he would not have written the two letters the way he did. In the letter he wrote to Olu Ayoola, Afe Babalola thanked him for giving him the opportunity to serve in his firm but added that when he decided to join him, it was in the hope that Ayoola would allow him to go to court with him in order to learn some of his skills and expertise, which made him such a great lawyer; but that Ayoola unfortunately, never allowed him to go to court with him. He thought that Afe was matured and good enough to appear in court on his own. He had to learn through his mistakes. In the other letter to Yinka Ayoola, Afe Babalola thanked him immensely for the support he gave him and that what him gained through him both in court and outside the court would help Afe throughout his practice.



EMMANUEL CHAMBERS

When Afe Babalola left the firm of Olu Ayoola & Co., he decided to set up his law office at Ekotedo,

Generally, Ekotedo was notorious for criminal activities. People wondered why Afe chose the place, but his choice was informed by the reason that he was already used to that area. His first office was a windowless garage which he equiped with second-hand type winter and furniture.

He had a was the typist who was also, the clerk and the messenger, all in one. His practice was mainly in the Magistrates Courts.

Most of Afe's early clients were people accused of petty offences and charged to Magistrates Courts. Some accused persons were taught by

the Police to plead guilty after they had made arrangements with the Police. All that remained for the lawyer to do was *allocutus*.

Afe Babalola also made money from conveyances, leases, agreements and other related land matters. A simple land agreement was about two guineas (two pounds, two shillings), while the fee for conveyancing varied with the purchase price of the land. The nature of his practice in those early days ensured that even if he left for his office without any money in his pocket, he was sure that he would return home with at least four guineas. That translates to about one thousand Naira today.

Whenever Afe had no case in court, he stayed in his office and concentrated his energy on reading law books. He did not join any social club which was what most of his colleagues did then. At that time, there was a Tennis Club in Ibadan near the High Court at Iyaganku. His colleagues ridiculed him for staying in his office all the time when he could be enjoying himself after work at the near - by Tennis Club, where they thought he could also network.

By the turn of the year after leaving the Ayoolas, Afe had so many cases in the Magistrates Courts and a few High Court cases that he could not handle them alone. He was labelled a good criminal lawyer. He hardly lost any of the criminal cases that which he handled. Most times if his client was not discharged after a no-case submission, Afe would ensure that his client got out at the end of the full trial.

In Afe's third year in practice, he employed a junior named Odetoynbo, a native of Osogbo. Later, the same year, Ademo la Ajakaiye, who later became the first Chief Judge of Ekiti State, joined Afe Babalola's firm. Chief Afe Babalola now recalls that Ajakaiye was the best gentleman he had ever met. He was simple and unassuming, religious and morally upright, diligent, reliable and loving.

Another lawyer who joined Afe Babalola in his Chambers in 1967 was one Mr. Nwaeze, an Ibo man but he did not stay long.

Between 1966 and early 70s, Afe Babalola handled many criminal cases. His success in those cases made people to believe that he was a criminal law specialist. He handled many prominent cases during that period. For instance, he successfully defended Chief Oshuatokun in the Tribunal of Enquiry set up by the Military upon seizing power in a military camp in 1966.

One of the other that stood out was the Indian Hemp case. Some wealthy people who lived in Lagos acquired large farms at Igbo-Ora. The farms were situated inside a virgin forest and were inaccessible from the road. They secretly planted Indian hemp in the farm. The labourers who worked in the farm were forbidden from disclosing to anybody what they planted.

The owners of the Indian hemp bought over the Police Officers in charge of Igbo-Ora. Any report of illegal cultivation of Indian hemp was ignored. But the growers soon ran out of luck. A new Police officer was posted to Igbo-Ora. Some natives who knew about the illegal cultivation again reported to that new Police Officer. He carried out investigations and found out that the complaint was true. The wealthy farmers approached the officer and pleaded with him not to take any action, but he refused. Although those farms were in the same forest, each farmer had separate farms. The Police found that there were six farms located in the same area. The police went to the farms with lorries and cut the Indian hemp and took them to the court.

The owners of the farm as well as their labourers were charged with the offence of cultivating Indian hemp. An offence of cultivating Indian hemp carried 21 years imprisonment. The case came up before Justice

Atakpoku sitting at High Court No.4, Iyaganku, Ibadan. It was a highly celebrated case and was given publicity by the media all over the country.

Afe appeared for all the accused persons. In collecting the Indian hemp, the police lumped together the substance found on all the farms. The Director of Public Prosecution (D.P.P) came to prosecute the case because of its importance. The investigator tendered the Indian hemp collected from the farms as exhibits.

In Afe's cross-examination, the investigator admitted that he could not identify the Indian hemp which belonged to each of the accused persons. Afe therefore made a no-case submission that the prosecution had failed to prove what each accused person cultivated and that each accused person could not be guilty of cultivating what others cultivated. The accused persons were acquitted.

Then there was the case of Patrick Njovens which became very notorious. Patrick Njovens, a Camerounian, was the police officer in charge of the State Province, Western Region. Some young men had planned with the lady Secretary to the Bacita Sugar Company between Ilorin and Jebba to rob the van carrying the salaries of the workers of the company from Ilorin to Bacita. The lady telephoned the robbers, and informed them about the date and time the van would leave Ilorin with the money. The robbers who lived in Ibadan left Ladeinde Hotel to Elizabeth -UCH road at about 9 p.m. They robbed the owner of a Peugeot car of his car, and then they drove towards Ilorin. They arrived at Ilorin early the following morning and slept at a petrol station on the way to Jebba. In the morning, they drove towards Jebba road. A few miles from Ilorin, they stopped alighted from out of the car, leaving the driver in the car. Then they took positions in the bush waiting for the van carrying the money to arrive. Meanwhile, the driver opened the bonnet of the car pretending that he was effecting some repairs to the engine. As soon as the van carrying the money drove past the car, the robbers appeared from the bush, entered

the car and pursued the van. When they got close to the van they started shooting. They killed the police escort, they shot the tyre and the van stopped. They broke the chain with which the safe was tied to the van, removed the money from the van, and drove back to Ibadan.

The Commissioner of Police in Kwara State at that time was Mr. Sunday Adewusi who later became the Inspector General of Police. He sent policemen under one Inspector of Police to Ibadan to effect the arrest of the robbers. They arrived at Ibadan and arrested them. Apparently, they failed to report to Njovens, the Officer in Charge of the State Criminal Investigation Department (C.I.D.) in the then Western State of Nigeria before carrying out the arrest at Ibadan which they ought to have done. Kwara State had then just been created and there was some rivalry between the new State and Western State. Njovens then ordered the arrest of those policemen who came from Ilorin to operate without his authority. They were later released and they went back to Ilorin to report to Adewusi the CP. Adewusi was naturally angry about the arrest of his men by Njovens.

Somehow, one of the accused persons was alleged to have made a statement to the Police alleging that Njovens was one of them, and that they used to give him returns whenever they returned from their robbery operations. They also made allegations against one Chief Oredeyin, an important Chief from Ijebu living in Ibadan as one of those who, with Njovens, were privy to their robbery escapades. That was how both Njovens and Oredeyin were charged together with the robbers for armed robbery. It was the most celebrated case of the year. Afe Babalola appeared for Njovens, Chief Richard Akinjide now a Senior Advocate of Nigeria and one time Attorney-General of the Federation appeared for Inspector Bello, another policeman who was charged, Omotayo Onalaja who later became a Judge and retired as a Justice of the Court of Appeal appeared for Oredeyin, Jibowu appeared for another accused person.

The case went before Justice Adesiyun, a native of Offa. The case was highly politicized. In Afe's opinion, the Judge was clearly biased and he did not hide it. Whenever the defence lawyers asked any question and the answer was favourable to the accused persons, the Judge would not write it down.

The prosecution led by the D.P.P. was banking on one of the accused persons as their star witness, being the leader of the armed robbers. After this witness was sworn on oath, he was asked whether he made a statement to the Police. He said he did. The statement was shown to him. His answer was that the statement was made under duress. He said he never knew Oredoyin and he had no dealing whatsoever with Njovens. He said that all the story he told the police in his statement was because the police assured him that he would be their witness and that he would not be charged with any criminal offence. He also said that the police promised that none of the armed robbers would be charged with any criminal offence. In other words, they were gunning for Oredoyin, Njovens and Bello. At that stage, the D.P.P then applied to treat him as a hostile witness. We did not object. Surprisingly, at the end of that day's proceedings, the Judge said that he was not going to sit the following day but that the Armed Robbery Tribunal would sit.

Worse still, he ordered that the same star witness be brought before him and charged with armed robbery. The irony of it was that he was both the High Court Judge and the President of the Armed Robbery Tribunal. To the defence counsel, having found that the star witness was not a reliable person, they believed that it would be against the rule of natural justice that he should be tried again the following day. They therefore sent one Mr. Akintola to go before the Armed Robbery Tribunal and object to the Judge sitting as a Judge over the star witness in view of his finding at the High Court. Akintola appeared before him and objected to his hearing the case. There and then, he asked Akintola to take off his wig and gown.

and he sentenced him for contempt. Akintola was sent from there to the prison.

The Kwara State Bar went on strike following the arbitrary and injudicious decision. As was expected, the Judge found Njovens guilty on the evidence of the other armed robbers who were never charged.

Thus, between 1966 and 1970, Afe Babalola & Co., Emmanuel Chambers, grew from a one-man law firm to a firm of many lawyers, including Ajakaiye, who became the Chief Judge of Ekiti State, Nwaeze who became a Manager in UAC, Adepoju and Derin Ogundeji, who are still active practitioners, T.A.B Adenipekun, Olayeni, Odetoyinbo, Abiodun Adesanya, now a Professor and a Senior Advocate of Nigeria.

The practice extended to other parts of the country, and all lawyers in the firm travelled a lot. He drove himself round the country filing and defending suits. There was a day he left the Supreme Court which sat in Kaduna at 2p.m. and arrived in Ibadan at 7.30p.m. There were weeks Afe Babalola left Ibadan on Monday and did not return to Ibadan until Saturday. During such weeks, he moved from one town to another conducting case.

Notable among the cases at that time were the Offa-Erinle boundary dispute and Igara Chieftaincy matters. Afe's client in the Igara chieftaincy dispute was very much impressed with the manner in which he handled the case to the extent that when he became the Oba of Igara following his victory in the court, he named his first son after Afe.

The Offa-Erinle dispute had been a protracted one for many years. Offa is a very big Yoruba town, Erinle on the other hand is a very small village. Both are in present day Kwara State. Erinle claimed that the land between Erinle up to Offa gate belonged to Erinle. Because of the big population and wealthy citizens of the town, Offa was able to assemble as many as

six lawyers including Chief Olisa Chukura, Omotayo Onalaja and others for the prosecution of their case. But Erinle could not afford more than one lawyer and they settle for Afe. The case lasted for more than six months. Afe slept at Erinle on week days. The town had no hotel. He slept in an unplastered mud bungalow, and had his bath in a make - shift bathroom made of palm leaves at the back of the house. he endured this situation for the duration of six months that the case lasted.

At the end of the day, the Erinles town won the case and got the boundary between both towns fixed at the gate of Offa.

Although Afe derived a reasonable income from his practice, it was clearly nothing comparable with what his colleagues in Lagos earned from their practice.

Generally, Afe's clients were the ordinary people, workers' unions, drivers' unions, commercial vehicle owners' unions, etc. The case of the University College Hospital, U.C.H, and their workers' Union was an example of the cases Afe handled. This was largely due to the fact that the established lawyers had monopolized all the important companies and other big establishments. The first retainer Afe would have had was the Western Nigeria Television (WNTV) job. They wrote him a letter asking whether he was interested in their retainership. Afe replied very positively. Some three months after, he received a letter from WNTV informing him that they had considered others and that they regretted they could not give him the retainership. In annoyance, he wrote back to them and stated that when they wrote to him, they never informed him that they were looking for other lawyers for the purpose of determining who was more suitable. In his letter, he told them that he had passed all examinations that were necessary for a legal practitioner, that if they had told him that there were others they were going to consider, he would not have written them that he was interested. It was unprofessional for lawyers, he stated, to apply for a retainer and that in the future, they should

never write to him about their job. Afe categorically stated in his letter that it was insulting for them to write to him that they had given their job to another person when he never applied for the job in the first place.

Sometime in late 1970s, Brigadier David Jemibewon, the Governor of Western State acquired all the houses surrounding the Race-Course for the new Adamasingba Stadium. Afe's landlord's house was affected and so he had to relocate to a new office.

About the same time, Afe noticed that directly opposite his office was a storey house and that the windows had not been opened for almost a year. He scouted for the owner who told him that he had been looking for the tenant for over a year but could not find him. Afe told the Landlord that he would help him eject the tenant provided he would let the space to him. The Landlord agreed. Afe filed an action to open the place in the presence of the police, take the inventory of whatever was found there and left them with the police. The order was granted and the place was opened. That was how Afe moved into the new office, which was directly opposite his former office.

Turning down the Bench

Unlike what obtains now, appointments in those days to the Bench were purely on invitation. In essence, they were based on merit, and only experienced senior legal practitioners who had distinguished themselves in the art of legal practice were invited to the Bench. So, when Afe Babablola reached 10 years at the Bar, one early morning, Hon. Justice Oyemade, the Chief Justice of then Western State of Nigeria, called Afe and discussed at length with him. He told Afe that he wanted him to come to the High Court Bench. Afe expressed appreciation for the kind gesture, but declined the offer. Afe told Justice Oyemade that due to his humble background and extended family, which the salary of a Judge might not be able to support, he could not accept the offer of appointment to the

Bench. Justice Oyemade was not dissuaded. He went to Justice Adewale Thompson who was then No. 2 to him in hierarchy on the Bench, to persuade and mount pressure on Afe to have a change of heart. Truly, the latter sent for Afe but he stood his ground. In concert, they both approached his former senior, Olu Ayoola, who had then become a Judge, all to make him have a rethink, but he remained adamant.

Apart from his family background, Afe had made up his mind to fight poverty and eradicate it completely from his life by working hard to make more money so that he could have all the reasonable comfort affordable. As at that time, he had built only one house and he had the desire to have more assets through earnings from his legal practice.

A year after Afe Babalola's refusal of the offer to go to the Bench, General Murtala Mohammed became the Head of State of Nigeria through a military putsch in 1976 and commenced a mass sack of government employees including Judges. The then Chief Justice of the Federation, Dr. Taslim Olawale Elias, was removed from office through a radio announcement on ground of ill-health. The same man was later found strong enough to become the President of the International Court of Justice (the World Court) at the Hague. Similarly, both the Chief Judge of the then Western State of Nigeria, Justice Oyemade, and Justices Adewale Thompson and Olu Ayoola, Afe's senior, were all equally removed in the upheaval unceremoniously. On this, Chief Afe Babalola said:

“Most of the victims were removed because the government of the day considered their decisions and judgments to be too anti-government. Without any contradiction, these three great dispensers of justice knew their onions and their removal was not on account of inefficiency, corrupt practices, misconduct or any other human frailties. This singular action by the Murtala administration marked the beginning of the

decline in the quality of men to be appointed to the Bench.

The tragedy of our collective experience is that because good and experienced senior lawyers have refused to go to the Bench, the quality of judgments has also been adversely affected. It certainly is the wish of any successful lawyer to one day rise to the bench and avail the administration of justice with his wealth of experience. But who would leave his lucrative practice for a bench when by military fiat he could be unceremoniously removed from office for the wrong reasons – or even for no reason at all?”

Donning The Silk

Before independence, eminent lawyers in Nigeria who distinguished themselves in the practice of law were made Queen's Counsel. Later, the title of Senior Advocate of Nigeria was introduced in Nigeria. This was in 1978.

When Afe started his practice, there were very few Queen's Counsel. Somehow and rapidly too Afe's practice expanded beyond Ibadan, Western Region of Nigeria and spread throughout the country. He met many Queen's Counsel and Senior Advocates of Nigeria and also won many cases against them. He thought that was sufficient proof of his expertise and skills in advocacy particularly as that much was acknowledged by many Judges, who expressed satisfaction and commended the level of his practice. He believed that a lawyer should be invited to be a Senior Advocate of Nigeria rather than it being sought through application. Afe felt that he ought to have been conferred with the honour of Senior Advocate of Nigeria because he was appearing against Senior Advocates of Nigeria and was most times winning his cases. Furthermore, without

being a Senior Advocate, he knew he was doing quite well, so he did not apply for the honour of Senior Advocate of Nigeria.

Alhaji Lamidi Adedibu is a strong politician in Ibadan. Sometime in 1986 or thereabout, following the appointment of a new set of Senior Advocates of Nigeria in that year, Chief Adedibu criticized the criteria adopted for conferring the highest honour conferrable on a lawyer in Nigeria. He stated that there was a lawyer in Ibadan Chief Afe Babalola - who was brilliant, industrious and prominent and ought to have been made a Senior Advocate of Nigeria. Afe then felt if that came from someone who was not particularly close to him, his case was made.

Thereafter, one of the lawyers in his firm went to Osogbo and appeared before late Justice Atinuke Ige who was later to become a Justice of the Court of Appeal and wife of the late great lawyer and politician, Chief Bola Ige, a former Attorney-General of the Federation. The lawyer, on his return to the office told Afe that Justice Atinuke Ige asked after Afe and wondered why he had not been conferred with the honour of a Senior Advocate of Nigeria. Every counsel in the court, Afe was told, said they did not know what he had done to warrant the denial of such a honour. They reached a consensus that if he had not done anything wrong he ought to have been conferred with the honour.

Sometime later in the year, Chief Afe Babalola went to Benin where he appeared before Justice Omo-Eboh, then sitting on the Court of Appeal Bench and there was a Senior Advocate of Nigeria as counsel for the adverse party. Justice Omo-Eboh asked Afe why he had not become a Senior Advocate of Nigeria. Afe told him he had not been invited. Justice Omo-Eboh replied: *“No, it is not by invitation; you have to apply”*. He then went ahead to reel out names of those who applied whom he felt were not as qualified or as good as Afe was, and who had been conferred with the honour.

Later that year, there was the commissioning of the Oyo State High Court Complex. Hon Justice Kayode Eso then of the Supreme Court of Nigeria was to commission the complex. Many senior lawyers attended the ceremony. Chief Obiyera Odunlade, one of the oldest and most respected lawyers in Ibadan, was also there. Chief Odunlade and Afe decided to meet Justice Kayode Eso to welcome him. When they met him, the revered jurist asked Afe why he was not a Senior Advocate of Nigeria. Afe repeated his customary response to every one who had asked him the same question: He said he was not invited. Justice Eso laughed and said the rules would not be changed because of Afe. He counseled Afe to apply. It was then Afe decided to apply. Needless to say, his application sailed through effortlessly.

One remarkable thing about Afe's appointment, he said, was that of all those who applied, Afe was the only one who did not lobby. So in 1987, Chief Afe Babalola was bestowed the honour of Senior Advocate of Nigeria.

Afe received several letters and telegrams. People telephoned him from all over the country and abroad. He received over one thousand telephone calls. The letters and telegraphs Afe received bore inspiring and touching congratulatory messages. Some of them said it was too belated in coming. All of them agreed it was well deserved.

Emmanuel House

In the good days of the Western Region, there was the Cocoa Board of Nigeria. Cocoa Board was a very rich Corporation. as cocoa was the main cash crop of Nigeria. When the military took over the Government of Nigeria in 1966, they took over virtually everything that belonged to

the Western Region Government including the Cocoa Board. Subsequently, it was found that due compensation was not paid and some of the properties had fallen into the hands of strangers. Afe Babalola was briefed and he sued the Federal Military Government. He got judgment for Odu'a in the sum of ₦23 million. The then Military Government, through Rear Admiral Augustus Aikhomu, who was the second in command to General Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida wrote to the Odu'a management to say that they had no right to take them to court. The Governors of the states, which comprised the Former Western Region of Nigeria, and which still had investment in Odu'a were jittery, but Afe told them to ignore the letter. Before they could take any decision, he personally went to Co-operative Bank together with a team of lawyers and police officers with a garnishee order, and collected a bank draft in the sum of ₦23million. The bank draft was issued because Afe had effectively paralysed the activities of the bank. His professional fee was almost ₦2million, which today translates into over two Million Pounds. He would later say that if he had invested half of the money overseas then, he would have been richer today. Rather, he spent the money on erecting his present office, Emmanuel Chambers an imposing, impressive three-storey building at 80 Fajuyi Road, Ekotedo, Ibadan, arguably the biggest Law Office in Nigeria.



NOTABLE CASES AND EXPERIENCES

Conflict between Alaafin and Ooni

There was the dispute between the Alaafin of Oyo and the Ooni of Ife over who, between them, was the son of *Oodu'a*. Oyo and Ile-Ife then were both in the old Oyo State and the significance of the dispute by in who was to be Chairman of the Council of Obas in the State. The rivalry in the mid-1980s became a superiority contest between the two revered first class Monarchs. The rivalry raged on for years with historians and archaeologists offering conflicting stories to clear the fog, all to no avail. The matter later became a subject of litigation in the law court.

In the ensuing battle, Chief Afe Babalola represented the Alaafin, while Chief G.O.K. Ajayi appeared for the Ooni. The case from day one proved

to be a royal battle of the titans and it went from one court to the other. Both Chief Afe Babalola and Chief Ajayi both tried to present their respective cases through oral and documentary evidence. Chief Afe was more than convinced that his client would be vindicated at the end of the day. However, the court was unable to make any final decision as to who was the more superior between the two Obas because before the case drew to a conclusion, Osun State was carved out of the old Oyo State and this put paid to the rivalry as both Obas went their separate ways - Alaafin remained in Oyo State while the Ooni headed another Council of Obas in the new State. Till today however, the dispute remains unsettled.

Modakeke and Ife dispute

The case of Modakeke and Ile-Ife was one of the toughest and most volatile that Chief Afe Babalola ever handled. These are two different peoples living together but without a clear-cut boundary. However, they had intermarried over the years, done businesses together and had many social intercourse with each other. However, sometimes in the early 1980s, violence erupted over diverse claims to nearby villages where they both farmed. The Oyo State government responded by setting up a Tribunal of Inquiry, which was to look into both the immediate and remote causes of numerous the disturbances, which had led to loss of lives and wanton destruction of properties on both sides.

The Modakeke people invited Chief Afe Babalola to represent them at the Tribunal, which sat at Ilesha. To get to Ilesha, Afe had to pass everyday through Ile-Ife from Ibadan, and because of the fear of any reprisals, his car was sandwiched between lorries packed full of armed soldiers and mobile policemen. In the end, the matter was settled somehow. But while it raged, it made front-line headlines all over Nigeria.

Offa and Erin-Ile dispute

Offa and Erin-Ile are age-long neighbours, separated by less than four kilometers. Offa is the bigger of the two towns. In the late 1960s, Erin-Ile contended that Offa had encroached on its land and that even the land where Offa was situated belonged to Erin-Ile. Erin Ile argued further that the Offa people were strangers who were settled on Erin-Ile land by the Erin-Ile people. The Offa vehemently disagreed and even laid claim to Ipinle, a small hill lying eastward of Offa. The result was incessant attacks over boundary disputes by one against the other. These led to series of deaths and wanton destruction of properties on both sides.

In an attempt to find a lasting solution to the frequent disputations, the government of Kwara State set up a Commission of Inquiry headed by Dr. Funso Adaramola, a gifted man of immense knowledge, and now a Professor of Law. The panel had as one of its terms of reference, a determination of the boundaries of the two towns.

Offa had its people in high positions in Nigeria. They were richer and far more influential, and they made good use of both assets. They assembled a formidable team of eight lawyers to represent their interest. Erin-Ile could afford the services of only one lawyer, Chief Afe Babalola.

The Tribunal commenced its sittings that lasted for almost six months. Because of the distance, Chief Afe usually left Ibadan every Monday to attend the proceedings at Offa. He returned to Ibadan every Friday. His accommodation in Erin-Ile was a bungalow with a pit latrine for conveniences while Offa accommodated their team of lawyers in the best hotels in Offa town. But Afe enjoyed working for his clients and so he was not deterred. His attendance at the sittings was religiously consistent. He sized the opportunity to master the facts of the case as contained in the evidence of witnesses. That knowledge he used to great

advantage during cross-examinations. His opponents' lawyers, because of their number, divided themselves into batches and different batches appeared for the Offa people at different days of the sittings and different stages of hearing of the Tribunal. As a result, they lacked Afe's (indepth) of the knowledge and mastery of the case and most of the evidence of the witnesses' Afe called went uncontroverted.

On the day the Tribunal gave its findings, the full presence of armed soldiers and the police at the Offa venue of the sitting was intimidating. The findings were in favour of Afe's client: they were found to own the land in dispute, including the land from Erin-Ile to the gate of Offa where NEPA power station is installed.

The Offa people had possibly anticipated that the findings would be against them. They had therefore concluded plans to cause widespread violence during which some prominent Erin-Ile citizens were planned for elimination. It was when Afe got to Osogbo that he learnt from Josiah Olawoyin, an important indigene and leader of Offa, that his people had made plans to cause total break-down of law and order if the matter went against them. And that it was not planned to spare Afe. He said he had left Offa the previous day himself and lodged in the Government House at Osogbo. He wanted to know from Afe what the situation was, and was baffled that he had escaped unscathed. He said since he came to Osogbo the previous day, he had ensured that he kept a record of his movements in order to establish perfect *alibi* in case anything went wrong at Offa.

Offa people went on appeal to the High Court. The appeal court was presided over by Reeds, J, then the Chief Justice of Northern Nigeria and a member of the Supreme Court.

While the appeal was pending, Erin-Ile people started building the Erin-Ile Grammar School on part of the land in dispute near Offa, which the people of Offa wanted to stop. The case came up before Adesiyun, J. but

before the motion could be heard, Afe asked the Erin-Ile people to work fast on the construction and get the building roofed. They carried out the instruction. When, therefore, the motion came up for hearing, the question arose as to whether the building had been roofed before the motion was filed. To make a proper finding, the court decided to conduct a visit to the *locus in quo*. The Judge on the visit found a building already roofed. He could not grant the order of injunction to stop a completed act.

Justice Reeds was unavoidably absent on the judgment day. The judgment was read by Adesiyun, J., himself an indigene of Offa. In his introductory remark, he said: *“I would not have delivered this judgment, but I have no alternative.....”*

The judgment was delivered anyway, and it was in favour of Afe's clients, the Erin-Ile people.

Maiyegun of Modakeke

In appreciation of the many legal battles that Chief Afe Babalola fought and won for them, the people of Modakeke decided to confer on him the chieftaincy title of Maiyegun of Modakeke. The ceremony was given wide publicity in the media, both in the print and electronic. However, precisely three days to the ceremony, the Ooni of Ife, Oba Okunade Sijuade, (Olubuse II) instituted an action against Oba Ogunsua of Modakeke. The substance of the case was that Oba Ogunsua was not competent to confer chieftaincy titles. Without being unequivocal, Chief Afe Babalola was the target of the action. The people of Modakeke went to court to defend the suit, which Afe considered not only frivolous but also a calculative attempt to humiliate him because of the leading role he played in the legal team of Modakeke.

Furthermore, because of their design to frustrate the ceremony, they got an *ex-parte* order to restrain Modakeke from carrying on with the ceremony on the Saturday that it was billed to hold. Though they were not served with a copy of the order, Chief Afe Babalola and the lawyers in his chambers swung into full action in chambers and prepared a motion to discharge the *ex-parte* order.

Meanwhile, all the newspapers had gone to town with various versions of the story, many of them in distorted forms that the ceremony would no longer hold. But for the crop of lawyers in Chief Afe Babalola's chambers deployed all the legal arsenal and tactics at their disposal and got the *ex-parte* order discharged.

Having got the order discharged, all road led to Modakeke for the ceremony. To get to Modakeke, however, Chief Afe Babalola's entourage had to pass through Ile-Ife and that they did in a convoy of vehicles with a multitude of people welcoming them into the Palace of Oba Ogunsua of Modakeke, where Chief Afe Babalola was conferred with the chieftaincy title of *Mayegun of Modakeke*. Modakeke people were wild with joy that they had triumphed over their enemies.

Chief M.K.O. Abiola and the Aare Ona Kakanfo Chieftaincy tussle

The Alaafin of Oyo, Oba Lamidi Olayiwola Adeyemi III and his Council decided to confer on Bashorun Moshood Kashimawo Olawale Abiola the prestigious title of *Aare Ona Kakanfo*. *Aare Ona Kakanfo* was historically the Yoruba generalismo. It was a title conferred in those days on the valiant and the powerful who had distinguished themselves in the art of war. Today, influence, power and wealth are the criteria for the conferment of the title especially now that inter-tribal wars of those days are now non-extant. Chief Abiola was by all criteria eminently qualified for the title.



Chief Afe Babalola's father's house in Odo-Ado, Ado-Ekiti. It was originally a thatched mud-house bungalow (inset) at the time Afe was born. He built it to the present state when he returned from England in 1964



Modern country home of Chief Afe Babalola



Emmanuel Anglican Primary School, Ado Ekiti, the school Afe attended. It is still the way it was then. Chief Afe Babalola has begun the process to rebuild it.



Afe Babalola as the Headmaster in
Jago Primary School, in 1951



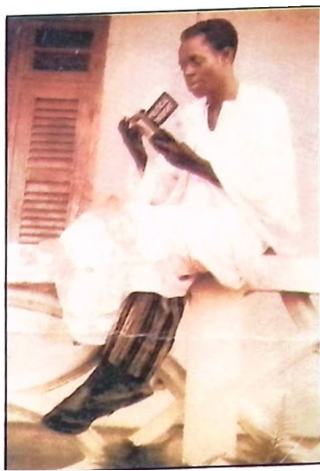
Afe Babalola (middle arrowed) when he was Headmaster in
Jago Primary School, Jago village outside Ibadan in 1951.



Afe Babalola delivering a lecture, 1956



Afe Babalola in 1957 as a Tutor at Cooperative College, Railway Crossing, Iyaganku, Ibadan.



Afe Babalola reading a book on political science in 1959



Afe Babalola in the midst of fellow teachers



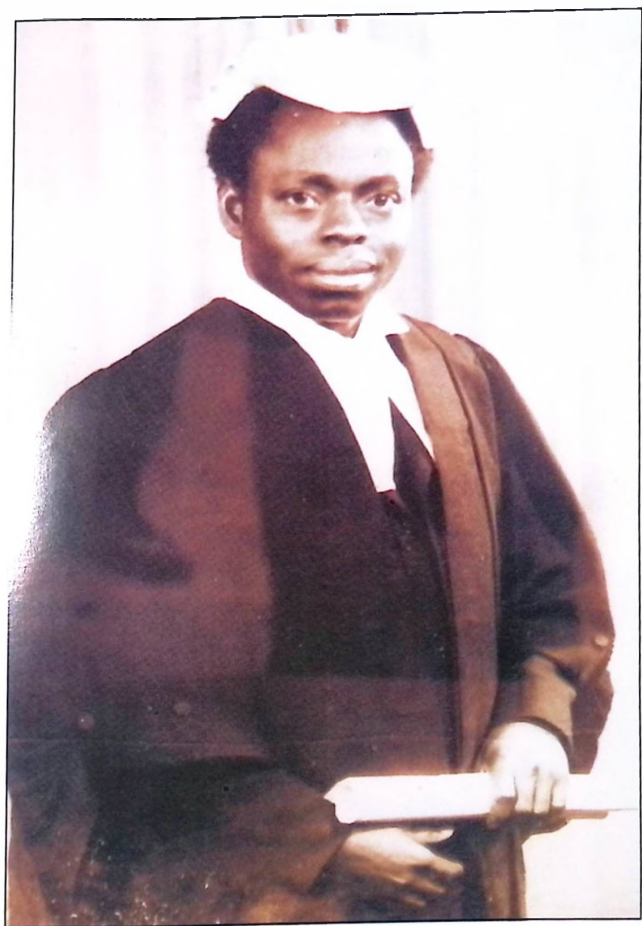
Afe Babalola after obtaining B.Sc Econs (Part 1) in 1958



Afe after bagging 1st degree in Economics 1959



Afe Babalola after obtaining B.Sc (Econs) of London University by correspondence in 1959



Afe in full robes upon call to bar on July 9, 1963



Afe, the young practitioner in 1969



Early years as qualified lawyer in 1971



THIS BUILDING WAS COMMISSIONED BY
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE KAYODE ESHO JSC
On Sunday 21st December 1955

Emmanuel Chambers, Afe Babalola & Co
at 80, Fajuyi Road, Ekotedo, Ibadan.



Honourable Justice Kayode Eso, then Justice of the Supreme Court
commissioning the Emmanuel Chambers on 23rd Dec. 1986.
On the right, holding the tray, is Abiodun



Chief Afe Babalola in full robes when he became a Senior Advocate of Nigeria in 1987



Mrs. Modupe Babalola rejoicing with Chief Afe Babalola when he became a Senior Advocate of Nigeria in 1987



Mr. Adebayo Adenipekun, SAN. He has been with Afe Babalola & (Emmanuel Chambers) since 1991. He is now the Head of Cham



Mr. Isiaka Iyadunni. He joined Afe Babalola & Co in 1982. He is still there and he is now Chief Afe Babalola's Personal Assistant



Chief Afe Babalola in his office



Chief Afe Babalola at an International Conference

But one of Alaafin's Chiefs did not think so. He was the Ashipa of Oyo, Chief Amuda Olorunkosebi. Either because of personal principles or because there was no love lost between him and the Alaafin, or because he was dancing to the tunes being beaten elsewhere, the Ashipa opposed Chief Abiola's installation. It was at a time when the supremacy war between the Alaafin of Oyo and the Ooni of Ife over who was the most paramount traditional ruler in Yoruba, was at its boiling point. The matter was a subject of a litigation, which was pending in court at the time of Ashipa's opposition to Chief Abiola's chieftaincy. Not a few believed that the Ashipa was only an instrument in the hands of the Ooni.

The relevance of Chief Abiola's chieftaincy, and the reason why it must be opposed by the Ooni's loyalists were that if it was successfully conferred it would have confirmed Alaafin's supremacy. That was one event that Alaafin's antagonists and Ooni's loyalists did not want.

But the Alaafin disregarded all murmurs of opposition and rode on as if all was well. Chief Abiola on his part, a wealthy and influential man of no mean stature, gave the imminent installation an unrivalled publicity on the radio, television, newspapers and magazines, both local and international. The publicity of the conferment started about three months before the day. Chief Abiola invited eminent personalities from within and without Nigeria - technocrats, businessmen, industrialists, heads of state and all. The event was fixed for a Saturday but some of the invited guests started arriving on the Monday of the preceding week. Everybody was waiting eagerly for the great day. Murmurs soon became loud wailings and the disturbing noise became a threat to the expectations of the majority.

On the Tuesday preceding the conferment day, the Alaafin telephoned to Chief Afe Babalola around 12.00 noon that Ashipa had filed a suit against the installation and had filed alongside the suit, a Motion *Ex-Parte* to

stop it. Chief Afe Babalola immediately proceeded to the High Court at Oyo. He approached the Registrar and told him he wanted to search the case file of the suit that Ashipa had just filed. He paid the necessary fees and collected an official receipt. The file was given to him. His search confirmed the Alaafin's fears, and the fears of almost every citizen of Oyo and those who had been following the event: the Ashipa actually had filed a suit to stop the Alaafin's conferment of the *Aare Ona Kakanfo* title on Chief Abiola. Afe read the processes, and returned the file. He could then officially confirm to the Alaafin: a suit had really been filed.

Chief Afe Babalola raced back to Ibadan prepared a counter-affidavit to the Motion *Ex-parte* and deposed to how his client came about the information. The counter affidavit was filed and served on Chief M.L. Lagunju, Ashipa's Counsel. Very early in the morning on Wednesday Chief Afe Babalola was at the High Court. Oyo with a host of other lawyers appearing with him, ready to oppose Ashipa's application. The Honourable Judge was Justice Aderemi, himself an Ife Prince and in fact, the son of the immediate past Ooni of Ife, Oba Adesoji Aderemi. He is now a Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria.

When Chief Olagunju, counsel to Ashipa saw Chief Afe Babalola in court that day, he knew the game was up.

When the case was called, Chief M.L. Lagunju announced his appearance for the plaintiff, and Chief Afe Babalola did for the defendants. The Honourable Judge asked how Chief Afe Babalola knew that the matter was slated for that day. He told His Lordship of the information he had from the Alaafin and how he went to conduct a search of the case file in the court the previous day and how he paid the relevant court fees. He waved the official receipt before His Lordship. Chief Afe Babalola told the Court further that he wished to oppose the plaintiff's Motion *Ex-Parte*. He armed himself with decided cases to the effect that a defendant who became aware, anyhow, that a party had gone to court and was about

to obtain an order ex-parte that would affect him, had a right to appear in court and to insist on being heard. His argument was upheld and the matter was adjourned to the following day, a Thursday, for arguments on the Motion on Notice.

On Thursday they were back in court, Chief Lagunju argued his application and Chief Afe Babalola opposed it vehemently. He argued that an injunction could not be properly granted in such a case because the applicant had failed to show that the balance of convenience was in his favour. Afe argued that damages could not adequately compensate his client would and, in any event, that the Ashipa could not afford to pay the damages his client had incurred; and that the conduct of an applicant who knew of the plans of the conferment months before but chose to commence his suit four days to the event was reprehensible; such action was unconscionable and the discretion of His Lordship should not be exercised in his favour. Ruling was adjourned till the following day, a Friday. The injunction was eventually dismissed and the intallation went on according to earlier plans. It was that case that brought Afe directly in contact with Chief M.K.O. Abiola and from then on they became friends and he became a client of Emmanuel Chambers.

Chief Obafemi Awolowo's Libel Case

Following Chief Afe Babalola's success in the handling of the Aare Ona Kakanfo suit, Chief M.K.O. Abiola instructed him on a libel suit. In it, the Concord Newspapers was the defendant. Chief Obafemi Awolowo had sued the newspapers for alleged libelous materials published concerning him.

The alleged libel concerned Chief Awolowo's alleged acquisition of hundreds of plots of land at Maroko, a Lagos suburb. Chief Abiola took the Writ to Afe with about two hundred copies cheques with which Chief Awolowo paid for the land. Afe filed a defence on behalf of the defendants.

The case did not, however, take off because shortly before it could proceed to trial, Chief Awolowo died. As libel cases do not survive the death the case died a natural death.

Judge and Contempt of Court

Everyone who comes about him knows that Chief Afe Babalola is a polite lawyer by all standard. He does not show disrespect to his colleagues at the bar, not to talk of Honourable Judges on the Bench.

In fact, a Supreme Court Justice once said he had a disarming humility. He believes that every lawyer should really be humble no matter his position and that a lawyer has a fundamental, uncompromisable duty to defend his client's case fearlessly even at the risk of his own liberty.

Chief Afe Babalola was counsel to Chief Emmanuel Oyedele Ashamu. Chief Ashamu was a very rich man and a daring investor. He decided to invest in Ikogosi Spring Water. The Ikogosi Spring is an awe-inspiring spring which flows from the top of a hill about 500 feet high. About 6 inches from where the hot water comes out, cold water also springs. The two flow parallel for some feet before they eventually meet.

Chief Ashamu wanted to bottle the Ikogosi water and Afe saw a lot of business sense in it. After all, the water had been wasting away for several years. He gave him all the encouragement that he needed. He approached the government of Ondo State and a contract was entered into. He invested a lot of money. Shortly before work could start, a new government took over in Ondo State which, for whatever reason, terminated the duly executed contract.

Chief Afe Babalola went to court on behalf of his client and sued the Ondo State government. He asked for an order of injunction restraining the government from awarding the contract to another company because,

he contended, damages would not be able to compensate his client for the damages that he had suffered and stood to suffer.

The case went before Hon. Justice Adetosoye of Ondo State High Court. The government as defendant was represented by Mr Falodun, the then Solicitor-General who later became the Chief Judge of Ondo State. Falodun was a very cool, calm, confident and intelligent man. But even where he agreed with Chief Afe Babalola's submissions, the Honourable Judge still over-ruled Afe who became afraid that with the way the Judge was handling the matter and conducting his client's case unfairly and improperly, there was the likelihood that he would not get justice before him.

So, after the court adjourned one afternoon around 3.00 pm Chief Afe Babalola prepared an appeal to the Court of Appeal, Benin. He also prepared a Motion on Notice for stay of proceedings in the trial court. He did all that over night and filed it in the morning of the following day before the court sat.

When Honourable Justice Adetosoye sat in the morning, Chief Afe Babalola informed the Judge that he had filed an appeal, and an application for a stay of proceedings. The Judge said he had not seen a copy of the motion and so he would continue with the hearing of the substantive suit. Chief Afe Babalola argued that the motion for stay must be entertained first. He cited authorities that where a motion such as his client's was filed, even if not before the court, the Judge must stand the case down or adjourn it in order to find out the truth about such filing. He showed the Judge a copy each of the said Notice of Appeal and the Motion on Notice. Yet the Judge insisted on going on with the case.

The Judge was not particularly happy with the fact that Chief Afe Babalola, in his own words, "smuggled in a motion" to prevent him from going on with the case. Chief Afe Babalola objected to the language of the

Honourable Judge who became instantly furious. He asked that his clerk should go into his chamber and bring for him the book “Aguda on Contempt”. Chief Afe told the Judge that he should not let the clerk sweat unnecessarily because he had a copy of the book in court, and this he offered to the Judge. Chief Afe Babalola further told him that he could not threaten him with contempt as he was ready to go to jail for his client. Of Course, Chief Afe Babalola had at least six other competent lawyers with him. They promised to go on with the case should he be jailed, and would insist on his argument until the last of them was jailed.

Because of Afe’s refusal to be cowed or intimidated, the Judge changed his mind on jailing him immediately. He proceeded with further hearing all the same. Afe cross- examined a witness so extensively on needless issues and insisted on being recorded. He prolonged the cross examination till 5.00 pm. When the court adjourned that day, a Friday, he knew that the matter was not likely to come up before him ever again, or at least for a very long time. Before the date to which the case was adjourned Afe went to the Court of Appeal, Benin, and obtained an order staying further proceedings before Hon. Justice Adetosoye.

The day following his “contempt” encounter with His Lordship, the newspapers went to town with different headlines on the proceedings of the previous day: “Contempt: Afe Babalola dared Court”; “**I am Ready to go to Jail!**”. But he did not go to any jail, it was the Judge that left the case for another to take over.

Another case of Contempt

Chief Afe Babalola was a lawyer for Leventis Limited. At that time he was on retainership with the company. Because of the depression in the economy, the company decided to retrench about 300 of its employees. The affected employees were given letters of termination and their

entitlements as provided by each employee's terms of service. The retrenched workers rushed to court and filed an *ex-parte* application for an order restraining the company from retrenching them and to be re-absorbed by the company pending the determination of the case. The case went before Justice Kessington, now late, then of the Lagos High Court, who granted the application.

The reliefs and orders prayed for in the application offended all known laws. Firstly, it was a private contract and all a person whose appointment was wrongfully terminated was entitled to were damages and not injunctive orders. Secondly, it was wrong to grant an order to restrain when the act had already been completed. Again the orders that were sought in the application were the same reliefs they sought in the substantive suit, so a grant of the orders meant a grant of the reliefs in the substantive matter.

The former counsel to Leventis Limited filed an application before the Judge to discharge the *ex-parte* orders. His Lordship refused and ordered that the Directors of Leventis Limited must comply with the order before the court could hear their application. He threatened to jail the Directors of Leventis Limited unless they re-absorbed all the sacked employees. At that stage, the company briefed Chief Afe Babalola to take over the case. He filed an application that the court did not have the jurisdiction to make the orders it made.

On the day the matter came up, the Judge refused to hear the application. He insisted that Chief Afe Babalola must bring the Directors to court before the application could be heard.

In his anger he said:

“These directors are the people spoiling Nigeria and you lawyers are the ones spoiling the judiciary. I made an order and you are saying it should be varied. You must obey the order first.”

That was on a Tuesday. Both the Judge and Chief Afe Babalola engaged in a long and heated argument, and when Afe saw that the Judge was not going to hear the application, he tactically applied for an adjournment. He cited as reason the need to comply with the earlier order to bring the Directors before the court. After much persuasion the Judge agreed to adjourn the case to Thursday.

Afe rushed to his office and prepared a motion for a stay of proceedings at the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal granted the application and restrained Justice Kessington from proceeding with the hearing pending the determination of the appeal.

The next hearing of the case before Justice Kessington was Thursday of the same week. Chief Afe Babalola got to the court early and served the Court of Appeal's order on His Lordship's Registrar. When the court sat, Afe told His Lordship that he could not go on with the case in view of the order of the Court of Appeal staying further proceedings by him on the matter. The Judge said he had not seen the order and Afe told him that the order had been served on his Registrar. That really made Justice Kessington angry. He descended on Afe. He called him a liar, that when he asked for time to comply with his order to bring the Directors of the Company to court, his intention was to go and restrain him. He said he did not know Afe could 'run faster than Ben Johnson'. He said that Afe ran 100 yards to the Court of Appeal. (Ben Johnson, the Canadian, was at that time the reigning Olympics Champion in 100 metres.) He said he was lucky not to be a Nigerian, that his wife and his children were not Nigerians and he did not beg to become a Judge.

He narrated the story of how he became a Judge. It was because, according to him, no one wanted to take the case against Chief Gani Fawehinmi. He said he told General Abacha that he would take it. He prosecuted Chief Gani Fawehinmi. Hence he was made a Judge. He said he did not intend

to go to the Court of Appeal anyway, so the higher courts could make any order they liked. But *“we shall show the press that they were wrong”*, he concluded.

Then he continued his vituperations at Chief Afe Babalola S.A.N. thus:

“Look at this Ilu Oke man, I will tell Isale Eko boys not to let you come to Lagos again and if you come they will beat you up. It was because I respected you that I adjourned the case, little did I know that you would run like Ben Johnson to the Court of Appeal to get an order against me from dealing with the directors. I will take your clients to Benin Republic.”

At this point Chief Babalola asked the Judge where Benin Republic was. He replied:

“Look at this Ilu Oke man, he does not even know Benin Republic. It is Alagbon and we will give them (those at Alagbon) money for “fuu” (perhaps to smoke). They will barb their (directors of Leventis) heads and they will know that there is a court order.”

The above-chronicled proceedings were recorded.

Chief Afe Babalola felt that Justice Kessington’s vituperations and comments were not said in the course of the Judge’s official duty, and were not protected by the Judge’s immunity. In his words: *“A Judge’s immunity extends only to when he acts as a Judge, in the course of his adjudicatory role as a Judge, not when he goes beyond his judicial duties”*. Having found support in a Bahamas, West Indian case, Chief Afe Babalola sued Justice Kessington to court. Chief Richard Akinjide

had just returned from England having left Nigeria in the wake of the military take over in 1983. He appeared for Chief Afe Babalola.

But while the case was pending, some well meaning people appealed to Afe to withdraw the case because the Judge was already due for retirement. The pressure was so much that he eventually withdrew it. However, when Justice Kessington was retiring, some journalists wanted his views about Chief Afe Babalola. His response was that those were matters for the past and that they had become good friends.

Chief M.K.O. Abiola and June 12

This was the case of the century. Chief Abiola had contested for the office of the President and Commander-In-Chief of The Armed Forces of Nigeria on June 12, 1993. He was widely believed to have won what everybody agreed was the freest and fairest election to be held in the country. Before all the results were released, the government of General Babangida annulled the election on the excuse, among others, that Hon. Justice Bassey Ikpeme had delivered a nocturnal ruling in the Federal High Court, Abuja, around 9.15p.m. two days to the election in which she restrained the conduct of that election. That ruling was patently wrong on all fronts. The enabling law had provided that only the National Electoral Commission, NEC, Chairman, then Prof. Humphrey Nwosu, could stop the election. Yet the case was not on his application, nor was it his design.

Besides, it is an elementary principle of law that the court would not grant an injunction ex-parte at the instance of a party if the order would affect a large number of people, as in this case, a whole country.

Chief M.K.O. Abiola waited for a whole year for the re-validation of his electoral victory. It was clear that the group of soldiers, led by General Abacha, who had assumed power had tasted it and were not too keen to

relinquish it. When nothing was done about his victory, Chief Abiola on the first anniversary of the elections declared himself President of Nigeria in the popular Epetedo Declaration. He was arrested soon after and hounded into detention in Kuje, in outskirts of Abuja, the Federal Capital. A stunned nation gave tumultuous reactions.

A series of cases followed his detention and he was represented by several lawyers. Chief G.O.K. Ajayi, S.A.N., handled some of the cases. Chief Jibola Olanipekun. S.A.N secured bail for him in the Federal High Court, Abuja. Chief Abiola was however advised to reject the bail. The advisers said he should not return home without his mandate and that the bail had some conditions.

Chief Afe Babalola was of the opinion that the advice was wrong He captured his view as follows:

“I know that proponents of that choice would have now realized what mistake they made. For one, the matter for which Chief Abiola was facing trial was criminal and not a civil suit. He was not a plaintiff or a defendant/counter-claimant in a civil case. So the question of returning home with a prize did not arise at all. In a criminal action, you either win or lose your case. A party does not return with a reward. For another, there is no bail without its own conditions. The essence of bail is to ensure the attendance of the accused person at his trial. So there is no absolute bail.

Curiously, Chief Abiola was advised to reject it and he did. We are all today living witnesses to the unfortunate consequences of that refusal and the folly in fighting for a right behind bars.”

Chief Afe Babalola represented Chief Abiola at a much earlier stage. It was in the few days preceding the annulment. The suit was to decide whether he was properly elected or not, and was instituted by Alhaji Bashir Tofa, the man who contested against Chief Abiola. Chief Afe Babalola, S.A.N. came into it with Chief Rotimi Williams, S.A.N. He personally went to the Court of Appeal, Kaduna, when the issue of the legality of the election was going to be decided. His brief was clear and he was certain that he would win the case for his client. Chief Philip Umeadi, S.A.N., (now late) represented the Federal Government and President Babangida. Hon. Justice Mohammed Mustapha Akanbi was then the President of the Court of Appeal.

Speaking about Justice Akanbi, and the events relating to that suit, Chief Afe Babalola later said:

“Justice Akanbi was a forthright and incorruptible Judge. He knew the case was important to the judiciary and the country, in fact, the judiciary was also on trial. Justice must therefore be seen to have been done. To ensure this, Hon. Justice Akanbi empanelled ten Justices of the Court of Appeal. They were all assembled in Abuja. He did not disclose which five of them was going to be on the panel in order to avoid a situation whereby any of them would be reached and possibly corrupted. I was later to learn that he successfully resisted all efforts himself to be reached and compromised.

Having failed to reach him before the sitting of the court, the government felt uncomfortable. It was afraid that the court might decide in favour of Chief Abiola. And the big players in government would not like to be

seen to disobey the order of the court. So the best thing was to ensure that the court never sat at all.

I got to court very early with many lawyers who were to appear with me. I had my authorities set. Chief Umeadi was unusually late to court, and luckily the court too did not sit on time. When he came in, Chief Umeadi sat beside me.

“Why are you here with all these books, Chief?” he asked me. “Of course, the President of the country would be known today, and these books are the authorities to help the Justices to so decide,” I responded.

Chief Umeadi asked whether I had not listened to the radio: the election held on 12th June, 1993, had been annulled!

When the court sat, we announced our appearances. Chief Umeadi, S.A.N., stood up and informed the court so tacitly: “My Lords, there is no lis again before Your Lordships; the election has been annulled.”

I stood up and argued that the election could only have been annulled by a law, which must be gazetted. Until that was done, Chief Umeadi’s information could not take the place of a gazette. The Court was inclined to adjourning so that we could all ascertain the truth. Before we left the court, I stood up and told everybody present: “We are at the beginning of a journey the end of which nobody knows.”

More than a decade after my statement, the country is still, like an aimless wanderer, on that endless journey. And curiously enough some people still ask whether we have actually started at all.”

The Trial of Gani Fawehinmi and Others

One other experience of note for Chief Afe Babalola during General Babangida's regime had to do with the trial of Chief Gani Fawehinmi and other persons arrested with him.

Afe was in his office in Ibadan one morning minding his business and doing his job when some military men walked in. They came in a special vehicle and claimed they were from Dodan Barracks. Their mission was to deliver a message from General Sanni Abacha who wanted Afe to go to Lagos to see him. Afe knew he had not done any wrong so he was not in any way afraid. He said he would travel to Lagos in his car. The military men agreed, but insisted that they must follow him. It was as if he was under arrest. When Afe got to Dodan Barracks, General Abacha told him the military government wanted him to handle a case. He asked that Afe be given the file. The case was against Chief Gani Fawehinmi and some other people. Afe collected the file and went back to Ibadan. He then wrote back to say he couldn't handle the case because it was against Gani Fawehinmi who was his personal friend. He rejected the brief.

The Third Republic 1999 Elections

Chief Afe Babalola was very outspoken in the condemnation of military rule. He wrote and still writes several articles about it. He has always advocated democracy and condemned military rule. Like most Nigerians he was happy when the military decided to step aside and allow civilian democracy. His client, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, was the Presidential candidate for the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) during the general election held in Nigeria in 1999. Very few Nigerians believed he could win particularly in view of opposition to his candidature in the Western part of Nigeria his home region. The West put up their own candidate, Chief Olu Falae, who contested under the joint platform the of Alliance for Democracy (AD) and All Peoples Party (APP).

However, Chief Afe Babalola spent time and money in his Ekiti State constituency to ensure that Chief Obasanjo won in the State. His efforts were well rewarded. The only place where the Peoples Democratic Party had a member of the House of Representatives in the West was Ekiti State. Chief Obasanjo also scored more than the required mandatory twenty five percent in Ekiti Central, which he did not score even in Ogun State where he comes from. But Chief Afe Babalola did not actively participate in party politics is not a card carrying member of any political party. He enjoys tremendous support and influence among his people in Ekiti State which itself is an off-shot of the immense contribution he has made towards the development and advanced of the cause of his State and his people.

Chief Obasanjo has a lot of confidence in Chief Afe Babalola. So, when Chief Egolom and Chief Falae filed petitions against his election, the party wanted its own legal team to prosecute the case. But Chief Obasanjo refused and insisted that Afe should handle the case. He telephoned to him from his Ota Farm inviting him to Ota. Afe went with thirteen of the lawyers in his chambers who, as usual, were all well dressed. Chief Obasanjo's house was full of loyalists and supporters who were happy at his election when Chief Afe Babalola was ushered in along with his team of lawyers.

When they entered the larger sitting room, they met many seated guests. As soon as they saw them, some decided to leave. Being in black suits over white shirts, and having arrived in a convoy of cars, the people thought lawyers were security men. So, they had enough space to sit. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo's first remark was a hearty joke. He said to Afe: "Welcome! Now I know why you charge in dollars!". He discussed the petition with Afe and asked Chief Tony Anenih to work with him. Afe took the case.

Prominent Lagos lawyer, Chief G.O.K Ajayi, S.A.N., appeared for Chief Olu Falae while Kehinde Sofola, S.A.N., appeared for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Many lawyers were interested in appearing with Afe for Chief Obasanjo. As a result he had over forty three lawyers appearing with him throughout the hearing of the petition.

How that case went is best expressed in Chief Afe Babalola's very own words:

"I must pay special tribute to Chief Tony Anenih. He was a very valuable client. He was always ready and willing to get the materials we needed. No matter where you wanted a material, he would get it within hours. He is no doubt a man of immense ability and intelligence. The odds were against us and but for him we probably would not have won.

While the hearing of the petitions was in progress, Chief Obasanjo travelled out of the country to South America and other parts of the world. One day he called me on the phone and I accused him of not being bothered about his case; he had such a big case and never asked what was going on. His response astounded me. He said:

"I know when a person gives you a case, he needn't worry. I know you would handle it well".

On another occasion, Chief Obasanjo told me some people asked him to go and bribe Judges. He told them in reply: "Go and ask Afe Babalola, he will tell you that I never bribe Judges".

The cases were quite serious and tough. Chief Olu Falae and Chief Egohum each filed a petition of very many I

decided to attack Chief Egolum's case first. I objected to certain paragraphs of the petition. Chief G.O.KAjayi did not see anything wrong in my objection, afterall it was his case. We went to the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court. My objection was sustained. Most of the paragraphs in Egolum's case were struck out. Then I came back to Falae's case and raised the same objections to many paragraphs of the petition. I had a precedent in the Egolum case to rely on. Several paragraphs of the petition were similarly struck out. Having struck out many paragraphs of the two petitions, the remaining paragraphs were not as damaging. So rather than go all the way in the petitions we were able to save time and we concluded the petitions in a short time. We won at the end of the day.

Many of the lawyers who appeared with me did so because they were expecting some dividends. So I sent their names to the President so that they could be given briefs. But the President never did. On the contrary, the Attorney-General decided to give briefs to those who didn't assist us.

On my part I wrote to the President that I was not going to charge fees as I saw it as my contribution to his victory. The President and wrote a letter to me which he expressed his appreciation."

2003 Presidential Elections

Since 1999 when Chief Afe Babalola successfully defended Chief Olusegun Obasanjo in the election petitions instituted by Chief Olu Falae and Chief Egolum challenging his victory at the presidential polls, the

President's confidence in Afe's ability and competence grew in leaps and bounds. As a result he ensured that all cases in which he was involved as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria were handed over to Afe to handle. So, Chief Afe appeared before the Human Rights Violations (Investigation) Commission headed by Hon. Justice Chukwadifu Oputa, a former Justice of the Supreme Court as President Obasanjo's personal lawyer. He also handled some twelve cases instituted against him or the PDP during preparations for the presidential primaries in 2003. When the presidential elections were over, petitions were filed against the President by some of the presidential candidates and some of the other political parties. Afe defended the President in all, in some cases, up to the Supreme Court.

Because of their relationship, Chief Afe Babalola also had to handle some other cases for the government of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo. These included the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission case where Afe was invited by the Supreme Court in 2002 as *Amicus Curiae*. Lawyers in that case included Chief Rotimi Williams, S.A.N., Prof. Nwabueze, S.A.N., the 36 Attorneys-General of the thirty six States of the Federation. Afe's submissions before that court was the basis of its judgment. There were other cases instituted by and against the Federal Government which were handed to him to prosecute on behalf of the Federal Government. There were also the Nigerian Labour Congress, (N.L.C), cases over increase in prices of oil. Withdrawal allocation of local governments in States such as Lagos which created without the necessary approvals, additional local governments, was a subject of litigation where Chief Afe also represented the Federal Government. Other important cases concerned disputes over the creation of additional local governments by some states.

These heavy involvements in suits connecting the Federal Government, however, led to a misconception of Chief Afe Babalola's roles in the administration of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo. A lot of people thought .

wrongly, that he was Adviser to the Federal Government on many of its policies. He clarified the true position thus:

“I am not a government lawyer; I am a hard core private legal practitioner. I do not hold any retainership either for the government or even Chief Olusegun Obasanjo. There is a team of lawyers who officially handle cases for the office of the President. The Ministry of Justice is one organ responsible for advising the government. In addition, the Presidency has a team of lawyers headed by a Chief Legal Officer. There is a Personal Assistant (Legal) that serves the President. These are the people who advise government on legal matters. I am aware that the late Head of State, General Sanni Abacha, had an official personal lawyer in person of Prof. Anwal Yadudu. I am aware of the role that the Professor played while the military administration of the late General lasted. But that role is quite different from the role I played in Chief Obasanjo’s government, which was to be engaged by his government in specific cases.

And perhaps this clarification has now laid to rest the curiosity of the few and the mischief of the many. At Ibadan during 2002 Annual Conference of the Nigerian Bar Association, some participants accused me of not advising President Olusegun Obasanjo properly on legal issues. Such suggestion has no factual basis. It is not my duty to advise the government on its policies; in fact I too get to know of government policies for the first time like most other people on the pages of newspapers or on radio or television

Apart from these general misconceptions, insinuations have also been made in some quarters that I am the richest lawyer today in Nigeria. Most people who say this have never seen my bank accounts before, nor have they seen those of other lawyers with whom they assume I am in the same league. I am not a poor lawyer by any standard, and I have never been since the early 70's. Within the confines of my limited wants, I am very comfortable.

The truth today is that whatever I have is not derived from the fees from cases I handle for the government. There are some cases which I did for the government for which I have not been paid. And where I presented reasonable fees, the government made the practice of reducing such fees to a level below which I would charge private clients. The fees are so low that many lawyers return files to the government.

A newspaper even carried a report in which it included a list of cases I did for the government and the fabulous fees allegedly received. Such claims are not only untrue but imaginary and exaggerated.”

Chief Afe Babalola through his firm, Chief Afe Babalola, SAN & Co., (Emmanuel Chambers) has gone on to handle numerous cases of monumental importance that have enriched several areas of Nigerian legal jurisprudence. Perhaps the firm has handed more cases than any other law firm in Nigeria. Some of those cases have been highlighted elsewhere in this book.



INCURSION INTO POLITICS AND ADMINISTRATION

Constituent Assembly

One morning in 1977, five High Chiefs of Ado-Ekiti led by Chief Alarierin visited Chief Afe Babalola in Ibadan and informed him that they were sent by the Ewi of Ado-Ekiti, Oba Aladesanmi II. At that time, the Head of State, General Olusegun Obasanjo had announced that there would be a Constituent Assembly preparatory to hand-over of governance to civilians, and each Local Government Area was to have one representative at the gathering.

The Chiefs informed Chief Afe Babalola that it was the decision of the Council of Chiefs that he should represent Ado-Ekiti in the Constituent Assembly. He immediately rejected the offer because his law practice had just broken even and was growing rapidly. He told them that he needed

to concentrate more on his job. The Chiefs went back to Ado-Ekiti to convey his decision to the Ewi of Ado-Ekiti. The Ewi immediately sent for him. When he arrived in Ado-Ekiti, he went to his mother and informed her about his mission at Ado-Ekiti. He thereafter moved to the palace of the Ewi. The Ewi pleaded with him to accept his people's offer but he stood his ground. He then told him: *"Young man, if your townsmen offer you a gift and you reject, they would substitute it with something else."*

He returned to his mother after leaving the palace of the Ewi and informed her about the turn of events. She was worried because customarily, such a statement from the Ewi of Ado-Ekiti was pregnant with meaning. She advised him to accept the offer to represent Ado-Ekiti at the Constituent Assembly. Following his mother's advice, Chief Afe Babalola went back to the Ewi and gave some conditions for his acceptance of the offer. One of those conditions was that he was not ready to spend his money on election as he did not believe that a person who intended to serve another should pay the latter to allow him to serve him. The Ewi then assured him that he was going to be returned unopposed and that he was not going to spend a kobo. He was indeed returned unopposed on a zero-party basis by the Electoral Commissioner. The news of Afe Babalola's election unopposed was published in all newspapers and radio. However, what he did not know was that the erstwhile politicians, including an ex-Minister, were unhappy about his election. They saw him as a threat to their political ambition.

About two weeks before the day of election, Chief Afe Babalola received a letter from the Electoral Officer that he had been disqualified on the basis of non-payment of his tax. This was totally untrue as he had made upfront payment to the tax office pending the completion of his accounts by his Auditor. In fact, most often, the tax office had to refund some of the money he had paid in excess to him. That was obviously a game-plan

by his adversaries to disqualify him. He immediately proceeded to court to challenge his disqualification because he believed that, in law, he had paid his tax up till that date. The case went before Hon. Justice Akinola Aguda, a most gifted, forthright and uncompromising Judge. Justice Aguda ruled in Afe's favour that he was not in default of any payment of tax. The Judge further directed that no election should be held in his constituency because he had been returned unopposed having fulfilled all the necessary conditions. All the court processes were served on the Electoral Commissioner. Despite that, election was still conducted in his constituency and an adversary, Mr. Falayi, was returned. The Electoral Commissioner at that time was Chief Adegborioye.

Consequently, Chief Afe Babalola commenced committal proceedings against Chief Adegborioye, who evaded service of the court process. His security guards ensured that he was not served personally with the processes by the court officials. The case was then adjourned to enable Afe to advertise the proceedings in the newspapers, radio and television. In spite of the advertisements, Chief Adegborioye did not turn up in court. The court then ordered that the Commissioner of Police should be served with the court order with a directive that the Police boss who gave him police orderlies should bring him to the court. That order was very effective. On the next date of adjournment, the Commissioner of Police brought Chief Adegborioye, the Electoral Commissioner, to Court. To the surprise of everyone, Chief Adegboroye told the court that the reason that informed his non-appearance in court preVIOUSLY was because he was not aware that he was ordered to attend the to court. When the court asked him whether he did not read newspapers or listen to radio, his shocking answer was that he was in a place where he neither read newspapers nor listened to radio.

He was eventually jailed for 6 months for disobeying an order of court. He appealed to the Court of Appeal, but his appeal was dismissed. The

Obasanjo-led government did not allow Afe to take his rightful place in the Constituent Assembly in spite of his victories in court. His non-election to the Constituent Assembly turned out to be a blessing in disguise for him. Had he accepted to go to the Constituent Assembly, he probably would have ended up being a politician.

Local Government Administration

On the same zero-party basis, Afe was fielded by his people as a Councillor in Ado-Ekiti Local Government on. He was returned unopposed. The period between 1977 and 1979 was the golden era in Local Government Administration in Ado Ekiti. Those who were elected to the Council included Engineers, Professors, Lawyers and other professionals. Their debates were robust and those in the British Parliament. They refused to earn salaries and allowances for their participation in the Local Government's affairs. They indeed rendered selfless services to the people in Local Government. Their collective mission as the representatives of the Local Government was to advance the development of the Local Government. It was in realization of this common objective that they erected water tanks for their people, constructed bridges and culverts, built markets and other infrastructural facilities for their people. As a matter of fact, the modern shopping complex built by them at King's Market in Ado-Ekiti remains the only shopping complex till date.

Chief Afe Babalola summed up his period of public service as a councillor thus:

“At that time, if I came to town and found a single electric bulb burnt, the Secretary knew he would be queried. The motto then was “Service Delivery to the People”. There was water supply in abundance, streets were clean, there was steady electricity supply and the

streets were well lit. Everything worked the way it ought to be at that time. Our Local Government was rated as the best in Ondo State. This is a sharp contrast with what we have today as our representatives at every level are pre-occupied with how to better their lots collecting huge salaries and outrageous allowances."

University of Ado-Ekiti

Sometimes in 1982, Chief Meredith Adisa Akinloye (recently late) and Chief Lamidi Adedibu Chieftains of the National Party of Nigeria (N.P.N.), the ruling party in Nigeria then announced that the Federal Government of Nigeria would establish a University in Ado-Ekiti by October of 1982 took Chief Obafemi Awolowo leader of the opposition Unity Party of Nigeria (NPN) by surprise. The news was given wide coverage by the media particularly the newspapers.

Chief Obafemi Awolowo immediately invited Chief Adekunle Ajasin, then the Civilian Governor of Ondo State, under which Ado-Ekiti then was and reminded him that what Ekitis loved most was education; that the UPN needed to do something quickly if the party must still have the support of the Ekitis. They then mapped out a strategy, which was to match the announcement of the N.P.N. or perhaps pre-empt them. They met hurriedly and even when there was no budget for a University, they immediately announced the establishment of a State University in Ado-Ekiti. which was to have eight campuses in Ado-Ekiti, Ikere, Owo and other towns. In furtherance of their strategy, Chief Adekunle Ajasin got in touch with Alhaji Shehu Shagari the President of Nigeira and told him that normally all Universities of Technology were established in the state capitals and that the one meant for Ondo State, which N.P.N. had announced would be in Ado-Ekiti, ought to be established in Akure. Since it was the intention of the state government to establish a State University

in Ado-Ekiti, it would be unfair on the other parts of Ondo State if a second University was located in Ado-Ekiti.

When the executive of N.P.N. told Chief Afe Babalola what had transpired between Chief Ajasin and Alhaji Shagari, he advised them to still make their presence felt in Ado-Ekiti by establishing institutions that would match the status of a University. He suggested to them that the Federal Polytechnic, which had just been moved from Bida to Akure be moved to Ado-Ekiti and that a College of Medicine be established in Ado-Ekiti. Thus, head or tail, Ado-Ekiti would benefit on both sides.

Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti

Somehow the establishment of the Federal Polytechnic in Ado-Ekiti was made possible by God using Chief Afe Babalola as his instrument. Chief Afe Babalola had a foreboding that anything could happen in 1983 when general elections were then scheduled to take place; that the military could terminate the civilian government and that if the Federal Polytechnic was not well grounded, it could be abolished. He decided to personally see to the establishment of the Polytechnic. He practically abandoned his legal practice in Ibadan and moved base to Ado-Ekiti.

The Ewi of Ado-Ekiti was particularly helpful. He, with his Council, gave the Polytechnic a parcel of land at Ikare Road, Ado-Ekiti. Chief Afe Babalola, for his part, became the Chairman of the Governing Council of the Polytechnic. For an institution of that magnitude to commence, the Governing Council needed to prepare a survey plan and building plan, which would take not less than two years. Chief Afe Babalola had only two years to move the Polytechnic to Ado-Ekiti and did not want to expend two years on the preparation of a building plan. He called on Chief Femi Ilori, a knowledgeable Surveyor and a fellow Ekiti who was then the Commissioner for Lands in Ondo State. Ordinarily, being a

Commissioner in U.P.N. government, he would have opposed the project, but he did not. Chief Afe Babalola told him the Governing Council, could not wait for the preparation of a building plan as it needed to act fast. He implored him to mark out for the Governing Council, the appropriate portions for the buildings and layouts like roads and so on. He cooperated. So without a plan, the Council started work on the Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti. At the time it had less than ₦3.5million for capital projects, but the people were quite understanding.

Chief Afe Babalola invited about 50 contractors from all the local governments in Ondo State whom he considered good and capable. He told them of the urgency of the work at hand and advised them to be patriotic in the execution of the project. Each of them was to put up a building within three months while payment would be made as the work progressed since the Council had no ready funds. There was no mobilization. Chief Afe Babalola took up the supervision of the project himself and with some architects he did monitoring twice a week. Contractors who could not keep up with required pace were disengaged and their work given to those who were doing well. Within six months, the Polytechnic was built.

While all these were going on, the Rector who was at Akure was not too happy with Chief Afe Babalola. He felt Chief Afe Babalola was doing more than was within the powers of the Chairman of the Governing Council, and had usurped some of his powers. When news went round that the Polytechnic had been built, the Students Union at Akure chartered a bus and went to Ado-Ekiti to see things for themselves. They were pleasantly surprised. They jubilated and told the media of their delight at having a permanent campus and their preparedness to move to Ado-Ekiti immediately.

It was not until the Students Union made this announcement in the newspapers that the Rector visited the site. The Polytechnic then moved to its campus in Ado-Ekiti. Today the Polytechnic is ranked by notable institutions, the World Bank inclusive, as being among the best four in the country.

The Polytechnic roads, which were constructed under the general supervision of the Governing Council then, even though hurriedly, are still good and have not needed any repairs. The buildings are strong and structurally sound while the mini stadium is still a beauty to behold.

As if Chief Afe Babalola was a prophet, on 31st December 1983 the military ousted the civilian government. The new military government decided to cancel some institutions. They sent soldiers to Ado-Ekiti to see if they could cancel the Polytechnic. Fortunately, the school was already grounded. So much work had been done that they could not do anything. They allowed the school to be.

Chief Afe Babalola personally contributed from his own resources more than 10% of the money required to build the University. He was later honoured with the award of a fellow of the Federal Polytechnic Ado-Ekiti

Attempt at Governorship

As a result of Chief Afe Babalola's role and performance at the Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti, which establishment he spear-headed in 1982, he became very popular among his people so much that they started to clamour for him to be the Governor of Ondo State. Initially, he was reluctant but because of appeals by many people, and considering what he was to them, he accepted. He was satisfied that it would be very easy to win an election against the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN) government having regard to his popularity and contribution to the development of the State.

He embarked on a rigorous campaign until something happened which caused him to abandon the campaign.

Chief Akin Omoboriowo had just parted ways with the U.P.N. and carpet-crossed to N.P.N. with some other members of U.P.N. In spite of being a new member of the N.P.N., Chief Omoboriowo evinced an earnest interest to contest for the Governorship seat of Ondo State under the N.P.N, a party nurtured in the state by others. It then became obvious that these new entrants had a totally different philosophy from the original founding members of the party. Chief Afe Babalola quietly decided to quit. He, however, campaigned vigorously for Alhaji Shehu Shagari particularly in his constituency, Ekiti Central, which was the most populated area in, and the think-tank of, the State. His main campaign theme was that of all the successive governments, it was only the Shagari administration that brought Federal Government's presence to Ondo State, and made it the only source of employment.

At the end of the day, Chief Akin Omoboriowo was fielded as the Gubernatorial candidate of the National Party of Nigeira and in the election of 1983 and he was delared the winner. The followers of Ajasin disagreed with the declared result. That led to unprecedented violence in Ondo State, which resulted in wanton destruction of lives and properties. Over 168 houses of N.P.N. members were burnt in Ado-Ekiti and several valuable goods destroyed. The level of violence and destruction which erupted at the time was unprecedented in the annals of Nigerian political history.

The protesters went to Chief Afe Babalola's house with a view to burning it, but their leaders commanded them not to do so. The reason for that instruction, he told them, was that Chief Afe Babalola never stole any money from the government but that he had rather expended his own

money on the development of the Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti. The protesters left his house untouched for these reasons.

The unexpected event led to massive relocation of those whose houses were burnt in Ado-Ekiti to Chief Afe's Babalola's house in Ibadan. His house became a refugee camp. He bought clothes and shoes for those people and saw to their upkeep.

Invitation to be Attorney-General of the Federation

Chief Afe Babalola knew General Sanni Abacha, late former Head of State when he was the Commander of the Garrison Command in Ibadan in the 1970s. His first contact with the General was when the latter presided over a military tribunal which tried a particular Colonel in the Nigerian Army. Chief Afe Babalola represented the Colonel and raised an objection to the jurisdiction of the Tribunal to try the Colonel on the ground that the Military Law upon which the Colonel was being tried was invalid. The law was a pre-independence military law and was no longer applicable in Nigeria. After quoting several authorities, Chief Afe Babalola urged the tribunal to "pack and go" as it had no jurisdiction to try his client.

General Sanni Abacha said the Tribunal would rise to have lunch and consider Chief Afe Babalola's submission and that its ruling would be delivered after lunch.

As expected, when the Tribunal resumed sitting, its ruling, rejecting the submission that it had no jurisdiction

Thereafter, when they met on subsequent occasions, General Abacha never called Chief Afe Babalola by his name. Rather, he called him "**Lawyer-Pack-and-Go**" obviously poking fun out of the conclusion in his submissions before the tribunal. Thereafter, Chief Afe Babalola and

General Abacha became quite friendly and close. Chief Afe Babalola also became acquainted with some of his subordinates particularly Col. Yohanna Madaki who later used Chief Afe Babalola's office to study and learn while pursuing a degree in Law at the University of Ibadan. That fostered a closer relationship between General Abacha, Col. Madaki and Chief Afe Babalola.

When General Sanni Abacha took over as Head of State on 17 November 1993, he telephoned Chief Afe Babalola's house.

He invited him to the seat of Government so as to discuss his decision to make Chief Afe Babalola the Attorney-General of the Federation.

Chief Afe Babalola promptly rejected the offer. The offer was repeated later in the life of that Administration but each time he rejected it.



MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

First Wife

Chief Afe Babalola's first wife was Grace Adebisi Babalola, nee Adesanya. She is a princess of Ijebu-Ode. Afe knew her before he went to London in 1961 and even when he arrived there, they renewed their friendship. They later got married at the Marriage Registry in England in 1962. Fola, their first daughter was born on 21st April, 1963.

After his studies in London, there was an urgent need for young Afe to return home. He had lost his father whilst he was in England and subsequent to that, his mother had no support. He therefore decided to leave his wife in England as he also considered it reasonable to settle down in Nigeria before she would come to join him.



Chief Afe Babalola with his mother, Mrs. Abigael Ajayi Babalola and his son Opeyemi at Ado Ekiti, in the late 1960's



Afe dancing with wife, Mrs. Modupe Babalola,
at the naming ceremony of their 1st child



child, on her graduation (She is now Mrs. Ali)



Bolanle, 4th child (now Mrs. Austen-Peters)



Afe Babalola's daughters at a party... Bolanle, Fola and Omowumi (now Mrs. Majekodunmi)



Abiodun, Laoye, Gboyega, and Ayodeji



Abiodun on being called to the Bar.
She is presently pursuing a Ph.D. Degree



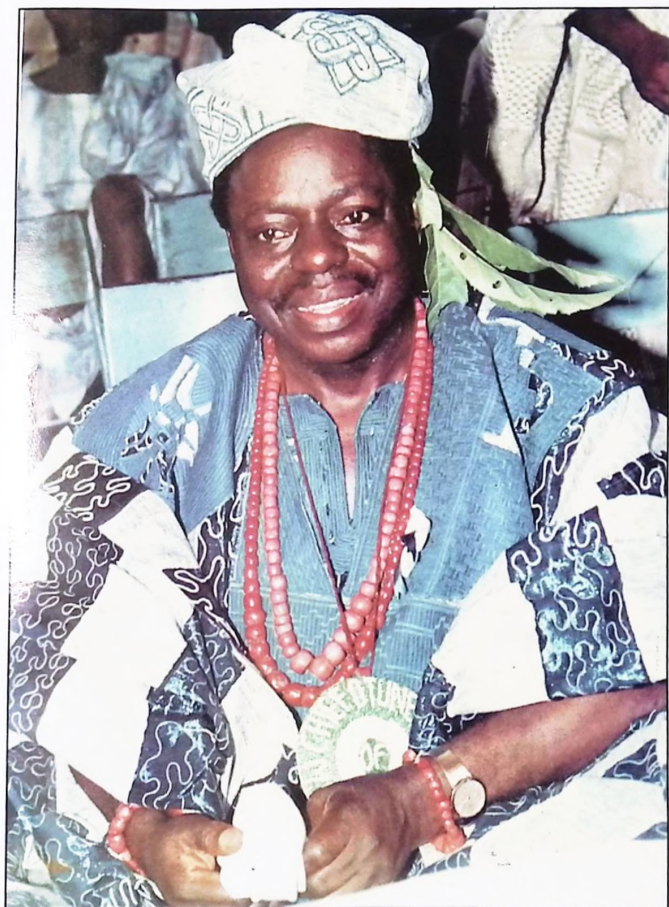
Gboyega at graduation



Laoye at graduation



Chief & Chief (Mrs.) Babalola after he was conferred with
Chieftaincy title of Bamofin of Aramoko-Ekiti



Chief Afe Babalola being conferred with Chieftaincy title of Otun Balogun of Otun-Ekiti in 1990



Chief Afe Babalola and his mother, April, 2008



Teak trees on Chief Afe Babalola's farmland at Ado Ekiti.
There are about 500,000 of them.



One of the fishing lakes in Chief Afe Babalola's sprawling farmland in Ado Ekiti.
The lake breeds 25,000 pieces of cat fish at a time. There are two other
fishing lakes on the farmland



Chief Afe Babalola in different postures with the authors,
in Ibadan and Ado-Ekiti

Adebisi, unlike Afe, came from a royal family, and she was a quiet and gentle person.

At the time, Afe Babalola's sister, Egun (Mrs. Egun Bailey) was staying with them. Even when he was in England, he was taking care of and maintaining her. He sent money to her as often as she needed it for the purpose of financing her education. When he returned from England, she continued to stay with him. They were then living in a rented apartment.

Afe Babalola's work necessitated his having to travel often out of Ibadan, Egun and his wife remained in the house. He returned from a trip one particular day only to discover that Egun had left home for a place allegedly unknown even to his wife. He asked his wife if she knew his sister's whereabouts. Her answer was in the negative. This resulted in a major rift and eventually, due to some other factors and irreconcilable, the marriage broke down and it resulted in a divorce.

Whilst it lasted, the union was blessed with 4 (four) outstandingly brilliant and wonderful children - three females and a boy - Fola, Tunde, Owowunmi and Bolanle. Three of them are lawyers and all of them are happily married with children.

2nd Wife

After Chief Afe Babalola parted ways with his first wife, he met Bola Onayemi who later became his wife and had a son for him. Opeyemi holds a Master Degree in Law after a first degree in Economics. Somehow the union did not last either.

During holidays, Opeyemi was always in Ibadan with his father. He looked forward to joining his step mother, and other children. They got on very well and lived like the brothers and sisters that they are. It was not easy to know that they were not of the same mother. That is the kind of relationship that still exists between them.

The other children of Chief Afe Babalola by the present wife, Mrs. Modupe Babalola are Abiodun, Ayo, Gboyega and Laoye.

All the children of Chief Afe Babalola went to the best Universities and today each holds University first and postgraduate degrees. There is a close bond between them and with Mrs. Modupe Babalola .

Chief Afe Babalola raised his children with strict discipline and shielded them from all forms of unnecessary lavish upbringing and ostentatious lifestyle. The children, in turn, have grown up to fully imbibe his virtues of hard work and honesty, and they are making successes of their various professions and vocations.

Extended family

Chief Afe Babalola was born into a polygamous set up where the style of life was communal. Thus, all the children of the extended family lived in a large compound, under the same roof, irrespective of who their parents were. There was no room for any differentiation from either the mothers or wives as all the children were treated alike. For instance, all children ate together from the same bowl particularly during festivals. By such exhibition of oneness, unhealthy rivalry, either on the part of mothers or children, was reduced to the barest minimum. In fact, barren wives had nothing whatsoever to regret or complain about as a child or children would be "given" to them from childhood. Such children never knew their biological mothers. The biological mothers would never disclose to the children the truth of their parentage. Afe's father had four wives: Afe's mother, one inherited wife and two others. As the eldest child, he took care of all other siblings, his brothers and sisters, regardless of whom their mothers were.



AFE BABALOLA AND CREATION OF EKITI STATE

During the period between 1991 and 1992, when Bamidele Olumilua was the Governor of Ondo State, there were many people who wrote and were agitating for the creation of Ekiti State. Chief Afe Babalola was in the fore-front line of those agitators. On many occasions, he challenged and had many confrontations with Governor Olumilua who did not want Ekiti State to be created. People engaged in arguments for and against the creation of the State.

When General Sanni Abacha seized power in November 1983, the agitation for Ekiti State became more and strident. Many people joined in the agitation, both from within and outside Ekiti land. In spite of its having some of the best educated people in the country and even its large population, the Ekitis were marginalized.

General Oladipo Diya was the second in command in the Abacha regime. A native of Odogbolu in Ogun State, his people, the Ijebus, were also interested in having a state carved out for them from the present Ogun State. Naturally, if a State was to be created in the West, it stood to reason that it would be Ijebu, General Diya's homestead. In the evening of the day the expected announcement of the creation of new States was to be made, preparations were made in Odogbolu for celebrations of the creation of Ijebu State by the Oba.

The events that culminated in the creation of Ekiti State reveals that the creation of a State in Nigeria is not simply a matter of agitation. Connection and influence, are vital.

Mallam (Dr.) Haruna Maiyasin Katsina (*Seriki N'Sasa*), Sardauna Yamma and Chairman of the Council of Arewa Chiefs for the whole of Southern States of Nigeria, was Chief Afe Babalola's friend and client and had so been for a very long time. He wielded enormous powers as the head of the Hausa Community in Sasa Area of Ibadan. That fact was more pronounced during the reign of General Sanni Abacha as head of the Federal Military Government. Seriki, on behalf of Chief Afe Babalola made use of his closeness to General Abacha to good advantage. He played noble roles in the creation of Ekiti State.

The Ewi of Ado-Ekiti and his chiefs had visited Chief Afe Babalola in Ibadan to deliberate on how to ensure that the Ekitis did not lose out in the creation of additional States in Nigeria. Then they all moved to Sasa to see the Seriki whom they told their problem and what they wanted General Abacha to do for them. There and then, *Seriki N'Sasa* took his telephone, got in touch with General Abacha and told him that "Lawyer-Pack-and-Go" was there in his house with the Ewi and his Chiefs and that they wanted to discuss with him. General Abacha was happy to talk with Chief Afe Babalola. He assured them that even if it was one additional State that would be created in Nigeria, he would not disappoint Seriki

N'Sasa, Chief Afe Babalola and the Ewi. He repeated the promise to the hearing of the Ewi. The promise was followed by visits to General Abacha and on each occasion, he reiterated that he would keep his word. Chief Afe Babalola had no doubt that General Abacha would truly keep to his word.

Therefore Chief Afe Babalola, the Ewi of Ado-Ekiti and his Chiefs commenced the process to put things together, at least on paper, to ensure that they were qualified so that if eventually they sailed through, they would have been seen to have been credible and it would not appear to be a mere gift. Chief Afe Babalola prepared a memorandum which he submitted to the Mbanefo Panel on Creation of State which went round the country to hear agitations for the creation of new States. He went to Akure to defend the Memorandum at the sitting of the Panel.

Of course, the creation of Ekiti State was a shock to many people who found it difficult to believe that the State was to the only one created in the Western Region. On this, Chief Afe Babalola said:

“It is my view that the creation of the State was a joint effort and not the singular achievement of anybody. I deem it fit to correct the wrong story being circulated on the creation of Ekiti State and to tell the secrets many people did not know.”

Ekiti State, now popularly called 'the Fountain of Knowledge' was created in 1996. It was a welcome response to decades of yearnings and agitations to which previous administrations had turned a blind eye. Prior to its creation, Ekiti was more of backwoods, first in the defunct Western Region of Nigeria and later in Ondo State and neglected in every area. But for the humble part Chief Afe Babalola played in the unfolding event, there might not have been any Federal Government presence in Ekiti and the present University of Ado-Ekiti (UNAD) might not have been located at its present site.

When Ekiti State was created, every true Ekiti son and daughter went wild with joy, thanking God Almighty for an answered prayer and vowing to join hands together to ensure that the young state thrived against all vicissitudes of life. But Chief Afe Babalola is saddened by the slow progress the state has made. On the state of his state, he has this had occasion to say:

“When we applied for the creation of Ekiti State, we had our master plan of how the young state should be run so that it might be put on a proper footing from day one. Without any iota of doubt, had our master plan been followed to the letter, Ekiti State would have become an Eldorado with all state-of-the-art technology present in all the nooks and crannies of the State which other States in the country would have come to emulate.

Unfortunately, the master plan was not only criminally tinkered with and its substance destroyed, years after the creation, the State remains a mere shadow of what its doyen dreamt of and her citizens collectively willed to preserve for all and sundry to see as indeed a “fountain of knowledge”. After many years of its creation, electricity supply has gone worse and whenever there is light at all, it is worthless and useless for any purpose. Most times, the voltage is so low that it could not power even the smallest of household appliances; even at night one still requires lantern to supplement electricity supply for the purpose of achieving any illumination.

The supply of pipe-borne water is equally epileptic and has since not improved either. Thus, the lots of Ekiti people since its creation have not improved contrary to the conception of its founding fathers. The dual carriage

road from Efon to Ado-Ekiti, which was almost at completion stage when it was abandoned is now a comfortable home to tall grasses and young trees. Ado-Ekiti to Otun is permanently impassable. Most town roads are in a state of disrepair. Agriculture, which in my memo was to be re-established, has been ignored. The living standard of Ekiti people to say the least remains at the lowest ebb, contrary to what all the dramatis personae set out to achieve in their collective effort when agitation became rife. There have been drastic departures from the blueprints prepared for the creation of the State.

The military was the first to tinker with the master plan. Indifferent to the vision and aspiration of the Ekiti people, they nurtured the State to suit their greed. This situation could be likened to a newly married couple who plan to train their siblings in a certain way. To achieve their intention, it is only natural and result-oriented to allow them to nurture the siblings as conceived. Where, however, such child is left in the care of foster parents, whose custom and languages are different, the result will undoubtedly differ. This was case with our darling state on its creation. Administrators who were posted to the state were like foster-parents and this did not assist the entrenchment of the noble idea we had.”

The first governor of Ekiti State was Colonel Inuwa Bawa. He neither spoke Yoruba Language nor understood it and never, before his posting, lived in Ekiti. All these compounded the problem of the State and distorted the master plan. As Military Administrator, he was not bound to consult anybody and indeed consulted no one in taking his decisions most of which affected the State negatively.

To ensure a proper take-off of the young, budding State, Chief Afe Babalola personally donated the first set of computers and stationeries and simultaneously offered his house to ease accommodation problem. He was not alone in making available needed items for a grand take-off of Ekiti State as others were equally ready and did in fact make available whatever they could afford so that Ekiti would thrive. But, surprisingly, after a few years, the patriots discovered to their chagrin that their plans were totally ignored and that the State did not actually take off in the real sense of the word, as they envisioned it would.



FOURTEEN

PRO-CHANCELLOR

The Ivory Tower beckons

It was never Chief Afe Babalola's wish to hold any political appointment. His reason simply was that he could not cope with the slow pace of work in the civil service compared with that in the private sector.

In 2000, Chief Afe Babalola was announced as the Pro Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Council of the University of Lagos. Up till the time of his appointment, the University of Lagos was called all sorts of names such as "Unilag Plc". The University was notorious for many irregularities, cultism, corruption and the likes.

Before they settled down to work, the newly appointed Pro-Chancellors were invited to Abuja and addressed by the President the of the Federal

Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo. Story had it that at the meeting was that all the Pro – Chancellors went round to congratulate one another. But Chief Afe Babalola was left out and avoided: no one congratulated him. On the contrary, they told him they did not envy his new job. Such was how bad the situation was when he took over the mantle as the Pro- Chancellor of the University of Lagos. Chief Afe Babalola took this as a challenge. In his first Council meeting, he told other Council members that he had come to do a duty which must be done well. He told them the areas he wanted to address, which included punctuality, transparency and accountability both in private and public dealings. The quality of education in the University, the polarization of the University community and the award of contracts were other areas which called for immediate attention. He made it clear that he was not going to be a figure-head or a visiting Pro-Chancellor. The law vested the property, finance and discipline in the University, among others, in the Council, and with the support of his other members, he was going to positively affect the life of the University in these areas.

Chief Afe Babalola also told his Council members that he did not see how a Pro-Chancellor could just go to a Council meeting, sleep in a luxurious building, take his family to enjoy the comfort of office without more. To him it was going to be business proper. It was a matter of service, one that must be carried out with diligence, integrity and seriousness. Fortunately, he had very sincere, honest and patriotic Council members who also shared his views and passion. He set up different committees to look into each area of complaint because there were many.

The Committees worked tirelessly almost day and night for about six months. There were many complaints ranging from dismissal or retirement without good cause to recruitment of unqualified people or relations, promotions based on considerations other than merit, irregular admission or admission racketeering, irregular allocation of staff

quarters, unauthorized purchase of library books or purchase of books from non-existing bodies or non-existing and fictitious booksellers. When the reports of the Committees were submitted, came out Chief Afe and his Council members took necessary steps and those who thought nothing could be achieved realized a lot could be done.

One of the other areas Chief Afe Babalola looked into was the Korean Outreach Programme. The programme had given the University a bad name because degrees of the University were awarded without the knowledge of the Senate thereby devaluing the certificate issued by the University. This became a source of concern and embarrassment to many alumni of the University especially those were in very high positions both in and outside the country. The Korean Outreach Programme was a touchy one because the erstwhile Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Jelili Adebisi Omotola, now late, naturally had supporters in the University. So there was a lot of polarization. His supporters were trying to make things difficult for the University Council. At a time, the Council decided to audit the University's account in relation to the Korean Programme. But the Federal Ministry of Education said it had no authority to do so. Chief Afe Babalola stood his ground that the Council was the authority vested with the power by the University Act to oversee the finances of the University, both income and expenditure. The Vice Chancellor eventually resigned.

Then the issue of the appointment of an acting Vice Chancellor arose. The University had a Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics) and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) posts held by Professor Oye Ibidapo-Obe and Professor Adepoju respectively. Ordinarily, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) ought to take over as Acting Vice Chancellor, but Professor Adepoju was very much in support of the Vice Chancellor who had just left. He attacked Chief Afe Babalola openly at the Council meeting and Chief Afe Babalola felt that he would not be fair to himself

if Professor Adepoju became the Acting Vice Chancellor. But Professor. Ibidapo-Obe was more discreet in his approach and relationship with Chief Afe Babalola. Professor Adepoju was from Akoko, close neighbour to Ekiti, so Chief Afe Babalola expected more cooperation than opposition. Having considered all the circumstances, Chief Afe Babalola decided to make Professor. Ibidapo-Obe the Acting Vice – Chancellor.

After the appointment of the Acting Vice-Chancellor, subsequently, the Council embarked on activities towards the appointment of a substantive Vice Chancellor so that things would return to normal in the University. Some members of staff were charged with misconduct, some dismissed, others retired and some cases were reported to the police. Gradually sanity was restored to the University. Thereafter, the Council embarked on the exercise of appointing a new Vice Chancellor. In previous cases, the appointment of a Vice Chancellor was always visited by crisis including the use of juju. Chief Afe Babalola decided that on that occasion he would make a difference. First, he made a big wooden box with a small opening on top applications letters could be dropped in. He put a padlock on it and kept the key himself, so that no one could tamper with the applications. All applications were put into the box.

On the day of selection, he invited the public to witness the opening of the box containing the applications of prospective candidates for the post. The Council appointed a small committee of Council and Senate members to shortlist qualified candidates. All these were done the same day so that there would be no opportunity for anyone to spread wrong information. Members of the Council waited till late in the evening when the committee's report was brought to them. There were over forty applicants. One remarkable thing on that day was that Professor. Oye Ibidapo-Obe and two other prominent members of the University community were disqualified because they did not attach their certificates to their applications, which was a condition precedent. So Chief Afe

Babalola decided to exclude them. But there was so much pressure from other Council members who felt that the omission was a mere irregularity and that their qualifications could not be in doubt.

The majority view prevailed and the affected candidates were allowed into the interview.

Chief Afe Babalola conducted the interview with other members of his committee and most disappointedly found out that most of the Professors who applied had failed to carry out any research work after they became Professors. Professor Ibidapo-Obe and one Professor Odugbemi towered above others in publications, researches and contributions to the University. In the circumstance, it was not too difficult to select the top contenders, hence the committee recommended Professor Ibidapo-Obe, Odugbemi and one other applicant. It was the practice to send three names to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as the Visitor. The committee sent the three names via a letter and, according to protocol, passed the letter through the Minister of Education to the President. For over a month, there was no reply.

One day, when Chief Babalola Afe had cause to visit the President. He raised the issue of the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor. Fortunately, the Minister of Education was also present. The President said he had not got the committee's report. Right there, Chief Afe Babalola gave him a copy of the report and the President asked him what his view of Professor. Ibidapo-Obe was. He told him that as the number one candidate he was alright. There and then, the President approved the appointment of Professor. Ibidapo-Obe as the new substantive Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lagos. Thereafter, the Council moved ahead and notable achievements were made in many areas including but not restricted to the following:

- banning of sale of lecture notes (hand-out) to students by lecturers.
- removal of all unauthorized buildings and structures especially those which did not comply with the original master plan of the University.
- reduction of corruption; and.
- reduction in the polarization of the University community to the barest minimum.

The Council also took steps to eradicate cultism and throughout its tenure, there was no report of cultism. It brought back students who had been rusticated or suspended for cultism and made them watchdogs over themselves and other cult members. Their parents were also made to sign undertakings for the good behaviour of their children. Therefore the notorious scourge of cultism in the University was wiped out, or at least reduced.

Again, the Council stoutly opposed strikes and was able to convince the Academic Staff to reason with it. Thus, throughout the Council's tenure when the University was in session, members of staff of the University did not join in any ASUU strike. It also applied the principle of "no-work-no-pay". University of Lagos was therefore one of the few institutions where courses were completed on time while others spent eight years for a four-year course.

Before Chief Afe Babalola became the Pro-Chancellor of the University of Lagos, students were paying N100 for accommodation and were subletting same for between ₦7,000 and ₦10,000. But the fact remains that since the University was established about forty years previously, accommodation facilities had been static. The population had risen to 35,000, yet facilities had not improved, upgraded or expanded to cope with the increased student population.

Chief Afe Babalola decided to approach his clients, friends and other well-wishers to assist the University Julius Berger Nig. Plc built an ultra modern auditorium for the Faculty of Engineering. It is one of the best in the country. Others donated materials and equipment. Sony Ericson donated over N600million (six hundred million Naira) worth of electronic gadgets while others built hostels. Chief Afe Babalola decided to institute an endowment fund and got over ₦2 billion with promises and pledges for future donations worth ₦5billion.

Again, the Council prepared new guidelines for award of contracts, employment and promotion. Hitherto, the University used to pay mobilization fees to contractors ranging from ten to sixty percent. Chief Afe Babalola found that such practices usually resulted in poor execution of the job, if performed at all, and the Council avoided it as it avoided taking kick-backs.

On transparency, there were some members of the Council including Chief Afe Babalola who did not take their statutory entitlements, not even sitting allowances. Chief Afe Babalola did not sleep in the Pro-Chancellor's lodge throughout his tenure as Pro-Chancellor of the University of Lagos. He paid all his hotel bills which he also did not claim from the University.

It therefore did not arrive as a surprise when in 2000 the National Universities Commission (N.U.C) in an evaluation exercise carried out on its behalf by a committee which included foreigners, decided that Chief Afe Babalola was the best Pro-Chancellor, his Council the best, the University of Lagos the best, and its Vice -Chancellor the second best in the country. Chief Afe was given an award of ₦500,000.00, which he promptly turned over to the University.

Also, during the 40th Anniversary convocation ceremony of the University, the Visitor, President Olusegun Obasanjo attended. He went

round the University campus and spent over five hours inspecting the development projects and the improvements the Council had made. He was quite impressed, particularly with the commendable satisfactory behaviour of the students. In the past, when government officials visited the Nation's Universities, the students would demonstrate and sometimes be unruly, but on that day, the students were well-behaved. They welcomed the President warmly. The graduating students maintained decorum. They remained on their seats until Chief Afe Babalola declared the convocation closed before they left the hall.

Throughout his tenure as the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman Governing Council, Chief Afe Babalola led by example, Wherever he demanded sacrifice from his subordinates and the Alumni of the University in terms of monetary contribution to worthy causes on the campus, he was always the first to put down his money to kick-start any such venture.

When the idea of the endowment fund of USD 500million (Five hundred million US dollars) for the University (N72 billion) was mooted and introduced by him, Chief Afe Babalola pledged and donated all the allowances that were due to him. He called on his friends and clients which included big multinational companies and banks and they headed his call. Such was the respect he commanded. They all made substantial donations to the University Endowment. Some of the projects donated to the University through the Endowment include the following :

1. **Erastus Akingbola Postgraduate Hall** - a 62- room one hundred and twenty -bed space hostel on four floors at a total cost of over N80million donated by Intercontinental Bank in 2005.
2. **MTN Foundation University Connect Project**
This is a digital Library initiative with N95 million to make available global access to current information by students and researchers

and to bridge the digital divide. It provides the following facilities, amongst others:

- (a) 125 networked computers, servers, printers and photocopier.
 - (b) Internet connectivity for receipt and updated of content for 2 years.
 - (c) 2 - year subscription to electronic resources through the Nethibrary network. , etc.
3. **Julius Berger Lecture theatre and carriage road of about 200 metres**
 4. **L.M. Ericsson GSM Laboratory**
 5. **Zenith Bank Cyber café**
 6. **Lever Brothers Building**
 7. **Boulous Engineering Library**

To cap it all, Chief Afe Babalola himself personally built and donated an imposing 500 - seater Auditorium on the campus in 2005. This was appropriately named Afe Babalola Auditorium. It is a square building of reinforced concrete frame structure covered with an imposing slanting and triangular long span aluminum roofing sheets fixed to steel trusses. It has been described as a master-piece of simplicity and elegance.

Similarly, Chief Afe Babalola got his friends and clients to pledge and or donate various sums of money ranging from N1 million to N150 million. Income derived from endowment funds invested by the University were utilized for award of Endowment Scholarships to 500 deserving students of the University of Lagos in the categories of outstanding students, students who demonstrated leadership qualities and needy students. The Scholarships ranged from N25,000.00 to N50,000.00 per student.

By and large, Chief Afe Babalola became the best Pro-Chancellor that the University of Lagos has had to date.



THE MODEL THAT IS EMMANUEL CHAMBERS

Running And Managing Afe Babalola & Co.

The Head office of Chief Afe Babalola, SAN & Co. (Emmanuel Chambers) is located at No. 80 Fajuyi Road, Ekotedo, Ibadan. It was commissioned in 1986 by Hon. Justice Kayode Eso.

Apart from the head office, the Chambers has offices in Lagos, Abuja, Port-Harcourt and Ado Ekiti. No Law Chambers in Nigeria has as many branch offices. The Lagos office is in EMMANUEL HOUSE, Plot 1, Block 4, CMD/Jubilee Road, Magodo G.R.A., Lagos (behind the new Mobil Filling Station). The Abuja Office is housed at EMMANUEL HOUSE at 24, Madeira Street, Imani Estate, Maitama, Abuja. The Port-

Harcourt office is in a building called No. 7 Aba Road Port-Harcourt whilst the Ado Ekiti branch is at Salt Valley House, Ado-Ikere Road.

Each office has a Head managing the office. In Ibadan, there is the overall Head of Chambers and a Deputy Head of Chambers. The Head of Chambers manages the Ibadan affairs but can take charge of all the offices in various branches. In terms of running the office, the various heads of offices in the various branches have the power to take cases, to be briefed, to charge fees and they also have their own accounts. Also, people can brief Chief Afe Babalola, SAN directly, may be from Abuja or Port-Harcourt or from Lagos and then he can assign any of the cases to either Abuja or Ibadan or Lagos or any other office. Very important cases are handled by Chief Afe Babalola personally or where he does not handle any of those important cases, he assigns it the Head of Chambers, Mr. Adebayo Adenipekun, S.A.N. who also travels to Lagos, Abuja or Port-Harcourt to assist the offices there where there are important cases.

In terms of remuneration every lawyer is placed on what is called an allowance every month. It is not regarded as salary as such because Chief Afe Babalola fervently believes that you cannot remunerate any lawyer adequately with salary. So they call it monthly allowance. However, at the end of every quarter, profit accruing to the Chambers is shared amongst all the staff.

Employment of lawyers into Emmanuel Chambers is done centrally in Ibadan and an employee is posted out to a branch office as the Chambers deems fit.

For instance, if there is a lawyer in Port-Harcourt area that wants employment in the chambers in Port-Harcourt, he will apply to the head office in Ibadan where he will be interviewed and then posted back to Port-Harcourt. Occasionally, the Chambers posts lawyers from one of

its offices to another branch, when they are short of staff or where they require more hands.

In addition, the Chambers may, for instance, ask a lawyer from Abuja office to report and resume in Ibadan office if the latter really needs that lawyer for a specific purpose especially if the lawyer is good in a specific area of the law on which cases are being handed in that office. For instance, the Chambers recently relocated two lawyers - one from Lagos, the other one from Abuja - to Ibadan branch because Ibadan needed their services because they are very good in election petition cases and there were many cases in Ibadan on election matters.

In terms of measuring performance of lawyers the Chambers does not have any particular format. The assessment is done when it is time to remunerate and this is carried out quarterly. Remuneration is based on the performances of the lawyers for the particular quarter under review for that purpose. Lawyers are grouped into categories.

In the process, a junior lawyer may earn more than a senior. Final take home package is performance-based. It depends on performance and not on year of call when it comes to the bonus because that is where you have the bulk of the money.

Invariably, occasions do arise where a lawyer in Emmanuel Chambers may earn N50,000.00 (Fifty thousand naira) as monthly allowance but at the end of a quarter go home with about N5million or more. There is no limit when it comes to the quarterly earning. Some lawyers take home as much as N50 million per annum. It is a classic case of profit sharing which is a rarity in law chambers administration in Nigeria, especially where it is not a partnership.

The Emmanuel Chambers owns its offices in Ibadan (the head office) and the structure housing the Abuja office. The Lagos office is situated in

a rented building whilst the Lagos permanent structure is under construction. The Port-Harcourt office is also in a rented building.

In choosing a lawyer as the Head of a branch office, the most important qualities the Chambers looks for are honesty, loyalty and commitment, and, of course, ability to work hard and for the progress and growth of the office.

Each branch office takes and handles its briefs and runs its separate bank account and pays its staff although the quarterly bulk payment of fees is done from the Head office in Ibadan. The branch office is also responsible for settling costs of running the office and the Head is the signatory to the bank account. Each office sends its account to the Head office in Ibadan quarterly.

As equally as the Emmanuel Chambers has high profile clients who pay hefty sums of money in foreign and local currency, the Chambers also handles numerous cases where it does not charge fees, on humanitarian grounds.

A typical day in Afe Babalola, SAN & Co starts at 7.30 am when the staff including lawyers are expected to resume in the office. There is a lunch break from 3.30 pm to 7.00 p.m when work resumes again. Then there is no official closing time of work. The volume of available work for a day dictates the closing time for that day and because of the heavy work-load in the chambers, on most days the office remains open till 11.00 pm and at times till 12.00 mid-night. This practice has become regimen. And Chief Afe Babalola himself is not left out of the practice. The thinking behind this practice and its adoption is the perception that the hours immediately after lunch are those in which the human brain is at its least productive.

With this practice, the Chambers opens on all the days of the week, including Saturdays and Sundays. It does not observe public holidays or other holidays. The only day in a year that the Chambers does not open for work is the Christmas day!

One other thing that Chief Afe Babalola does is that he encourages all the lawyers under him in the Chambers to do post graduate degrees. That is why the least qualified lawyers in his stable are those with Masters Degrees in Law, LL.M. If a lawyer joins the chambers with a first degree in Law, LL.B, he is encouraged and permitted to go for LL.M. and Chief Afe Babalola assists with payment for the programme and the lawyer involved continues to draw his monthly allowance from the office for the duration of the course.

In spite of its being stocked to the brim with law books, the Chambers continually buys books, Law books, Law Reports and Journals and other relevant books as are produced and come to the market. There is no hard and fast rule, no specific budget, about buying of books. All relevant books must be bought. There is therefore a huge investment on books. Chief Afe Babalola also has a full-stocked library at home.

With such an impressive and efficient running of Law Office it is no surprise that since inception of the Emmanuel Chambers Chief Afe Babalola has trained over 500 Lawyers, probably a record in the annals of legal practice in Nigeria.

After Chief Afe Babalola became a Senior Advocate of Nigeria in 1987, he developed and put in place a practice of backing and promoting junior counsel under him to attain the same honour. In the process the Chambers has produced 8 Senior Advocates of Nigeria, again a record in Nigeria. In addition the Chambers has also produced several Judges (including 2 that became Chief Judges) and several Attorneys - Generals both at the Federal and State levels. He is counsel to several multinational companies,

including Shell Petroleum, Mobil Oil Producing, Pan Ocean Oil, Glo Mobile, etc as well as Banks and Financial Institutions such as the World Bank, Union Bank of Nigeria Plc, First Bank of Nigeria Plc, Intercontinental Bank Plc, Skye Bank, etc

It comes as no surprise that Afe Babalola & Co (Emmanuel Chambers) has handled thousands and thousands of cases (both National and International including municipal and international arbitration cases) and in the process contributed immensely to the development and advancement of the corpus of Nigerian jurisprudence through case law. It goes without saying that he wins most, if not all of the cases that he handles.

Some of the notable cases reported (most have been reported in Law Reports) and unreported are as follows:

A. Cases in which Chief Afe Babalola was counsel to the President and/or the Federal Government of Nigeria:

- (1) Falae v. Obasanjo;
- (2) Egolum v. Obasanjo;
- (3) Buhari v. Obasanjo;
- (4) M.D. Yusuf v. Obasanjo;
- (5) Ojukwu v. Obasanjo;
- (6) Rimi v. Obasanjo;
- (7) N.L.C. v. Federal Government
- (8) Governor of Lagos State v. Attorney- General of the Federation – In Re constitutionality of ICPC.
- (9) Federal Government of Nigeria v. Adams Oshiomhole – Action to stop NLC from embarking on strike to protest fuel increase.

- (10) *A.G. Lagos v. A.G., Federation* – Action by Lagos State Government to compel Federal Government to release the withheld local government funds.
- (11) *APGA v. President of Nigeria* – Action by APGA to set aside the Electoral Act of 2002 and the election conducted under the Act.
- (12) *Gani Fawehinmi v. President of Nigeria* – Action by Gani Fawehinmi against the Federal Government on State of Emergency in Plateau State.
- (13) *Plateau State Government v. Attorney General of the Federation* – Action filed on the State of Emergency declared in Plateau State by the Federal Government.
- (14) *Gani Fawehinmi v. President of Nigeria & Ors.* – Suit against the launching of the Presidential Library in Otta by Chief Gani Fawehinmi.

B. Other Notable and Celebrated Cases include:

- (1) The Basorun Abiola and Are Ona Kakanfo case.
- (2) Counsel to Chief M.K.O. Abiola on the Presidential Election nullification.
- (3) *Oduote Bookstores v. Union Bank of Nigeria* on foreign exchange transaction.
- (4) *Adegoke Motors v. Savannah Bank Ltd.* on foreign exchange transaction.
- (5) *Odu'a Group of Companies v. Cocoa Board* in 1985
- (6) *The Alaafin of Oyo v. Oni of Ife Chieftaincy* tussle.
- (7) Odua cases for which the Military Administrators of Ekiti, Ondo, Ogun, Osun and Oyo publicly acknowledged his achievements. In *Re National Bank* matter.

- (8) Ife v. Modakeke boundary dispute.
- (9) Erin-Ile v. Offa Boundary Dispute
- (10) Andu Engineering Services Ltd. v. Water Corporation of Oyo State & Ors. – Arbitration in France and London.
- (11) Klifco v. NNPC where he saved the NNPC of over N4billion Naira claim.
- (12) Motophone Ltd. v. NCC where he successfully prevented Motophone from stopping the bidding for GSM Frequency Auction.
- (13) Great Nigeria Insurance Company v. Saville & Ors – This is a case where he succeeded in recovering the property belonging to GNIC in London which was sold fraudulently by its Estate Agent/Solicitors.
- (14) Isaac Monokpo v. Mobil Producing Nig. Unltd. – a multibillion Naira case against Mobil on oil spillage and environmental pollution.
- (15) Counsel to Chief M.K. o. Abiola on the Presidential election nullification; .
- (16) Andu Engineering Services Ltd. v. Water Corporation of Oyo State & Ors. (International Arbitration- in London and France)
- (17) Counsel to M.L. LEE Group of Companies with headquarters in Hong Kong.

C. Recent Reported Cases include:

- Prof. C.A. Onwumehili & 1 or. V. Moses Olajobi Akintemi & 2 ors. (1985) 3 NWLR (Pt. 13) 504
- Ojo v. Abogunrin (1989) 5 NWLR (Pt. 120) 162
- Alao v. Ajani (1989) 4 NWLR (Pt. 113) 5
- 7up Bottling Co. v. Abiola & Sons Ltd. (Pt. 114) 229
- Fed. Mi. Govt. v. Sanni (No. 1) (1989) 4 NWLR (Pt. 117) 611

- Yusuf v. Dada (1990) 4 NWLR (Pt. 146) 657
- FMG v. Sani (1990) 4 NWLR (Pt. 147) 688
- Afolabi v. Gov. of Oyo State (1985) 2 NWLR (Pt.9) 734
- Ex-parte Olakunrin (1985) 1 NWLR (Pt. 4) 652
- Akintemi v. Onwumechili (1985) 1 NWLR (Pt. 1) 68
- Wahabi Maberu v. Chief Oyeniya Alabi & 2 ors. (1987) 2 NWLR (Pt. 555) 101
- Haruna v. Modibbo (2004) 16 NWLR (Pt. 900) 487
- Adecentro (Nig.) Ltd. v. OAU (2005) 15 NWLR (Pt. 948) 291
- Afro Cont. Nig. Ltd. v. Ayantuyi (1991) 3 NWLR (Pt. 178) 211
- Tewogbade v. Mil. Governor of Oyo State & 2 ors. (1991) 2 NWLR (Pt. 171) 52
- FCMB v. Abiola & Sons Ltd. (1991) 1 NWLR (Pt. 165) 14
- Ijebu-ode L.G v. Adedeji Balogun & Co. (1991) 1 NWLR (Pt. 166) 136
- Salami v. Gibodoolu (1990) 3 NWLR (Pt. 141) 765
- Timlbury Const. v. Ogunniyi (1988) 2 NWLR (Pt. 74) 64
- Union Beverages v. Owolabi (1988) 1 NWLR (Pt. 68) 128
- Olatunbosun v. NISER (1986) 3 NWLR (Pt. 29) 435
- Interland Transport Ltd. v. Adediran (1986) 2 NWLR (Pt. 20) 78
- Ibrahim v. State (1986) 1 NWLR (Pt. 18) 650
- Balogun v. Amubikanhun (1985) 3 NWLR (Pt. 11) 27
- Samuel Kolapo & 1 or. V. Chief T.O. Alade (1985) 3 NWLR (Pt. 12) 352
- Oba Jacob Oyeyipo & 1 or. V. Chief J.O. Oyinloye (1987) 1 NWLR (Pt. 50) 356
- Sapara v. U.C.H. Board (1988) 4 NWLR (Pt. 86) 58

- Mohammed Oladapo Ojengbede v. M.O. Esan (Loja Oke) & 1 or. (1987) 4 NWLR (Pt. 63) 49
- Sunday Madagwa v. The State (1987) 4 NWLR (Pt. 64) 172
- Adeyeye v. Ajoboye (1987) 3 NWLR (Pt. 576) 432
- Fasoro v. Abdullahi (1987) 3 NWLR (Pt. 59) 134
- Ogunleye v. State (1991) 3 NWLR (Pt. 177) 1
- Osibamowo v. Osibamowo (1991) 3 NWLR (Pt. 177) 85
- Nigeria National Supply Ltd. v. Agricon Incorporation (1991) 3 NWLR (Pt. 177) 109
- Olaseyinde v. ACB Ltd. (1990) 7 NWLR (Pt. 161) 180
- Aromolaran v. Oladele (1990) 7 NWLR (Pt. 162) 359
- Adio v. A.G. Oyo State (1990) 7 NWLR (Pt. 163) 448
- Aladetoyinbo v. Adewumi (1990) 6 NWLR (Pt. 154) 98
- Nigerian National Supply Ltd v. Establishment Sima of Vaduz (1990) 7 NWLR (Pt.164) 126
- Adeagbo v. Yusuf (1990) 6 NWLR (Pt. 158) 588
- 7 Up Bottling Co. Ltd v. Abiola & Sons Co Ltd (1992)1 NWLR (Pt. 215) 21
- Adediran v. Interland Transport Ltd (1991)9 NWLR (Pt. 214) 155
- NCC Ltd v. SCOA Ltd (1991)7 NWLR (Pt. 201) 80
- Titiloye v. Olupo (1991) 7 NWLR (Pt. 205) 519
- University of Ibadan v. Adetoro (1991)4 NWLR (Pt. 185) 375
- Sunmonu v. Oladokun (1991) 4 NWLR (Pt. 186) 502
- Bhojavani v. Bhojavani (1995) 7 NWLR (Pt. 401) 349
- Adedayo v. Babalola (1995)7 NLR (Pt. 408) 383
- Ayua v. Adasu (1992) 3 NWLR (Pt. 231) 598
- Balogun v. Amubikahun (1989) 3 NWLR (Pt. 107) 18
- Makanjuola v. Balogun (1989)3 NWLR (Pt. 108) 192
- Soleh Boneh (Nig) Ltd v. Ayodele (1989)1 NWLR (Pt. 99) 549

- Ayua v. Adasu (1992) 3 NWLR (Pt. 231) 605
- Nipol Ltd v. Bioku Invest. & Pro. Co. Ltd (1992) 3 NWLR (Pt. 232) 727
- Secretary Iwo L.G v. Adegun (1992) 6 NWLR (Pt. 250) 735
- Doukpolagha v. George (1992) 4 NWLR (Pt. 236) 453
- Udofia v. C.A.C (1992) 5 NWLR (Pt. 242) 386
- Mil. Adm., Kwara State v. Lafiagi (1998) 7 NWLR (Pt. 557) 206
- Macron Service Ltd v. Afro Continental Ltd (1995)2 NWLR (Pt. 376) 202
- Adeleke v. Iyanda (1994) 9 NWLR (Pt. 360) 119
- Adepoju v. Afonja (1994)8 NWLR (Pt. 362) 415
- UBN v. Odusote Bookstores Ltd (1994) 3 NWLR (Pt. 331) P. 136
- NNSC v. Agricor Incorp. (1994)3 NWLR (Pt. 332) 329
- Gowon v. Ike Okongwu (1994) 2 NWLR (Pt. 326) 355
- Kolawole v. A.G Oyo State (2006) 3 NWLR (Pt. 966) 50
- Awaye Motors Co. Ltd v. Adewumi (1993) 5 NWLR (Pt. 292) 239
- Ajao v. Adigun (1993)3 NWLR (Pt. 282) 393
- Nahman v. Wolowicz (1993) 3 NWLR (Pt. 282) 451
- Layinka v. Gegede (1993) 3 NWLR (Pt. 282) 523
- Olanrewaju v. Gov of Oyo State (1992)9 NWLR (Pt. 265) 352
- Awofolaju v. Adedoyin (1992) 8 NWLR (Pt. 260) 498
- Unipress Ltd v. Akinluyi (1992)8 NWLR (Pt. 262) 743
- 7Up Bottling Co. Ltd v. Abiola & Sons Ltd (1995) 3 NWLR (Pt. 383) 273
- Lipede v. Sonekan (1995) 1 NWLR (Pt. 374) 682
- Governor of Benue State v. Nigerian Construction Consortium Ltd (1997)3 NWLR (Pt. 495) 610
- Abiola v. F.R.N (1997) 2 NWLR (Pt. 488) 439

- Koya v. UBA Ltd (1997)1 NWLR (Pt. 481) 251
- Onigbede v. Balogun (1998) 1 NWLR (Pt. 535) 643
- Onigbede v. Balogun (1998) 4 NWLR (Pt. 545) 281
- Oyelami v. Military Administrator Osun State (1998) 4 NWLR (Pt. 547) 624
- Adedayo v. Babalola (1995) 7 NWLR (Pt. 408) 383
- Ayisa v. Akanji (1995) 7 NWLR (Pt. 406) 129
- Jallco Ltd v. Owoniboys Tech Service Ltd (1995) 4 NWLR (Pt. 391) 534
- Adigun v. Governor of Osun State (1995) 3 NWLR (Pt. 385) 513
- Peter v. Asamu (1995) 4 NWLR (Pt. 388) 206
- 7 Up Bottling Co. Ltd v. Abiola & Sons Ltd (1995) 3 NWLR (Pt. 838) 257
- Akinrinmade v. Lawal (1996) 2 NWLR (Pt. 429) 218
- Ololakasun v. Governor of Kwara State (1996) 1 NWLR (Pt. 425) 453
- Adefulu v. Okulaja (1996) 9 NWLR (Pt. 475) 668
- Sunmonu v. Oladokun (1996) 8 NWLR (Pt. 467) 387
- Road Transport Employers Association v. National Union of Road Transport Workers (1996) 8 NWLR (Pt. 469) 737
- Musari v. Ogunfodunrin (1996) 9 NWLR (Pt. 470) 1
- Bello v. Otolorin (1996) 9 NWLR (Pt. 470) 49
- Afro Continental Nig Ltd v. Ayantuyi (1995) 9 NWLR (Pt. 420) 411
- UBN Ltd v. Odusote Bookstores Ltd (1995) 9 NWLR (Pt. 421) 588
- Adeyeri II v. Atanda (1995) 5 NWLR (Pt. 397) 513
- Jokunola v. Mil Gov. Of Oyo State (1996) 5 NWLR (Pt. 446) 1
- Ayankoya v. Olukoya (1996) 4 NWLR (Pt. 440) 1

- Runsewe v. Odutola (1996) 4 NWLR (Pt. 441) 143
- Olumesan v. Ogundepo (1996) 2 NWLR (Pt. 433) 629
- Adepetu v. State (1996) 6 NWLR (Pt. 452) 90
- Ajisefini v. DPP (1998) (Pt. 562) 477
- Owena Bank (Nig) Plc v. OBC Ltd (1998) 9 NWLR (Pt. 564) 129
- Tejuoso v. Omojowogbe (1998) 7 NWLR (Pt. 559) 632
- Adedoyin v. Sonuga (1999) 13 NWLR (Pt. 635) 355
- W.A.A.E Co Ltd v. Akinsete (1999) 13 NWLR (Pt. 636) 600
- Olanloye v. Fatunbi (1999) 8 NWLR (Pt. 614) 203
- Sowemimo v. Awobayo (1999) 7 NWLR (Pt. 610) 355
- Egolum v. Obasanjo (1999) 7 NWLR (Pt. 611) 355
- Egolum v. Obasanjo (1999) 7 NWLR (Pt. 611) 423
- Doma v. Adamu (1999) 4 NWLR (Pt. 598) 311
- Falae v. Obasanjo (1999) 4 NWLR (Pt. 598) 435
- Falae v. Obasanjo (No. 2) (1999) 4 NWLR (Pt. 599) 476
- Oshodi v. Eyifunmi (2000) 13 (Pt. 684) 298
- Akande v. Alagbe (2000) 15 NWLR (Pt. 690) 353
- N.S Eng Co Ltd v. O.S.M Ltd (2000) 3 NWLR (Pt. 649) 349
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- Adisa v. Oyinwola (2000) 10 NWLR (Pt. 674) 116
- Nigerian Bottling Co. Plc v. Osofisan (2000) 10 NWLR (Pt. 675) 370
- Adeleke v. Iyanda (2001) 13 NWLR (Pt. 729) 1
- Khawani v. Akinkugbe (2001) 13 NWLR (Pt. 729) 70
- Ololo v. Nigerian Agip Oil Co Ltd (2001) 13 NWLR (Pt. 729) 88
- 7Up Bottling Co v. Abiola & Sons (2001) 13 NWLR (Pt. 730) 469
- Lawal v. Oke (2001) 7 NWLR (Pt. 711) 88
- Abubakar v. A.G Federation (2007) 3 NWLR (Pt. 1022) 601

- Omotunde v. Omotunde (2001) 9 NWLR (Pt. 718) 252
- Ogunsina v. Matanmi (2001) 9 NWLR (Pt. 718) 290
- Ojengbede v. Esan (2001) 18 NWLR (Pt. 746) 771
- Odonigi v. Oyeleke (Pt. 708) 12
- Ewuoso v. Fagbemi (2002) 7 NWLR (Pt. 767) 564
- P.D.P v. Abubakar (2007) 3 NWLR (Pt. 1022) 515

Chief Afe Babalola, SAN is a very busy man by any standard. His imprimatur is in every single case handled by Emmanuel Chambers. He personally leads other counsel in most of the cases. The ones that he does not appear in directly in court, he directs the preparation in the chambers. So a typical day for him starts at 7.30 am when he resumes in the office. At 3.30pm he closes to observe his lunch and siester. By 7pm, he is back in the office and works till mid-night. This work regime includes Saturdays and Sundays. This ritual has been followed strictly since the inception of Emmanuel Chambers in 1964. Indeed the only day that the Chambers does not open for work in a given year is the Christmas day. This has become legend.

Chief Afe Babalola exerts the best from those that work for him because he leads by example. He cherishes, appreciates and rewards hardwork and loyalty as equally as he detests laziness. It is little wonder that he commands loyalty from those who work closely with him. **Mr. Isiaka Iyadunni** has been with Chief Afe Babalola since 1989. He is his Personal Assistant and there is no one who knows Chief Afe Babalola closely that does not know Isiaka or Chief Afe Babalola's famous refrain from his office whenever he needs something. In a given day, he shouts "Isiaka!" more than a hundred times.

Mr. Adebayo Adenipekun, S.A.N has worked with Chief Afe Babalola since 1990 and he is a trusted and loyal lieutenant and Head of Emmanuel Chambers. The above-named duo, like all the rest of the staff of Emmanuel Chambers have continuously benefitted from the milk of Chief Afe Babalola's kindness. They can boast of their personal achievements and the resources that they have been able to amass through Chief Afe Babalola.



AUTHOR

Publications

Another major area in which Chief Afe Babalola has contributed in no mean measure to the enrichment of Law and legal practice in Nigeria is in the area of writing. In the last few years, he has published 4 major Law books which have become legal authorities and reference sources for the subjects they deal with. These are:

(a) **Injunction's and Enforcement of Orders**

It is acknowledged that there is no remedy in our judicial system that has more potency in advancing the cause of Justice than the equitable remedy of injunction. An order of injunction protects rights and prevents wrongs. Since the essence of justice itself is enshrined in the cause of right and wrong, it is no gain-saying that Chief Afe Babalola's book titled

INJUNCTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT OF ORDERS occupies a special place in our corpus juris.

The book comprises of seventeen chapters with indepth topics on principles relating to injunction.

Chapter 1 is the introductory chapter. It has four sub topics on general definitions of Injunction, Doctrine at basis and nature of injunction, types of injunctions and interim and interlocutory injunctions.

Chapter 2 is on ex - parte injunctions. The chapter has sub -topics which cover abuse or misuse of ex parte interim injunction, application for interim injunction ex-parte. Procedure, hearing, the legal position of the opposite party in an ex parte injunction, discharge of ex-parte injunction, when the court will dissolve ex-parte injunction, discharge of injunction made by a different Judge, application for discharge of order of injunction by a non-barty, under taking as to damages, forms of undertakings, undertaking in affidavit, when undertaking may not be adequate, enquiry as to damages, ex-parte order of injunction by a Court of Appeal, interim orders when opponent is in court, granting of order of injunction where there is been a challenge to the jurisdiction of the Court, when a party may not carry out an injunctive order and summary.

The sensitive and important nature of an ex-parte injunction as shown on page 6 of the book was drawn from the case of *Kigo v. Holman* where Idigbe JSC, held inter alia, as follows. "It is my firm view that the court from which an appeal lies as well as the court to which an appeal lies have a duty to preserve the res for the purpose of ensuring that the appeal, if successful, is not nugatory."

Chapter 3 focuses on interlocutory injunctions. The chapter assesses the erstwhile problems and conflicting principles adopted by the courts in deciding whether to grant or refuse an interim or interlocutory

injunction. It traces the principles to 1975 when the conflicts were resolved in the English case of *American Cyanamid Company v. Ethicon Ltd* (1975) A. C. 396, which was subsequently adopted by the Supreme Court of Nigeria in the earlier cases of *Obeya Memorial Hospital v. A-G, Federation* and *Kotoye v. Central Bank of Nigeria* (1989) 1 NWLR (Pt.98) 419

The chapter covers a wide range of sub topics which include modern practice, serious questions to be tried, inadequacy of damages, balance of convenience, *status quo ante bellum*, undertaking in lieu of injunction, order for speedy trial in lieu of interlocutory injunction, practice and procedure, service of motion, service outside jurisdiction, options open to defendant respondent after service on him of motion on notice and ex-parte order of interim injunction. Under the latter, there are ten sub-sub topics such as discharge of exparte order, preliminary objection to the suit on the different grounds. Other sub topics are instance of abuse of court process, contempt of court, counter affidavit by defendant, plaintiff's further affidavit, documents, exhibits and annexures, hearing oral applications and tendering of documents in open court, confidential information, injunction in favour of a defendant, injunction against third party and absent parties, intention not to commit the alleged wrongful act, violation of an agreement, injunction against banks and companies and summary.

Chapter Five is on mareva injunctions. The author adopts the explanation of the basis of mareva injunction as aptly stated by Golf, J in the case of *A v C* (1980) 2 All E.R.347 at 351, on page 103 of the Book as follows:

"The principle underlying the jurisdiction is the prevention of an abuse, the abuse of a foreign resident causing assets to be removed from jurisdiction in order to avoid the risk of having to satisfy any judgment which

may be entered against him pending proceedings in this country”

The chapter has 21 sub topics, which cover the historical evolution of the mareva injunction, reception of the mareva injunction in Nigeria, jurisdictional basis of the mareva injunction in Nigeria, nature and scope of mareva injunction, when to apply for mareva injunction, action within jurisdiction, arguable case, interlocutory and mareva injunction compared, assets within jurisdiction and reasons for relief, belief that the defendant is likely to dispose of his assets, inter-parte hearing, importance of mareva injunction, discharge of mareva order, variation of order, rights of third party in property attached, conclusion and summary

Chapter six is on Anton Piller injunctions. As pointed out on page 130 – 132 of the book, this specie of injunction is named after the leading case of *Anton Piller KG v. Manufacturing Processes Ltd* (1976) where LORD DENNING M.R. stated the basis of the injunction thus:

“ During the last 18 months, the judges of the Chancery Division have been making orders of a kind not known before. They have same resemblance of search warrants. Under these orders, the plaintiff and his solicitor’s are authorized to enter the defendant’s premises so as to inspect papers, provided the defendant gives permission. Now this is the important point, the court orders the defendant to give them permission. The judges have been making these orders on ex-parte applications without prior notice to the defendant.”

Thus, as explained by Chief Afe Babalola, on page 132 of the book, *“The Anton Piller injunction is merely an order commanding the defendant to accord the plaintiff permission to inspect his premises breach of which would be a contempt of court.”*

The Chapter has nine sub topics, which are: introduction, the development and scope of the anton piller injunction, reception of the anton piller injunction in Nigeria, conditions for grant of orders, unnamed defendant being amenable to anton piller injunction, checking abuse of anton piller order, discharge or variation, procedure for applying for the grant of anton piller order and execution of same and conclusion.

Chapter Seven deals with on perpetual injunctions, which are aimed at protecting established rights. As explained by the author, "it is a post trial of the case on the merits except when the parties have consented to the court granting a perpetual injunction by way of consent judgment" The Chapter has five sub topics, which cover definitions, procedure, practice, bars to the grant of perpetual injunction and summary.

Chapter Eight dwells on arbitration and injunction. It makes copious references to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, Cap 19, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 1990 and salient cases.

Chapter Nine is on Chieftaincy disputes. Chief Afe Babalola on pages 160-171 of the book discusses salient issues relating to Chieftaincy matters. These are discussed under a five sub topics of vacant stool, injunction to restrain the filling of a vacant stool while a suit is pending, whether injunction will be granted where there is an incumbent on a Chieftaincy stools, and, whether and injunction will be granted to restrain deposition of a chie, .

Chapter Ten discuss injunction in defamation actions. The Chapter has four sub topics on principles governing the grant of injunctions in defamation suits, reluctance to of courts grant injunction, when interlocutory injunction will be granted and summary.

Chapter Eleven focuses Tribunals of Enquiry. It has three sub topics on procedure for obtaining order of injunction against Tribunals of Inquiry, ouster of order of injunction and summary.

Chapter Twelve treats injunction in land disputes, no doubt land disputes are active area of litigation in Nigeria. The relevant areas covered in the book under its three sub topics are declaratory orders and injunction, trespass and injunction and summary.

Chapter Thirteen is on injunctions in matrimonial matters. The importance of injunction in matrimonial matters, as pointed out on page 193 of the book, is underscored by the provision of section 109 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1970, which states as follows:

“ A court exercising jurisdiction under this Decree may grant an injunction, by interlocutory or otherwise (including an injunction in aid of the enforcement of a Decree) in any case in which it appears to the court to be just or convenient to do so and either unconditionally or upon such terms and conditions as the court thinks fit.”

The Chapter is spread over six sub topics, which are: examples of injunction in matrimonial matters, injunction for the protection of children, non- molestation injunction against spouse, application for injunction – when to be made, the limit of order of injunction and summary.

Chapter Fourteen discusses injunction to enforce of contracts. The Chapter, on page 202 of the book, brings into limelight the principles upon which an injunction can be granted in contract cases as laid down in the case of *Doherty v. Allman* (1878) 3 App Cas. 719 where Lord Cairns, L.C. held thus:

“If there had been a negative covenant, I apprehend, according to well-settled practice, a court of Equity would have no discretion to exercise. If parties, for valuable consideration with their eyes open contract that a particular thing shall not be done shall lose all that a court of Equity has to do is to say, by way of injunction that which the parties have already said by way of covenant, that the thing shall not be done, and in such a case the injunction does nothing more than give the sanction of the process of the court to that which is already the contract between the parties. It is not then a question of the balance of convenience or the amount of damage or injury. It is the specific performance, by the court of that negative bargain which the parties have made, with their eyes open, between themselves.”

The Chapter is spread over 24 pages of 6 sub topics, which cover negative covenant, breach of confidence, injunction against dismissal, summary, instances when injunction will not be granted to restrain breaches of a covenant in a contract and relevant considerations in granting or refusing an injunction against dismissal.

Chapter Fifteen succinctly discusses injunction in constitutional matter.

Chapter Sixteen is deals with injunction pending appeal. Injunctions pending appeal belongs to the class of injunction granted after the conclusion of an action or after the delivery of a ruling. The chapter has nine sub topics, which cover 20 pages. The sub topics are: introduction, distinction between interlocutory injunction pending appeal, right of appeal in ex-parte orders, right of appeal against orders of injunction, procedure governing application for injunction pending appeal.

application to the court against whose judgment or ruling an applicant has appealed, the Court of appeal, principles governing grant of application for injunction pending appeal, summary and case review.

Chapter Seventeen dwells on enforcement of orders of injunction. This is the last chapter of the book. It spreads over 28 pages with 25 sub topics. The sub topics are: introduction, modes of enforcing court's judgment, order to be obeyed until set aside, law and practice relating to enforcement of from 48 on orders of injunction, service of the order of injunction, ex-parte order, endorsement of the order of form 48 (1st stage) , personal service (2nd stage), service on companies, service of form 49 (3rd stage) terms of the order, options available to the respondent, whether the defendant must obey the order of injunction, the plaintiff's motion for committal, hearing of the application for committal, standard of proof, declaratory orders, enforcing undertaking by counsel, enforcing order of injunction against companies, procedure for application for writ of sequestration, discontinuance of contempt proceedings and summary.

There is no doubt that this chapter is invaluable. it is a guide to legal practitioners on how to reap the fruit of judgement(s) after a laborious litigation.

The book also contains 42 notable cases on injunction. There are also 12 cases in which Chief Afe Babalola, SAN participated actively as counsel.

Precedents on the filing of applications for injunctions are contained on pages 477 to 555. There are 36 Forms in all.

The Book ends with an index which provides an easy guide and acts as a pointer to relevant topics and cases.

Indisputably, this is a practice book like none other on Injunctions and enforcement of judgment and it is well recommended by notable Jurists.

In the words of Hon Justice Muhammadu Lawal Uwais, former Chief Justice of Nigeria:

“ Perhaps no other book in Nigeria has covered the subject with such breadth and depth as this book has done. This book, a worthy contribution to legal knowledge and literature, will indeed, enrich the jurisprudence of injunction. It will go a long way to enhance the quality of our legal system and be of tremendous assistance to judges and Practitioners alike. Its contents reflect the author’s undoubted learning and attention to details”.

(b) Enforcement of Judgments

The underlining importance of this book was aptly stated by its author, Chief Afe Babalola, SAN himself. He said:

“It is the prayer, the hope and the wish of every litigant to win his case but in fact his interest is more than paper judgement. The ultimate goal to translate the judgement into reality. Indeed, nothing gives the victorious litigant more satisfaction than the realization of the fruit of his judgement...”

The lawyer is also interested in the realization of the fruits of his judgement partly because of the joy of completing a case to finality and perhaps more importantly because of the material reward.”

The book comprises of 14 chapters with various topics on how to enforce judgments, awards and orders made by the court.

The first chapter, headed "Enforcement of Judgment" defines "Judgement or "Order" and classifies enforceable and unenforceable Judgements. It also explains the method or procedure to enforce them by making copious references to various sections of the Sheriffs and Civil Process Act, and the Judgement (Enforcement) Rules. The chapter is divided into four parts, which cover Introduction, Judgements, Enforceable Judgements and Unenforceable Judgements.

Chapter two is devoted to Sheriffs and Bailiffs, their appointments, duties, and powers. It also discusses the immunity of Sheriffs and Bailiffs in ensuring the performance of their duties. It then deals with the legal consequences of *ultra vires* actions and supports it with decided legal authorities; and the special proprietary right of the sheriff in the goods and sales which vests the right of action in trespass or conversion in the Sheriff against a person taking such property out of the Sheriff's custody.

The Chapter is headed "Sheriffs and Bailiffs" and is divided into ten sub topics which are:- Powers, duties and liabilities of sheriffs, deputy sheriffs and bailiffs, duties and liabilities in relation to execution of judgments, whose agents is the sheriff when executing judgment of court? Sheriffs' liability in execution of writs, right of entry in the execution process, property in goods seized, sale of property by Sheriff or Bailiff, duty of Bailiff, duty of bailiff to file a return, effect of application for stay of execution on the execution of judgment by the Sheriffs and other court officials, and remedies for interference with the Sheriff's duty.

Chapter three is on execution against movable properties. The subject is discussed under eight sub topics which are: distinction between movable and immovable properties, procedure for execution, custody of properties seized, filing of return of execution by bailiff, setting aside of sale, claims in respect of property seized and sheriff interpleader summons.

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Chapter four focuses on execution against immovable properties. It is divided into five sub topics: procedure for attaching an immovable property; when an immovable property be can sold; when execution will be regarded as irregular; when execution will be regarded as done wrongfully and effect of notice and advertisement on right of sale.

Chapter five covers discussion on interpleader summons. It explains the concept of interpleader summons and how it arises in a situation in which a person from whom two or more persons claim the same property or debt seeks to protect himself from legal action by calling upon the claimants to lay claim against each other so that the title to the property or debt may be decided once and for all.

Chapter six deals with Judgment summons. It discusses the means of enforcing judgment for payment of money against a judgement debtor who fails to pay the debt by committing him to prison for his default. The procedure for Judgment summons spreads across nine pages of the book.

Chapter seven is on Garnishee proceedings. It has thirteen sub topics, which are: procedure to be adopted in garnishee proceedings, motion ex-parte for garnishee order nisi, proceedings after service of order the right of garnishee who denies liability, debt which may be subject to garnishee proceedings, the requirement of consent in certain cases, history of petition of right, the implication of section 84 of the Sheriffs and Civil Process Act in garnishee proceeding, the unconstitutionality of section 84 of the Sheriffs and Civil Process act, setting aside of order absolute and service of process in garnishee proceedings, appeals in garnishee proceedings and summary of practical steps to be taken in garnishee proceedings.

Chapter eight discusses Enforcement of judgments for possession of land. It has eight sub topics covering writ of possession, stay of writ of

possession, execution against third party in possession who was not party to the action, order of committal, writ of sequestration, recovery of premises, jurisdiction and statutory notices and process of recovery of possession by ejection.

Chapter nine concentrates on Enforcement of mortgages. It has even sub topics containing nature of mortgages, mortgage and bequest, power of attorney and mortgaged property, creation of mortgages, creation of legal mortgages, creation of equitable mortgages, redemption of mortgages, discharge of mortgages, enforcement of mortgage security, power of sale, sale by auction, enforcement of equitable mortgage, mortgage by companies, creation of debenture and appointment of receiver.

Chapter ten is headed "Enforcement of Judgment against companies – remedy of winding - up". It comprises of four sub topics namely enforcement of judgments against companies, winding up, procedure for winding up and effect of a winding up order.

Chapter eleven treats "*Receivership*" which is geared towards enhancing good management of distressed company under statutory and express powers in the document creating the lender's or creditor's security leading to enforcement through receivership by the company. Under its seven sub topics, it discusses issues such as: who is a receiver, how and when a receiver may be appointed, fixed and floating charges, crystallizing of a charge, power of a receiver and the duties of a receiver.

Chapter twelve exhaustively discusses stay of execution. It covers forty-four pages of the book with twenty sub topics. These are: introduction, the jurisdiction of court to grant a stay of execution, purpose of stay of execution, what is the res to be protected by an application for stay of execution, the nature of status quo to be maintained, judgment or order that may be subject to an order of stay of execution, principle guiding grant of stay of execution, what is a special circumstance for grant of

stay of execution Procedure for making an application for stay of execution, when application can be made directly to court of appeal, time for filing application for stay, competent appeal before application for stay is filed, application for stay of execution and contempt, the implication of an appeal and a motion for stay of execution, conditions for stay of execution, effect of order staying execution of judgment , stay of order of interim or interlocutory injunction pending appeal, stay of execution of money judgment, stay of execution in land matters and stay of execution in chieftaincy matters.

Chapter thirteen extensively treats enforcement of judgments and orders in admiralty matters. It spreads across twenty-five pages with eighteen sub topics on execution against ships, arrest of ships in enforcement of judgments, arrest of ships in an action in *rem* distinguished, relevant laws relating to the arrest of ship or other *res*, what is a ship, stage in proceedings when arrests may be made, jurisdiction, exercise of the right of arrest, meaning of “relevant persons” claims in respect of which a ship or other *res* may be arrested, arrest procedure, effect of arrest, effect of wrongful arrest, procedure for the release of ship under arrest, caveats, release of a ship from arrest and security for cost by plaintiff.

Chapter fourteen is on Enforcement of awards. It is contained in over one hundred and ninety six pages with eleven sub topics, which cover preliminary matters, formal requirements of an award, the enforcement process, recognition and enforcement of an award, possible grounds for refusal of recognition and enforcement of an award, procedure for enforcement, jurisdictional question, grounds for setting aside of an award and procedure for setting aside.

The book also contains seventy-three notable reported cases on enforcement of judgments and three notable unreported judgments.

Two essays titled: "Execution of judgments against Government : Report of a committee appointed by the Body of Senior Advocates"; and "Execution of Judgments Against Government – Comments on Report of a Committee appointed by the Body of Senior Advocates on the above headed Context: A contrary view by Afe Babalola" are also published in the book.

The book has been widely accepted as a "must have" for all lawyers and legal researchers.

Commenting on the book, that jurist of immense repute, Hon. Justice Moronkeji Omotayo Onalaja, J. C. A. (Rtd) enthused:

"This is the first book in Nigerian Jurisprudence to exhaustively deal with this subject. It fills a great and deep gully in the uncharted area of Enforcement of Judgements in Nigeria. This book has, in its 14 Chapters, brilliantly examined the ways in which a successful litigant can pluck and reap the fruits of judgement The chapter on garnishee Proceedings has opened up a new field and vista in Nigerian Judicial System for which the author deserves commendation The book has enriched our Jurisprudence like the contribution of JUSTINIAN, to ROMAN LAW, the contribution of GROTIUS to INTERNATIONAL LAW.

(c) Election Law and Practice in Nigeria

It is no gain-saying that the importance of this book cannot be overemphasied. It has ten chapters contained in its main 606 pages.

The first chapter deals with historical evolution of electoral system in Nigeria. The second chapter deals with Comparative Analysis of Elec-

toral Laws in Nigeria both before independence and post independence period. Chapters Three to Ten deal with Jurisdiction in Election Matters; Preparation for Election; Political Parties; Qualification and disqualification of Candidates; Conduct of Elections; Petitions; Trial of Election Petition; Non-compliance and electoral malpractices; Appeals and reliefs in election petitions.

The last 260 pages of the book contain Notable cases, The Electoral Act 2002 and a General index. The book is essentially a tool for any legal practitioner involved in election petitions.

(d) Law and Practice of Evidence in Nigeria

This book is a compilation of detailed well-written articles by Chief Afe Babalola and 16 Specialist contributors.

The eighteen Chapters of the book cover all the field's of the law of evidence. The titles of the chapters are: Definition, Nature, Scope, Classification; Relevancy and Admissibility; Res gestae; Admissions and confessions; Hearsay evidence, similar facts evidence, Character evidence, Opinion evidence; Law and practice in Nigeria, Privileged documentary evidence; Affidavits electronically generated evidence; Burden and standard of proof; Estoppel; Presumptions; Competence and compellability of Witness; Witnesses; Corroboration.

Chief Afe Babalola has also written a book titled: **“University Administration in Nigeria”**.

This is a book presented to the Committee of Pro-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities in 2005. The National University Commission has since printed the book for circulation amongst all University Administrators in the country.

In addition Chief Afe Babalola has edited some other books and authored over 120 (one hundred and twenty) articles, speeches and keynote addresses on diverse subjects of National importance and relevance at National and International fora and conferences. Some of these have been published in leading Law and other journals and newspapers. Most of them have not been published. The more important ones are published as Volume II of this book.

The books, *Election Law and Practice* and *Enforcement of Judgments* were launched and presented to the public together at a well - organised and well attended ceremony at the Women Development Centre in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory on Thursday, March 6, 2003. The Chairman at the occasion was the Governor of Nasarawa State, Abdullahi Adamu, himself a legal Practitioner. In a speech titled **The Foundation of Democracy is the Rule of Law**, he stated as follows:

"Book launching has become a fairly frequent event in the country. But we are not gathering here this morning to tread the beaten path. The author and the books we launching are unique in several respect. Chief Afe Babalola, Senior Advocate of Nigeria, is rightly described as a legal luminary. No one can quarrel with that apt description. Chief Babalola is one of the bright legal stars who have continued to illuminate our legal firmament. His commitment to the development of law in our country is total and unflinching. He has put his personal stamp on various aspects of the country's legal development.

Chief Babalola opened his private law firm, Emmanuel Chambers, in 1965. The firm instantly became and

remains training ground for our young lawyers. At the last count, the chambers had trained 350 lawyers. Four of them now wear the silk as senior advocates of Nigeria; two are attorneys – general and several of them have made it to the bench as judges. Few law chambers have done so much for so many in our dear country.

Chief Babalola is an energetic lawyer and prolific writer. He has taken on and won several celebrated cases in the country. His weighty legal opinion is eagerly sought after. So are his legal services which do not, truth being told, come cheap. He has published several excellent books on law. We cannot but hold such a man in big esteem. And we cannot but salute him for his dedication to his chosen profession.

I welcome you, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, to this celebration of the unique contributions of Chief Afe Babalola to law and legal practice in Nigeria. I am happy to be part of this occasion. I have tremendous respect for Chief Babalola as a compatriot and a very senior professional colleague. I thank him for doing me the honour of chairing this celebration. The book reviewer will shortly tell you what he thinks of the books. But without prejudice to his assignment let me say a few words about them.

The Election Law and Practice could not have come at a better time than this for all Nigerians. We are more or less in the thick of elections. In less than two months from today, Nigerians will choose their next set of rulers and legislators at federal, state and local government

levels. The people's right to choose their rulers is both the beauty and the bedrock of democracy. Our constitution forbids anyone or a group of persons from abridging that right. It is a right our people must have and it is a right that we must all protect

Given that experience of civilian transition, not a few of us are apprehensive of what we will make of the forthcoming general elections. I have no doubt that with faith in God and a collective commitment by all Nigerians to kick the jinx, we should do better than pull through our elections. We will prove conclusively that we are democratic nation in truth and in fact. We will prove that the doomsayers from within and without are out of tune with their self-imposed mission and out of time with their dire predictions. So help us, God.

The foundation of democracy is the rule of law. Democracy cannot be the government of the people by the people for the people unless it is also a government of laws and not of men and women. Every aspect of the democratic practice is, therefore, anchored on rules and regulations that seek to guide our conduct and promote the ideals of democracy. The electoral act is our political equivalent of the holy writ. Since our transition to civil rule in 1979, we have had a plethora of electoral laws. Each transition programme had its own electoral law. In the current democratic dispensation, we had two electoral laws. The 2002 Electoral Act ousts its 2001 predecessor which was mired in controversy.

But what do Nigerians know about this important law under which the 2003 general elections will be conducted? It is not often possible to obtain reliable statistics to answer questions such as this, but it is a fair and accurate guess that very many of us have never bothered to familiarize ourselves with this law. In other words, most of us do not know what the Electoral Act says about our rights as public office seekers or as electorates whose decision will make or mar politician fortunes. With due respect, even INEC had some problems with the act when it imposed administrative or processes fees on the political parties and quoted a section of the Act to support its action. The section in question was in the 2001 electoral act but was expunged from the 2002 Electoral Act. The protesting political parties won their case against INEC.

We cannot all be lawyers. Even if want to be, we cannot all be Chief Afe Babalola. But we cannot afford or pretend to be ignorant of the laws of the land. In any case, ignorance of the law is no defense in the commission of a crime. To play by the rules, we must know the rules. As a democracy, we cannot afford to operate outside the laws of the land. Our country is not jungle and no one should try to apply the law of the jungle here. We must know and the laws we must respect them for only so we respect the rights of others. When we circumscribe the right of others, we limit the space around us too. The polity would be less heated if we all learn to play by the rules of the political game as defined by our laws and the Electoral Act. The apparent unwillingness by some politicians to play the rules is

obviously responsible for the spate of politically – motivated violence and killings in various part of the country. We must pull back from this precipice. Those who seek political power must not do so at the expense of the lives of the other people. A man who climbs to power on the ladder made of other people's bones risks his own security.

The law gives us our right as citizens. The law protects our rights from being trampled upon by the rich and the powerful among us. But unless we know what our rights are under the law, we cannot enjoy them, let alone defend them. More importantly, our ignorance of the law weakens the plank of our democracy. If we leave our rulers to apply the law as them fit, we create room for the flowering of dictatorial tendencies.

Chief Babalola's book published at this very opportune time, will, in my humble view, open our eyes to the golden mine and the minefield in the electoral law and its practice. As voters, we have our prescribed duties under the Electoral Act. We must know what those duties are and insist that we discharge them faithfully in accordance with the dictates of our conscience and not of our pockets. As political office seekers, we must also know the law and feel morally bound to play by the rules.

The book, Enforcement of Judgments, is no less important to lawyers and non-lawyers alike. Judgments are not worth the paper they are written on unless they can be enforced. The first victim in a military dictatorship is often the enforcement of judgment. Under the military, the courts were more or less treated with disdain.

Judgments which did not favor the government were routine ignored by the powers that be.

In a democracy, there is no room for treating the judiciary as an irritant. Our constitution duly recognizes it as the third arm of the government. Without it, our democratic set up cannot be legally constituted. In the nearly four years of democracy, however, there is some telling evidence that as the enforcement of judgment is concerned, the dictatorial tendency lingers in the land. We must bury that tendency and learn to use the law not as a club for bludgeoning our enemies or political opponents but as civilized means of settling argument.

Many Nigerians are inclined to impugn the integrity of judges when they rule against them. This sort of intolerance undermines the integrity of our judiciary itself. It must be condemned. Those who are in a position to enforce judgments must not fail in their discharge of this important moral responsibility to the society and the rule of law. We have everything to gain from the rule of law and nothing to gain from anarchy which would result from a disinclination to enforce judgment.

Chief Afe Babalola's decision to write these two books at this time must have been duly informed by his abiding faith in the rule of law as the true foundation for modern democracy and national development. We share in that faith. We commend the books to all Nigerians"



PHILANTHROPY

Chief Afe Babalola is a philanthropist *per excellence*. He has institutionalized the noble act of selflessness and of giving. It has become part and parcel of him to give and continue to give to worthy causes and to individuals. What is most remarkable about this aspect of Chief Afe Babalola's trait is that he never boasts about the fact that, when you look at the record, he is one of the greatest philanthropists of all time in Nigeria. Over the years, he has touched directly or indirectly the lives of millions and millions of Nigerians through his philanthropic activities which have become legion.

The following is a list of only a few of the areas and places and institution where Chief Afe Babalola has touched:-

1. He contributed more than 10% of the money to finance the construction of Ado-Ekiti Federal Polytechnic.
2. As Chairman of the Committee for the construction of an Ultra Modern Palace for the Ewi of Ado-Ekiti which today is one of the best in Nigeria, he made substantial financial contributions
3. He contributed substantially to the construction of the building donated to the Faculty of Law, University of Ado-Ekiti, by Ado-Ekiti Community.
4. He financed and donated an ultra modern Auditorium worth over N75million to the Faculty of Law, University of Ado-Ekiti (UNAD) which was commissioned by President Olusegun Obasanjo, in 2004.
5. He built an ultra modern Church for over N75million at Ado-Ekiti. The building was commissioned by the Archbishop of Anglican Mission in Nigeria in 2005.
6. He financed and donated an imposing Auditorium to University of Lagos worth over N100million. The building was commissioned by President Olusegun Obasanjo in 2006.
7. He financed and donated a building to the African Heritage Research Library and Cultural Centre at Adeyipo Village, worth over N10million.
8. He donated a N200million Nuclear Medicine Building to University College Hospital, (UCH) Ibadan.
9. He made substantial financial contributions to PREMI an organization for the rehabilitation of prisoners
10. He awards numerous scholarships annually to Ado-Ekiti indigenes at the Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti.
11. He is currently involved in
 - (a) building of a Bar Centre /Secretariat for the Nigerian Bar Association, Ibadan branch at Iyaganku in Ibadan
 - (b) building a Secretariat for Nigerian Bar Association, Ado-Ekiti branch in Ado-Ekiti

The above list excludes uncountable numbers of helps and assistance that Chief Afe Babalola has rendered and has continued to render on a daily basis to numerous individuals. Every day Institutions and individuals besiege Chief Afe Babalola in his chambers in droves seeking some form of financial or other forms of assistance. He never turns back anybody, he willingly helps.

Explaining the philosophy behind his philanthropy Chief Afe Babalola wrote:

“Giving is a virtue. Ignoring the poor and acquiring all the riches that are available for a family alone is not only immoral but it is sinful. The beauty of life does not end with taking care of yourself alone”

Other Contributions to National Development

In addition to the gifts and donations noted above, Chief Afe Babalola has also contributed immensely to national development in many spheres. Some of the notable ones are:

1. He was a member of the Sovereign National Conference (Confab) appointed as a Presidential Nominee. At the Confab he was the Chairman of the Revenue Allocation and Fiscal Federalism Committee.
2. He initiated an Endowment Fund Scheme in University of Lagos. The annual income from capital investment of donations is being used to award scholarships to students in the University of Lagos. The first set of 500 scholarships were awarded in 2006 under the Chairmanship of President Olusegun Obasanjo in February 2006. It is the first of its type in the history of Nigerian University Education.

3. His endowment fund drive has yielded billions of Naira several buildings and equipments for the University of Lagos.
4. He initiated the "Build, Operate and Transfer" (BOT) system under which hostels worth hundreds of millions of Naira are being constructed for the University of Lagos.
5. He led the delegation for the establishment of University of Technology at Ado-Ekiti as a result of which the Federal Government announced the establishment of University of Technology in Ado-Ekiti in 1981.
6. He was responsible for the transfer of the Federal Polytechnic from Akure to Ado-Ekiti in 1982.
7. He was the first Chairman of the Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti and was personally responsible for the Supervision and construction of the buildings and other infrastructures presently in the Polytechnic which he did in a record time of 6months. He contributed more than 10% of the money for the construction of the buildings in the Polytechnic. His achievements in Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti, made the Federal Government to award him the title of Fellow Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti (FFPA)
8. The establishment of the Polytechnic caused the State government to establish a competing University at Ado-Ekiti named Obafemi Awolowo University, Ado-Ekiti, now Ondo State University, Ado-Ekiti (OSUA).
9. He was, in short, directly responsible for the establishment of the 3 institutions in the former Ondo State.
10. He championed the creation of Ekiti State and he personally presented and defended the Petition for the creation of Ekiti State before Mbanefo Panel. The Federal Government relied on his papers and submissions for the creation of Ekiti State.
11. On the creation of Ekiti State, he made financial and material contributions for the take-off of the State. In recognition of his

contributions to the new State, he was awarded Certificate of Merit in the first year of the creation of the State.

12. On the national scene, he defended the Federal Government in the 2.8Billion enquiry in 1980.
13. He defended the Head of State in the 1999 Presidential election which ushered in the new democratic government. As his contribution to democracy, he rendered his legal services free of charge.
14. He is a member of Body of Benchers (the highest ruling body of the Legal Profession in Nigeria).
15. He is a member of the Judicial Service Commission, Ethics Committee
16. He is a Fellow of Leadership Institute of Nigeria
17. He is a Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies of Nigeria (The highest institution for law in Nigeria)
18. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators of Nigeria. He is currently the President of the Institute.
19. He is a Trustee of Transparency International of Nigeria (T.I.N.) (with Headquarters in Berlin Germany President Obasanjo was the Chairman before he became the President.)
20. He was *amicus curiae* to the Supreme Court of Nigeria in defence of the Anti Corruption Law in favour of I.C.P.C. The Supreme Court relied heavily on his submission in its judgment.
21. He is a lecturer, Centre for African Law Development, Lagos.
22. He has been a lecturer at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Lagos since 1989.

Another aspect of Chief Afe Babalola's philanthropy is that he never turns down invitations by various institutions and organizations to become their Patrons, Grand Patrons (or Life Patrons) and through that role he has been able to assist those institutions and organizations in their

functions, their programmes and their activities. A list of some of the organizations which he has accepted such invitations are:

1. Member, Europe Club of Rectors
2. Chairman Committee of Pro-Chancellors of Universities in Nigeria
3. President, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators in Nigeria
4. Member, Judicial Service Commission of Ekiti State
5. Member, Elders Forum Advisory body to the Government of Ekiti State
6. Patron, Breast Cancer Association of Nigeria
7. Patron, Law Society Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife
8. Patron, Law Society, University of Lagos
9. Patron, Law Society, Ogun State University Ago Iwoye
10. Life Patron, Law Society, University of Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State
11. Patron, Nigerian Union of Journalists Oyo State Branch
12. Patron, Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) Ondo & Ekiti States
13. Patron, Ekiti Stars Club
14. Grand Patron & Financer, Nito Female Football Club (Afe Babalola Babes), Ibadan.

Chief Afe Babalola himself has provided an insight into what may have influenced his spirit of giving. He had an occasion to state it thus:

“Some Nigerians ask me why I involve myself in these donations and gifts here and there. “Do you know that if you invest the money in buildings in Victoria Island, you would earn dollars?” , they claimed....

Firstly, I have been greatly influenced by the simplicity and contentment of the society in which I was brought up.

Born and nurtured in an unplastered mud house with grass roof, we were happy and contented. All we hoped for was inherit father's cutlasses, hoes and farmland. The inordinate ambition of youths of today in acquiring palaces was not part of our dream. In other words, we were taught to be our brothers' keeper from youth.

Secondly, I was again influenced by the benevolent work of the missionaries. It was the missionaries that persuaded my father to send me to school. Of course, I did not like to go to school. I ran away from school several times because of what I considered unnecessary interference with my simple and happy life. I hated the strict school discipline, cane, teachers. Prof. Osifo who also attended the same elementary school with me can testify to what happened in our school at that time. But for the insistence of my father, I would not have completed my elementary school education. Although my formal education stopped at elementary school, our teachers who were trained by the white missionaries imparted to us enough solid education to build upon privately.

Some of the questions which I asked myself, are:

- 1. What is the business of these white missionaries in coming into our town surrounded by primeval forest?*
- 2. Who funded these missionaries?*
- 3. Why did they have to leave their country, which I believe was better than Ado-Ekiti?*

4. *Why did they not just sit back and enjoy what God and nature had bestowed on them.*

These white missionaries brought money, iron sheets, cements, nails, hospital equipments and other materials from Ireland, Scotland and England to construct schools, churches, hospitals and dispensaries.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the truth is that many of us including my humble self would not have risen from the ashes of primitivity and poverty if we had been left alone. I pay tribute to these early missionaries. I was persuaded by their benevolence and generosity.

Thirdly, today I ask myself whether I deserve what I am today? Ladies and Gentlemen, I know what poverty was. I knew what it was not to wear shoes to school or church, I knew what it was to sleep on mat in our house, I knew what it was to sleep on banana leaves in the farm; I knew what it was to read with native palm oil lamp. I was born in poverty. But I did not allow poverty to live in me. I believed that what I was and what I will be has been decreed by God. As a firm believer in God Almighty, I think one of the best ways to show gratitude to God is to give back to society and humanity what God has mercifully given to me.”



AFE BABALOLA AND NUCLEAR MEDICINE IN NIGERIA

Nuclear Medicine is a branch of medicine that uses Nuclear Technology to diagnose and treat specific ailments and patients. It uses Gamma Camera which employs radio-active materials (Pharmaceuticals) to identify disease in specific areas of the body.

Nuclear Medicine has been in existence since 1946 but, until recently it had not been widely employed even in America and Europe.

The use of Nuclear technology is now regulated by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), an organ of the United Nations Organization. Nuclear Technology is now advancing into practically all sphere of human endeavour - medicine, drugs, water, power generation and so on.

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Sometime in 2003, the International Atomic Energy Agency decided to set up a Nuclear Medicine Centre in Nigeria. It was not difficult to arrive at the choice of the centre to locate the first Nuclear Medicine Programme in Nigeria. The University College Hospital (UCH) Ibadan, Nigeria's first and foremost Teaching and Territory Health Institution, became the obvious choice.

The International Atomic Energy Agency followed up its decision by making available Nuclear Medicine equipment and facilities. They brought in Gamma Camera and other necessary equipment. Then, they moved in with training of personnel across all cadres – Doctors, Nurses, Radiotherapists, Radiographers, imaging scientists and Pharmacists. About 12 medical personnel were trained abroad. Then the Nuclear Medicine Department was set under the headship of Professor (Mrs) Bolanle Osifo, a veteran and retired Professor of Medicine who had been in the UCH for the past 30 years and who studied Nuclear Medicine in Oxford, England. It was her untiring efforts that led to the IAEA programme in Nigeria.

- It soon became obvious that with the array of equipment and facilities supplied to the Department and the completion of the training of core specialists that the Department needed a building, a structure, a location to house the equipment and the facilities and accommodate the staff. There also arose the need to get a firm footing for the Programme and assure and sustain its future in Nigeria. Of course, the Hospital did not have the funds on the scale required to build such a facility. So it resorted to reaching out to banks, other financial institutions and companies for funding and financial assistance, but there was no positive response.

That was how Chief Afe Babalola entered into the fray. After a sustained period of failures and frustrations at attempts to raise funds for the building the Medical Director of the University College Hospital,

Professor Abiodun Ilesanmi and Professor Bolanle Osifo approached Chief Afe Babalola and, in him; they found a saviour.

A team led by Professor Abiodun Ilesanmi visited Chief Afe Babalola in his office sometime in March 2006. Upon being convinced about the programme and its usefulness to humanity, Chief Afe Babalola did not hesitate in accepting to fully fund the building of a structure. All that he asked them was to be shown the piece of land where the Hospital wanted the building. Within 8 months he had erected a magnificent and imposing structure that cost not less than N200 Million. In addition, he fully furnished the building with air conditioners and fans and pledged to also maintain the structure and the facilities. He also built a laboratory.

The Nuclear Medicine Building, appropriately tagged “**AFE BABALOLA NUCLEAR MEDICINE BUILDING**”, was duly commissioned on March 22, 2007 by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo.

In his speech at the commissioning, the President remarked as follows-

“CHIEF AFE BABALOLA, WHO DONATED THIS BUILDING, DESERVES SPECIAL COMMENDATION FOR HIS UNCOMMON GOODWILL AND SENSE OF PATRIOTISM. HE HAS DEMONSTRATED A SPIRIT OF BENEVOLENCE, WHICH SHOULD BE A CHALLENGE TO ALL MATERIALLY ENDOWED NIGERIANS.”

Otunba Kunle Kalejaiye, S.A.N., who himself, inspired by the giant strides of Chief Afe Babalola, donated an Information and Communication Center to the building, stated in his own remarks at the opening thus:-

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"I have been a great admirer of Chief Afe Babalola, SAN from afar. Once in a while I have written to him to spur him on.

All I can assure the great Chief is that he is our General and that history will be kind to him for using his God given wealth to better the lot of his fellow human beings. In this quest, he is not alone. He has many other foot soldiers that see him as role model. I do. It is my hope that other privileged Nigerians would see Chief Afe Babalola's deeds as a call to duty. In those so called advanced countries we love to ape, a man's wealth is measured not by the size of his account balance but by the number of lives he is able to touch for good. May all who come under this roof find peace in all they do".

In his speech, Chief Afe Babalola himself explained the source and inspiration of his passion for giving, and what influences his philanthropy. He said:-

"Some Nigerians ask me why I involve myself in these donations and gifts here and there. "Do you know that if you invest the money in buildings in Victoria Island, you would earn dollars?" They claimed. The question was partially answered by Mr. Mulugeta Amha of IAEA, Vienna, Austria in letter dated 16/3/2007 to Prof. B. O. A.Osifo part of which reads: -

"Thank you for the information and pictures which are very useful. I hope I will be able to highlight this as a success story others can learn from. Yes additional pictures will be



Chief Afe Babalola leading the welcoming party for the visit of Alhaji Shehu Shagari, President of Nigeria, to Ado Ekiti in April, 1982



In 1967 at the Fund raising launched by Chief Afe Babalola for the building of St. Paul's Anglican Church, Ado Ekiti. In the white cap in the middle is Chief Gani Fawehinmi who was the Chief Launcher. Between Chief Afe Babalola and Chief Gani Fawehinmi is the Alaafin of Oyo, Oba Lamidi Adeyemi III



The Administrative block of the Federal Polytechnic, Ado Ekiti built by Chief Afe Babalola and named after him

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St. Paul's Anglican Church Odo-Ado, Ado Ekiti built by Chief Afe Babalola in 2005



A closer view of St. Paul's Anglican Church Odo-Ado, Ado Ekiti



At the commissioning of St. Paul's Anglican Church Odo Ado, Ado Ekiti. With Chief and Chief (Mrs.) Babalola are the Ewi of Ado Ekiti, the most Revd. Abe, the Archbishop of Ondo and Ekiti and Hon. Justices Ajakaiye (now Oluyin of Iyin Ekiti) and Bamishile



The Auditorium built by Chief Afe Babalola and donated to the Faculty of Law, University of Ado Ekiti in 2005.



Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of Nigeria, commissioning the Afe Babalola Auditorium of the Faculty of Law, University of Ado Ekiti, built by Chief Afe Babalola, on 9th April, 2005. To the left of Chief Obasanjo is Ayodele Fayose then Ekiti State Governor and behind him is Senator Rasidi Ladoja, then Governor of Oyo State

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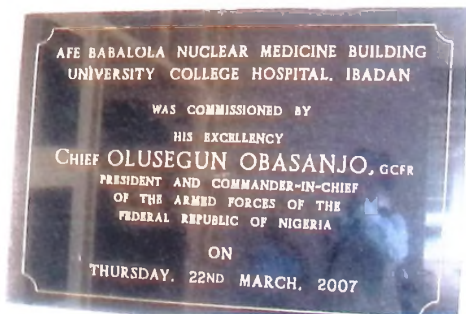
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Afe Babalola Auditorium. The building constructed and donated by Chief Afe Babalola to the University of Lagos in 2006



The Nuclear Medicine Building built and donated by Chief Afe Babalola to the University College Hospital Ibadan, in 2007



The plaque on the Afe Babalola Nuclear Medicine Building



Commissioning of the Afe Babalola Nuclear Medicine Building on 22nd March, 2007. Prof Eytayo Lambo, Minister of Health, who represented Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, President of Nigeria, is flanked by Chief Afe Babalola and Prof. Ilesanmi, CMD, UCH. To his left are Prof. Ade Elebute, Chairman UCH and Prof. Mrs. Bolanle Osifo, Head of Dept. Of Nuclear Medicine, UCH, Ibadan



The building constructed and donated by Chief Afe Babalola to the African Heritage Research Library and Cultural Centre Adeyipo village, Ibadan and commissioned on 20th December 2007

THIS BUILDING DONATED BY
 CHIEF AFE BABALOLA OFR CON. SA. ILLD
 TO THE AFRICAN HERITAGE RESEARCH LIBRARY
 AND CULTURAL CENTRE (AHRCC)
 ADEYIPO VILLAGE IBADAN
 COMMISSIONED ON
 THURSDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2007
 BY
 THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF OYO STATE
 OTUNBA (DR) CHRISTOPHER ADEBAYO
 ALAO AKALA

The plaque on the Afe Babalola Rural Community Services Building



At the commissioning of the Afe Babalola Rural Community building at Adeyipo village, Ibadan. In the middle is the Governor of Oyo State, Otunba Adebayo Alao-Akala. To his left is Alhaji Azeez Arisekola, the Aare Musulumi of Yoruba land. On the extreme right is Alhaji Taofeek Arapaja, Deputy Governor of Oyo State

useful. Also some information on the kind Philanthropist would be useful. I wish you all best and I hope you will have a memorable day on 22nd March as a reward of your long service to your country."

Firstly, I have been greatly influenced by the simplicity and contentment of the society in which I was brought up.

Born and nurtured in an unplastered mud house with grass roof, we were happy and contented. All we hoped for was inherit father's cutlasses, hoes and farmland. The inordinate ambition of youths of today in acquiring palaces was not part of our dream. In other words, we were taught to be our brothers' keeper from youth.

Secondly, I was again influenced by the benevolent work of the missionaries. It was the missionaries that persuaded my father to send me to school. Of course, I did not like to go to school. I ran away from school several times because of what I considered unnecessary interference with my simple and happy life. I hated the strict school discipline, cane, teachers. Prof. Osifo who also attended the same elementary school with me can testify to what happened in our school at that time. But for the insistence of my father, I would not have completed my elementary school education. Although my formal education stopped at elementary school, our teachers who were trained by the white missionaries imparted to us enough solid education to build upon privately.

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These white missionaries brought money, iron sheets, cements, nails, hospital equipments and other materials from Ireland, Scotland and England to construct schools, churches, hospitals and dispensaries.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the truth is that many of us including my humble self would not have risen from the ashes of primitivity and poverty if we had been left alone. I pay tribute to these early missionaries. I was persuaded by their benevolence and generosity.

Thirdly, today I ask myself whether I deserve what I am today? Ladies and Gentlemen, I know what poverty was. I knew what it was not to wear shoes to school or church, I knew what it was to sleep on mat in our house, I knew what it was to sleep on banana leaves in the farm; I knew what it was to read with native palm oil lamp. I was born in poverty. But I did not allow poverty to live in me. I believed that what I was and what I will be has been decreed by God. As a firm believer in God Almighty, I think one of the best ways to show gratitude to God is to

give back to society and humanity what God has mercifully given to me."

When the International Atomic Energy Agency got the report about the building and the private efforts and initiative that went into it, it decided to upgrade the Nuclear Medicine Programme in the UCH and designated it as a major referral Centre for West Africa and Central Africa Regions. This ushered in a supply of addition equipment and necessitated the need for more space. Again, the UCH contacted its benefactor, Chief Afe Babalola and, again, he obliged. He has agreed to expand the "*Afe Babalola Nuclear Medicine Building*" by adding another building structure on top of the present one. That is already in progress.

The Nuclear Medicine Facility is now used to diagnose all kinds of cancer, including breast cancer (the most prevalent among Nigerian women) and prostate cancer which afflicts most men in Nigeria. It is extending to cardiac and renal diseases as well and thousands of Nigerians have benefited and continue to benefit immensely from the facility.

Naturally, report got back to the International Atomic Energy Agency about the magnificent private individual who has been partnering with them in the noble venture. So the Agency put Chief Afe Babalola's profile on its website and it was from there that the Europe Business Assembly learnt about Chief Babalola's gigantic efforts and therefore nominated him for the award of the "*Queen Victoria Commemorative Medal*" which he received at a prestigious and lavish ceremony held at Oxford Town Hall, United Kingdom on September 24, 2007.

In the letter to Chief Afe Babalola intimating him of the award the senior European Events Manager of the Europe Business Assembly, Katalin Zsiga wrote thus:

“It will be a pleasure to highlight your remarkable reputation and successful professional achievements which are shown by our research.”

He was the only African given the award.

By his noble gesture, Chief Afe Babalola has ensured that the history of Nuclear Medicine in Nigeria, when it comes to be fully told, will never be complete without his name occupying a pride of place.



AFE BABALOLA AND SPORTS

Few people really know that Chief Afe Babalola loves sports deeply and that he is a sports philanthropist. In fact, he is passionate about sports, especially football, which is also called soccer. Chief Afe Babalola supports the Arsenal football club in the English Premiership and writes regularly to the coach, Arsene Wenger to offer his views on team tactics!

When he was growing up, and like other children of his age, or of any age, for that matter, he indulged in some physical sports with other children. The most common then was playing football on the streets and playgrounds. Other common pastimes included boxing and wrestling.

When Chief Afe Babalola was a Pupil Teacher in Ikere, Ado Ekiti and in Ibadan, he was Games master responsible for putting pupils through physical drills and the rudiments of sports generally. Later, when he taught as a graduate teacher at the Ibadan City Academy he was also the

Sports Master and he was in charge of coaching the school's formidable football team. In his team, he had students like Niyi Akande and Sam Ojebode who, upon graduation, went on to feature prominently in the IICC Shooting Stars Football Club of Ibadan (now 3SC) and the Nigerian national team, the Green Eagles in the 70s. They eventually became renowned coaches themselves.

Chief Afe Babalola has continued to contribute to the development of sports generally (he is an apostle of sports). He is currently Life Patron of the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) Oyo State branch and he collaborates with the Ibadan Football Association and the Oyo State Football Association in sponsoring the Olubadan Cup and the State Challenge Cup. He was the special guest of honour at the Final of 2008 edition of the Olubadan Cup Competition and he made huge cash donations to the organizers, winners as well as runners up of the competition for which he was given a special award.

Chief Afe Babalola has also accepted to fully sponsor the Female Challenge Cup for Oyo State from 2008 onwards .

Nito Sports Club

Chief Afe Babalola is the Grand Patron and financier of Nito Sports Club Ibadan, a club that is involved in such sports as cycling, boxing but predominantly and football, male and female.

Since 2003, when Nito Queens Football Club, a female Football team, was formed, Chief Afe Babalola has been responsible for financing it. The team which is otherwise called "**AFE BABALOLA BABES**" participates in the Female National Football League and it has four of its player's currently in the Female National Teams of Nigeria. He supports the club's participation including travelling to venues to play league games outside Ibadan. The team bus was donated by Chief Afe Babalola. In short, he is the pillar behind the football team.

Grand Custodian of NIPOGA

The Nigerian Polytechnic Games, tagged "NIPOGA" is a biennial sports festival / competition for all Polytechnic Students in Nigeria staged since 1976 when it was first held in The Polytechnic, Ibadan. The hosting of the games is rotated amongst the Polytechnics in Nigeria. According to the Chairman, NIPOGA Board of Trustees, Dr. M.A. Kazaure, the Rector of Hussaini Adamu Katsina Polytechnic, Kazaure:-

"The Popularity of NIPOGA Games as an organized sporting fiesta, its spectatorial participation and its profile in general, have shot NIPOGA as an Association into a great prominence to the extent that that bi-ennial competition has now become a major vehicle not only for the enhancement of our youths' physical and mental capabilities but also for the promotion of discipline and understanding amongst all participants."

For the 2008 edition of the NIPOGA which was the 15th in the series, the Organizers - the NIPOGA Board of Trustees - decided on The Federal Polytechnic Ado-Ekiti to be the host and venue. The Games was named "ADO-EWI 2008" and it was the first time in its short life-span that the Institution will be hosting the Games.

As a founding father of the Institution, the choice of the Federal Polytechnic Ado Ekiti to host NIPOGA became a dream come through for Chief Afe Babalola. He was approached and he promptly accepted to be the GRAND CUSTODIAN OF THE GAMES with all the attendant implications of assistance with part of the finance and organization. That would be the first time that a Grand custodian will be appointed for NIPOGA.

As with any project that he identifies with, Chief Afe Babalola took the Games as his baby and with consummate passion. He ensured that the sports

facilities for the Games were promptly constructed and renovated. He applied the necessary pressure to ensure that money was released by the appropriate authorities at the appropriate time for the Games. He made personal donations of huge sums of money and a new Sports stand / Mini Stadium was erected on the campus of the Institution. In short, he was the driving force behind the successful hosting of the Games which held form 26th April to 5th May, 2008. 49 Institutions participated.

At the colourful opening ceremony and even more colourful fireworks-riddled closing ceremony, encomiums were fully and appropriately lavished on Chief Afe Babalola, The Grand Custodian, in recognition of his role and contribution to the Games. The whole of the Sport Grounds and playing Arena were plastered with big banners screaming with such proclamations as:-

**“A BIG THANK YOU
to our
GRAND CUSTODIAN
CHIEFAFE BABALOLA”
“WE LOVE YOU
BABA AFE
OUR GAMES’ GRAND CUSTODIAN”**

At the closing ceremony at which the Minister of State for Education was also present, Chief Afe Babalola donated a giant gold trophy to the overall winning Polytechnic.

In addition, he made personal cash donations of N750,000.00 (Seven hundred and fifty thousand) to the overall winning Institution, N500,000.00 (Five hundred thousand) to the 2nd placed and N300,000.00 (Three hundred thousand) to the 3rd placed.

It was the unanimous conclusion by the organisers that “ADO EWI 2008” was the most successful in the history of Nigerian Polytechnic Games.



AWARDS AND HONOURS

As he continues to spread his philanthropic tentacles, Chief Afe Babalola has also garnered accolades, awards and honours in acknowledgment, recognition and appreciation of his selfless services and contributions to all spheres of humanity.

It is impossible to have a complete list of all the awards and honours that have been bestowed on him. His house, offices and libraries are littered with plaques, mementoes, artworks and figurines proclaiming, in different shapes, colours, wordings and statements the influence and impact that Chief Afe Babalola has had on diverse people, organisations, institutions, clubs, individuals, etc etc. The following is but a sample of some of the honours and awards:-

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1. Winner, Queen Victoria Commemorative Medal awarded by Europe Business Assembly, 2007, Oxford U.K.
2. Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, OFR, (2000)
3. Commander of the Order of Niger, CON (2007)
4. Fellow, Leadership Institute of Nigeria, 2001
5. Fellow, Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (FNIALS), 2002
6. Fellow, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Nigeria (FCLArb)
7. LL.D. (**Honoris Causa**) University of Ado Ekiti, 2000
8. Fellow, Federal Polytechnic Ado Ekiti (FFPA), 1997
9. Fellow, College of Education, Ikere Ekiti, 1998
10. Member, Body of Benchers (The highest ruling body of legal profession in Nigeria)
11. Member, Legal Practitioners Privileges Committee of Nigeria
12. Best Pro-Chancellor of Nigerian Universities Award, 2003
13. Best Pro-Chancellor of Nigerian Universities Award, 2005
14. Chairman Committee of Pro-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities, 2005 – 2007
15. President, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Nigeria, 2006 to date.
16. Winner, Professional of the Year Award in Ado Ekiti, 1987
17. Winner, Highest Tax payer's Award in Ondo State for 1990 & 1991 (he has continued to be the highest Tax payer in Ekiti State since its creation in 1996).
18. Winner, Patriot of the Year Award of Ado Ekiti, 1994
19. Winner, Merit Award during the first Anniversary of Ekiti State creation in appreciation of his contribution to the State creation.
20. Honorary Member Mellanby Hall, University of Ibadan.

In addition to the above, he has also received so many awards, garlands and accolades from various institutions and organizations that Chief Afe

Babalola has positively impacted on their programmes and activities. Most are stated in words of praise and appreciation on plaques and other mementoes which are legion and occupy a large portion of Chief Afe Babalola's office. One particular plaque stands out. It is a big wood carving in which it is inscribed the following words:-

“Chief Afe Babalola (SAN / OFR) We deportees from Thailand now at Ijebu Ode prisons wish to thank you for the good job you did to secure the released (sic) of our Brothers and Sisters from Prisons. We pray to God to guide and lead you for our release from Ijebu Ode Prison. Long Life Afe Babalola Family. Long Live Nigeria.”

Some of the notable awards acknowledgments are hereinafter reproduced:-

1. **EUROPEAN BUSINESS ASSEMBLY (EBA)**

International Corporation of Social Partnership European
Business Assembly.

DECISION

IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS ON EBA + AWARDS
(REGISTERED IN ENGLAND 3964500)

By decision of EBA Nomination Committee dated 20 -
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AFE BABALOLA
PRO CHANCELLOR UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS/
EMMANUEL CHAMBERS

RECOMMENDED FORAWARD

QUEEN VICTORIA
COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL
(REG #2367599)
FOR MAINTAINING TRADITIONAL VALUES OF
VIRTUE, BRAVERY AND INTEGRITY.

MEMBERS OF EBA
NOMINATION COMMITTEE

JOHN NETTING
EBA DIRECTOR GENERAL

REGISTRAR INTL

KATALIN ZSIGA
EBA SECRETARY GENERAL

2.

CRE
THE CLUB OF THE RECTORS OF EUROPE
CERTIFICATE
AFE BABALOLA

Pro Chancellor University of Lagos/ Emmanuel Chambers
is an actual member of the Club of the Rectors of Europe.

President of the Club
Of the Rectors of Europe

Decision of the Academic.
Award of the Club of Rectors
Of Europe date – 20-09-07
#XXXi/1x/v1ii

Will Goodheer,
Rector of the International
University in Vienna, Professor

Oxford 24-09-2007

The Commemorative Medal

“Queen Victoria”

For personal integrity

Presented to

Afe Babalola

The International Corporation
of Social Partnership
Oxford, England
2007.

3. **UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL, IBADAN**

We the entire members of staff of the

DEPARTMENT OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL, IBADAN

Present this plaque to

CHIEF AFE BABALOLA, OFR/SAN

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the
development of the First Department of Nuclear Medicine
in Nigeria at the University College Hospital, Ibadan

October, 2006

4. **GAPW**

GLOBALACTION TO PREVENT WAR (GAPW) U.S.A

In Collaboration with the Peace Education Centre, Nigeria

Hereby Confer
ACHIEVER AND PEACE ADVOCATE (APAD) AWARD
ON
CHIEFAFE BABALOLA, SAN
Pro Chancellor, University of Lagos

This Thursday 22nd Day of September, 2005

Signed

Signed

Signed

5.

EKITIPARAPO

Honours Award

Presented to

CHIEFAFE BABALOLA SAN, OFR

By the 120th Anniversary of Ekitiparapo Peace Day Committee
in recognition and appreciation of your exemplary contribution
in the general upliftment of the Glory of Ekitiland.

30th September, 2006

Congratulations!

6.

**NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION
(IBADAN BRANCH)**

**DISTIGUISHED BAR LEADER
AWARD**

Presented to

CHIEFAFE BABALOLA, OFR, SAN.

In Recognition of your outstanding contribution to the
development of the Ibadan Bar.

7.

**NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION
(IBADAN BRANCH)**

Presented to

CHIEFAFE BABALOLA, OFR, SAN.

On recognition of your Achievements and the honour
Bestowed on you as OFR.

8.

**LEAD CITY UNIVERSITY, IBADAN
Award of Excellence**

As

Guest Lecturer

At

1st Distinguished public Lecture of the University.

TO

CHIEFAFE BABALOLA, OFR, SAN, LL.D.

Registrar

Vice Chancellor

9.

UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS

SPECIAL AWARD

PRESENTED TO

CHIEFAFE BABALOLA SAN, OFR, OON
Pro-Chancellor, University of Lagos

In recognition of your outstanding participation at the
FMB (NUC National Workshop on
Tertiary Education Financing
AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER

21-24 April, 2007
at the
University of Lagos

Chairman LOC

Prof. Oye Ibidapo – Obe
Vice Chancellor, University of Lagos

The University of first choice and the National pride

10.

IBADAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

APPRECIATION AWARD

PRESENTED TO

Chief Afe Babalola, OFR, CON, SAN, LLD

In recognition of your unprecedented cash donation to IFA and the three finalists of **OLUBADAN CUP COMPETITION**, 2008 which is a bundle of encouragement and inspiration to IFA and the 150 soccer club sides in Ibadan land.

Thanks for your commitment, generosity and support.
Ibadan Football Association.

11.

NIGERIAN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

ANNUAL MERIT AWARD

Presented to

COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS

Under the chairmanship of
CHIEF AFE BABALOLA

as

BEST UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

in

2005

In the Nigerian University System
(Comprising All Federal, State and Private Universities)

Signed

Professor Peter Okebukola
Executive Secretary
12 January, 2006

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12.

PEACE EDUCATION CENTER

CHIEF AFE BABALOLA, SAN
GRAND PATRON
PEACE EDUCATION CENTRE

THE ECHOES OF PEACE TROUPE
NIGERIAN REPRESENTATIVE TO

WORLD PEACE FORUM
Vancouver, Canada
JUNE 23-28, 2006

Presented by
PEC
Peace Education Center
Obafemi Awolowo University
Ile ife, Nigeria

13. **UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

DISTINGUISHED PERSONALITY AWARD

PRESENTED TO
CHIEF AFE BABALOLA

For greatest and most valuable contribution to University life.
Given this day, Friday, 1st December, 2006

ADEBOWALE THOMPSON
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

14. **LEAD CITY UNIVERSITY, IBADAN**

Faculty of Law

Presents

Merit Award

To

A distinguished Legal ICON

CHIEFAFE BABALOLA, OFR, SAN, LLD

AS

LIFE PATRON

Lead City Students' Society (LCU)

15. **IBADAN GOLF CLUB**

Presented to

Chief Afe Babalola

as

MAJOR SPONSOR

Of the 10th year Anniversary 16th Ibadan Ladies Amateur Open Golf Championship and for his immense contribution towards and for his development of the Ladies Section.

Presented by

The CHAIRPERSON

Chief Ronke Thomas

IBADAN GOLF CLUB

Ladies Section

2007/2008

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16. **CIVIL SOCIETY ON HIV/AIDS IN NIGERIA
(CISHAN)**

Oyo State Chapter
Philanthropist Award

Presented to
CHIEFAFE BABALOLA, (SAN)

In recognition of your charitable gesture towards
humanity in Oyo State, Nigeria 17th April, 2008
CISHAN, 2008.

17. **UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS SPORTS COUNCIL**

Sports Award, 2007

Presented to
CHIEFAFE BABALOLA, CON, LLD, SAN
Chairman University of Lagos council

In recognition of your selfless services to the sports center
and your immense contribution to and Genuine Interest in
sports development in the University of Lagos.

Dated 6th April, 2007

18.

Presented to

CHIEFAFE BABALOLA, OFR, SAN, FNIALS

In recognition of your contribution to the successful hosting of
All Africa Conference.

On

Law, justice and development

At Abuja

4th -7th day of Feb, 2003

at

The Conference Secretariat

Supreme Council, Abuja

19.

**FACET MAGAZINE
AWARD
OF EXCELLENCE
AS
THE GRAND PATRON
CHIEF (DR) AFE BABALOLA, SAN, CON.**

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**HUMANITARIAN
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21.

**UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS
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THE GOVERING COUNCIL OF THE UNIVERSSSITY,
HAVING BEEN ADJUDGED THE BEST FOR THE YEAR
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He is a gift
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FOR THE OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN EFFECTIVE
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NIGERIA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM ANNUAL MERIT AWARD
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UNDER THE AUSPICES OF NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES
COMMISSION (NUC)

Heartily Acknowledges

CHIEF AFE BABALOLA,
OFR, SAN, FNIALS, FCCARTS. LLD
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL

22. **AFRICAN HERITAGE RESEARCH LIBRARY
AND CULTURAL CENTRE (AHRLC)**

Adeyipo Village, Ibadan

Golden Award of mark for Philanthropy

PRESENTED TO

CHIEF AFE BABALOLA
OFR, CON, SAN, LLD

A Philanthropist per Excellence

For his monumental contribution to the advancement and
betterment of the rural community people.

20th December, 2007

23. **RADIO NIGERIA, IBADAN**
1998 GRAND AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Presented to

CHIEFAFE BABALOLA (SAN)
FOR DISTINGUISHED LEGAL PRACTICE

REV. CANNON DR. S.O. AJANI

Executive Director

27TH NOVEMBER, 1998

24. **EKITI STAR CLUB**

FRIENDSHIP AND PROGRESS,

CHIEFAFE BABALOLA, SAN

PATRON

25. **AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**

As the
ICON OF LEGAL PROFESSION

Conferred on

CHIEFAFE BABALOLA, SAN OFR, FNIALS

for his

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE LEGAL
PROFESSION AND HUMANITY NIGERIA AND

BEYOND

By

THE LAW SOCIETY, UNAD

DATED 2ND JULY, 2005

26

CHRISTIAN SUPPORT AWARD

Presented to

CHIEF AFE BABALOLA (SAN)

In recognition of outstanding contribution to the
development and growth of Christianity in Nigeria.

July 15th 2006

27

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MANAGEMENT AND STAFF
OF
LAPE NIGERIA LIMITED**

Congratulation

CHIEF AFE BABALOLA
Barrister & Solicitor

On the opening of his new ultra modern office at

NW4/ 163^A Fajuji Road
Adamasingba Ekotedo, Ibadan
Oyo State
Today
21st December, 1986.

Wishing you more successes in the years ahead

LAPE NIGERIA LIMITED

28. **NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION**
2005 ANNUAL BAR CONFERENCE

GOLD SPONSORSHIP AWARD
Given this 2nd day of September, 2005

To
CHIEFAFE BABALOLA, SAN

IN APPRECIATION OF YOUR SUPPORT AND
SPONSORSHIP OF THE BAR CONFERENCE

29. **Dear Chief Afe Babalola**

Hearty greetings as you launch your two new books, the trail blazing and fresh Enforcement of Judgments together with Election Law and Practice at once.

Erudite writers have found you to have obsession for charity and passion for justice

Contemporaries have fed on your friendly frankness, naturally flowing from your Ekiti backward incomparable

Our country have (sic) found you to be of lavish benevolence.

I have found you to be extremely kind

Since you have lived a transparently integritous life even at the international level, the rulers of the time have found you ample to be charged with onerous task of mid-wiving a vital citadel of learning.

Chief I cannot but wish you all the divine provision you need to continue to fight other people's fight.

Congratulations!

Ayodele Alabi

30.

INDIGENOUS GROUP

Congratulation

CHIEF AFE BABALOLA, SAN, OFR, LLD

Baba Afe has added another one!

Queen Victoria Commemorative Medal Award.

31.

THE LAW FACULTY

FACULTY OF LAW UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS

Present

CHIEF AFE BABALOLA, OFR, SAN

With the

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS IMMENSE SUPPORT,
DEVELOPMENT AND ADVANCEMENT OF THE
STUDENT BODY OF THE FACULTY OF LAW ON THE
OCCASION OF THE LAW DINNER AND
AWARDS NIGHT
THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2004

32. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ONDO STATE STUDENTS
UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN

Meritorious Service

AWARD

Presented to

CHIEFAFE BABALOLA (SAN)

As

LIFE PATRON

1993-94 Selection

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33. THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION
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THIS AWARD IS

Presented to

CHIEFAFE BABALOLA (SAN)

In recognition of your outstanding contribution to the
growth and development of Law and Legal practice this
2nd Day of July, 2005.

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INDIGENOUS GROUP

Congratulation

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IN RECOGNITION OF HIS IMMENSE SUPPORT,
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OCCASION OF THE LAW DINNER AND
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33. THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION
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THIS AWARD IS

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In recognition of your outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Law and Legal practice this 2nd Day of July, 2005.

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34.

**LAW SOCIETY
FACULTY OF LAW
ONDO STATE UNIVERSITY ADO EKITI
INVESTITURE**

CHIEF AFE BABALOLA (SAN)

As Grand Patron of

THE LAW SOCIETY

35.

BREAST CANCER ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA

Presented to

CHIEF AFE BABALOLA, SAN

AS PATRON

BREAST CANCER ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA

JUNE 18, 1998

36.

Presented to

CHIEF AFE BABALOLA (SAN)

By the **AGMPH**

Oyo State Branch

On July 27, 1995

37.

**NATIONAL FORUM OF HEADS OF
FEDERAL ESTABLISHMENTS**

Oyo State Chapter

This Award is presented

to

CHIEFAFE BABALOLA

Father of Oyo

In recognition of your continuing service as a defender of the down-trodden and a symbol of hope for the up coming generations.

38.

THIS AWARD

For

Outstanding Service to humanity

CHIEFAFE BABALOLA, SAN

In recognition of your immense contribution to the society and philanthropic activities among the people.

CONGRATULATIONS!

39.

KAYEGBO

Special Award

Presented to

CHIEFAFE BABALOLA, SAN

A Philanthropist of Our time

Presented by

KAYEGBO COMMUNICATIONS

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40. **CENTRAL COUNCIL OF IBADAN INDIGENES**
(LC 11)

MERIT AWARD

Presented to

CHIEF AFE BABALOLA

In recognition of your immense contribution to the
development of Ibadan land. .

41. **IMAGE VIEW HOUSE**
IBADAN OYO STATE

Presented to

CHIEF AFE BABALOLA (SAN)

As the

OUTSTANDING LAWYER 2004

Of

OASIS ACHIEVERS AWARDS

In recognition and appreciation of your immense
contribution to the growth and development of Oyo State

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

6th May, 2004.

42.

**ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY
TECHNOLOGISTS OF NIGERIA**

UNILAG BRANCH

WISHING YOU MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

Presented to

CHIEF AFE BABALOLA, SAN

Pro Chancellor and Chairman of Council University of Lagos.

43.

EKITI STAR CLUB

AWARD OF HONOUR

THIS SHIELD IS PRESENTED AS AN AWARD
OF HONOUR TO

CHIEF AFE BABALOLA, OFR, SAN
(PATRON)

FRIENDSHIP AND PROGRESS

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T W E N T Y - O N E



CHIEFTAINCY TITLES

Chief Afe Babalola is the proud recipient of the following Honourary Chieftaincy titles which were offered to and conferred on him in appreciation and recognition of his contribution to the particular community that awarded him the title.

They are:

1. *AFIWAJOYE* of Ado Ekiti, 1977
2. *BABAMOFIN* of Aramoko Community in Ekiti, 1988
3. *MAYEGUN* of Modakeke Community in Osun State, 1989
4. *BALOGUN* of Mobaland of Ekiti State, 1990



Afe Babalola receiving the Award of Patriot of the Year given by Ado Ekiti Patriotic Front in 1994. The presentation is being done by the Ewi of Ado-Ekiti, Oba Adeyemo Adejuge Aladesanmi II



Group photograph after the presentation of the Award of Patriot of the Year



At a Seminar in honour of Chief Afe Babalola in 1997 chaired by Hon. Justico Olowofokun. On the extreme right is Chief (Mrs) Babalola and at the extreme left is Fola, Chief Afe Babalola's 1st daughter (now Mrs. Fola Ali)



Hon. Justice Muhammadu Lawal Uwais, C.J.N., presenting the Award of Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (FNIALS) to Chief Afe Babalola in December, 2002

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At the convocation ceremony of University of Lagos 2001 led by Chief Afe Babalola, Pro-Chancellor. To his immediate right is Prof. Oye ibidapo-Obe, the Vice-Chancellor of University of Lagos



Chief Afe Babalola in full regalia of Pro-Chancellor of University of Lagos

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Chief Afe Babalola receiving the Queen Victoria Commemorative Medal of the Europe Business Assembly (EBA) in Oxford UK, in September 2007



The Queen Victoria Commemorative Medal.



The recommendation for award of Queen Victoria Commemorative Medal



Chief Afe Babalola receiving the Certificate of Membership of the Club of Rectors of Europe in September 2007 in Oxford, UK



The Certificate of the Club of Rectors of Europe



Presentation of Award of Fellow of Babcock University to Chief Afe Babalola in December 2006



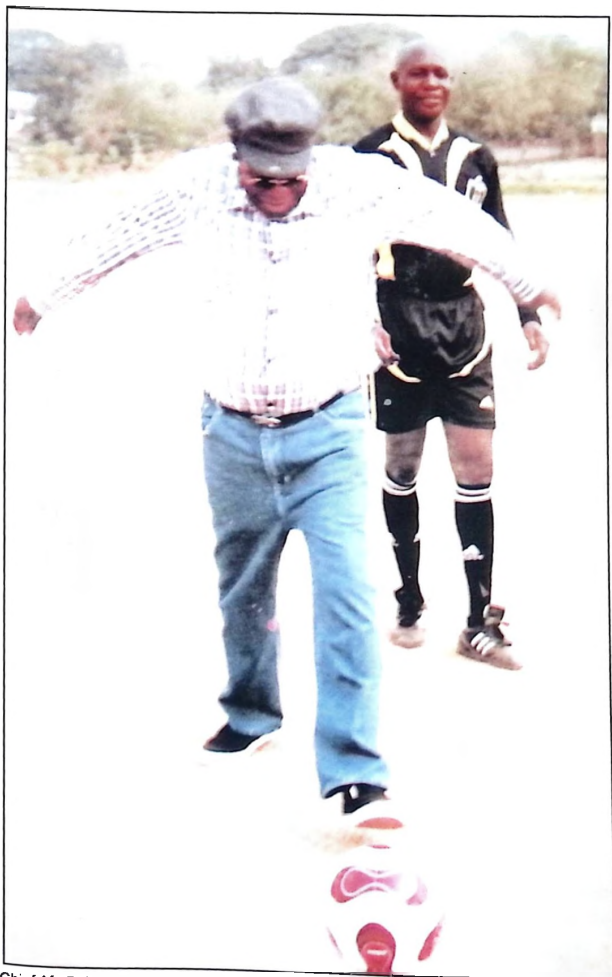
The Hon. Minister of Education presenting a special Award of Grand Custodian of NIPOGA 2008 to Chief Afe Babelola at the conclusion of NIPOGA 2008 at the Federal Polytechnic, Ado Ekiti on May 3, 2008



Banners displayed at the sporting Arena of NIPOGA,
2008 at the Federal Polytechnic, Ado Ekiti



The special overall Winner Trophy donated by Chief Afe Babalola to the winner of NIPOGA 2008



Chief Afe Babalola taking the kick-off as Guest of Honour at the final of Olubadan Cup, 2008

Dear Chief Afe Babalola,

Heartly greetings as you launch your two new books the *trail blazing* and *fresh Enforcement of Judgement* together with *Election Law and Practices* at once.

Erudite writers have found you to have obsession for *charity* and *passion* for *justice*

Contemporaries have found your friendly *frankness*, naturally flowing from your Ekiti background *incomparable*.

Our countrymen have found you to be of *lavish benevolence*.

I have found you to be *extremely kind*.

Since you have lived a *transparently integrity* life even at the *international level*, the *Rulers of the time* have found you *ample* to be *charged* with the *onerous* task of *midwifing* a *vital citadel* of *learning*.

Chief, I cannot but wish you *all the divine provisions* you need to continue to *fight* *other people's fight*.

Congratulations!



A giant plaque given to Chief Afe Babalola by an admirer, Mr. Ayodele Alabi



Chief Afe Babalola
(SAN/OFR)

We deportees From
Thailand now at Ijebu ode
Prison Wishes to thank
You For the good Job You
did to secured the released
of our Brothers and Sisters
From Prisons.

We Pray to God to guide and
Lead You for our release
From Ijebu ode Prison.

Long Life Afe Babalola
Family

Long Live Nigeria



A special thank-you message to Chief Afe Babalola by Deportees from Thailand

GIANT STRIDE OF AN IRON WOMAN

**EKITI
TODAY**

ISSUE 7, JULY 2006 53



HOW AN INDAMUNSI

**2007: HOW
EKITI
SHOULD BE
STRUCTURED**

**Afe
BABALOLA**
Bags A Philanthropist
AWARD



Special Edition

Ekiti Parapo Liberation War (Kiriji War) 1877-1886

Special Newspaper Report of Philanthropist Award given to Chief Afe Babalola in July 2006

Indeed, the string of chieftaincy titles would have continued but for the fact that Chief Afe Babalola put a stop to it in 1990. For personal reasons, he decided not to accept further chieftaincy titles and turned down numerous ones that were subsequently offered to him. The reason for the decision, as told by Chief Afe Babalola himself, had its root in a particular chieftaincy title that was offered to him.

The story went that Chief Afe Babalola successfully handled a very contentious case in court for the people of Ora community in Osun State. Thereafter, and in appreciation of the legal victory, the community decided to honour him with a Chieftaincy title which they called “**Agbanila of Ora**”. Literally translated, it means “**Saviour of Ora**”. Chief Afe Babalola was not comfortable with the chieftaincy title especially given its connotation. As a Christian, he believes that only JESUS is the Saviour. Because of that, he declined the title and vowed never to accept any Chieftaincy title from thence.

Since then, he has been offered numerous other Chieftaincy titles and he has politely turned them down.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY

ABOUT

CHIEF AFE BABALOLA

OFR, CON, SAN, FNIALS, FCI Arb., LL.D, FFPA

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ENGR. SEGUN ONI

**Executive Governor
Ekiti State**

I knew Chief Afe Babalola a very long time ago. I am sure he did not know I knew him. When I was a very little boy at Osi College, I was always around Ekotedo and I knew him as an Ekiti man. I knew his Chambers and I always admired him from a distance as a lawyer but I knew him more closely as I was growing up. The lawyers that were then classified as “AAs” were all Lagos-based and for us, non- lawyers, he seemed to be the first from outside of the Lagos ‘caucus’ to break in to the AA class and while operating right there in Ibadan. From Ibadan he broke through that barrier. That for me is noteworthy and his exploits on and on and until a time when Ondo State was celebrating him as the highest tax payer in the State. That made a very strong impression on me, and ever since I made up my mind that when I stopped working for people and I have to work for myself I will pay tax in my State. And I can tell you now that I am about the highest taxpayer in my Local Government Area because immediately I left paid employment I moved up to pay personal income tax in my state. It is a way of saying if this man can do it, it means it is legal because I know he does not do anything illegal and I did not ask him a question because I was not close to him, but I became very close to him not too long ago.

Over a dozen of us wanted to contest for the Governorship of Ekiti State under the umbrella of the Peoples Democratic Party and he organized for us an interview, an oral interview and 'Papa' as we call him was the Chairman of the panel. He made a very strong impression on everybody at least those of us meeting him for the first time. It was very clear that "it was not business as usual"; that they were looking for somebody who will make a difference when elected.

I have become even closer to 'Papa' . I can say he has even made much more precise and detailed impression on me as somebody. He is a person who is open-handed, somebody who loves to give and give to others. Somebody who also loves his people passionately and always sees beyond his love for himself . I have not seen many people like that who love the people passionately almost to the extent of loving their people more than themselves. I want to classify 'Papa Afe' that way.

He is also somebody who made me to alter my belief about myself. I used to believe that I was one of the hardest working people that anybody can come across because I am hard working. I find it very convenient because for me work is a hobby, but I see in 'Papa', even at his age, somebody who will outwork me. I wonder how much he must have worked when he was younger. My closeness to him also teaches me to know that I can always give to people. If you want to succeed in anything you do, you have to cultivate a genuine love for that thing. If you cultivate a genuine love for your job, your profession, your calling in such a way that it becomes a hobby, a passion , you will succeed in it. 'Papa' uses every opportunity he has to be in his office and not at home. I am not sure that he enjoys the scenes at home. I do not think Papa has any other life other than that of his office. For him, the office is his Club House and when you see anybody in any profession whatsoever or in any calling whatsoever for whom his work , his profession, is an hobby and he puts everything into it, there is no way that person will not succeed.

So for us as Ekiti people we always like to celebrate him. We always like to celebrate him as an icon. We always like to celebrate him as an Ekiti man who has what you can call a thoroughbred upbringing, honest to every fault that you can imagine. Always driven by the passion to support others, to give and to support others and always wanting for us to excel in Ekiti. I believe that Chief Afe Babalola is what you can probably say is a true specimen of what Ekiti is, what Ekiti truly is. We hope that the Ekiti of our days and of our children's days will continue to reflect back and imitate what has made people like him because when you go back to those values and virtues definitely you will be what you want to be.

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So, for us Chief Afe Babalola is an Icon, a role model. For us, he is an institution worthy of emulation, worthy of all accolades. I am not surprised that honours come from left, right, centre and everywhere. And the Bible says that when you see a man that is diligent in his duties that he will stand before Kings and not mere men. And by his gift of hard work and dedication to his calling, by trying to be the best, Chief Aafe Baabalola now stands "*primus inter peres*" in the Law profession and in the society.

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sanmi,
Director,

He was exceptionally successful as Pro-Chancellor of the University of Lagos. Today the University of Lagos is perhaps the best in the country. And the negative thing that the University of Lagos used to be known for disappeared. More than 1,000 students every year are now struggling to earn a very good living working as students. I believe that these are what he was able to bring to the University of Lagos.

i a decent
Ado Ekiti.
He is a gift
by God."

: Fasuba,

He is a successful University Administrator. I hope he will also be more successful as a farmer because today in Ekiti he is probably the largest grower of trees. I am not sure if he is the largest crop farmer as an individual. Today he is number one tree crops farmer and we hope that he

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will continue to invest in nature also and in farming so that he will continue to employ more people.

Some of us see him as a worthy Ambassador, a worthy son of Nigeria and a worthy example of an African who has been able to conquer all odds. He has done well, and has been acknowledged both here and abroad. If he were working for Government or anything they would have retired him but I am sure Baba is still very very agile and he should by God's grace be able to put in another decade or more into active practice and that is our hope and prayer for him.

He has also been assisting the Government of Ekiti State in various ways. Firstly, Papa is always coming up with ideas. Papa will call and say how about something like this. He is like a machine that churns out ideas all the time and that is invaluable. He is always coming up with ideas. On a personal level, his Chambers is handling my case at the Election Tribunal and other cases without charging fees. This is because when Baba believes in something he believes in it and he is somebody who has grown beyond counting cost. he is somebody who has conquered the need barriers. When people operate without the instinct to have, I believe God opens even wider doors for them. And so papa has been for us a platform, the resource, intellectual platform that churns out ideas for us and some of the things we are doing that people say we are doing well, we are not ashamed to say that we picked up some of them from him.

I personally believe that we have to celebrate him. He deserves to be celebrated. He is a man who is humble to a fault, but that is the 'Ekitiness' in him but that should not prevent him from being celebrated.

In sum, firstly, Chief Afe Babalola is generous to a fault and I believe that that is still a virtue. Secondly, the man is hardworking to a fault. He has been able to cultivate a passion and a love for his job and I believe that is

an index for success in any way. I also see 'Papa' as somebody who is completely in touch with his root. Some people will make it and they try to sever the chord between them and their roots. And the practical realities of their upbringing will be allowed to fade away. Every time we are with 'Papa' you will know that this is an Ekiti to the core. Always wanting to be Ekiti as much as possible and some of us will always want to be pure undiluted Ekiti, just like he is.

And I also believe that some of the things we have to learn from him is to cultivate the love for our people. Part of his love for his people is what prompted him to regularly pay his Tax. I think he just saw a State then that was growing up, and he must have thought of what he could contribute without anybody prompting and he decided to regularly pay his taxes here. It is his love for his people that has prompted him to do so. His footprints are in many things and I am sure you would have seen the church at Odo Ado and so on. His footprints are everywhere and it is not because he is rich. A lot of people may be richer than him and still do nothing. It is because he is willing to do it because he has a passion for it. When some people say they will be generous when they become rich I always believe that it is because they do not want to ever be generous. So we will like to be as generous as he is. And the challenge I have given to myself is that I should follow the creed that says I may not be as rich as he is but I want to be as generous even if it is on proportional basis as he is.

These are some of the things that one cannot but believe in that it would be nice to pick up from Chief Afe Babalola.



OBA (DR)
LAMIDI OLAYIWOLA
ADEYEMI III JP CFR LLD
Iku Babayeye, Alaafin of Oyo

Chief Afe Babalola is a remarkable personality, a remarkable person. We came in contact in the 1970s when there was a boundary dispute between Offa and Erinle, in the present Kwara State. He was appearing for one of the parties, that was the first time we met. They shifted the enquiry, the conduct of the enquiry to take evidence to my Palace here in Oyo.

Eventually we became friends when we had a very important and monumental case. That was the case that got me closer to him. His dexterity, his advocacy and the zeal and determination he applied to the case saved Oyo Empire from embarrassment. We wanted to install Are Ona Kakanfo in August of 1987, and we fixed a date. Nobody objected to it, nobody raised any protest or serious protest but just a week before the installation, one of my junior chiefs filed an action in court challenging my right to do so and asking for an injunction to prevent the installation. What they did behind us was to file an *ex-parte* injunction, which would have been granted but for the fact that Chief Afe Babalola was very vigilant and we got to know about the case filed behind us. He moved in swiftly so that the applicant was then asked to serve notice of the motion on us. We were put on notice, and as a lawyer you know that

it will be very difficult to get an *ex-parte* order when an adverse has party been served notice. So, instead of proceeding as an *ex-parte* matter, it became a full-fledged case. It was historical.

But I will tell you of this. Afe, apart from being a man of wisdom and knowledge, is also a man that is very understanding. He is very patient and he listens; when he listens to you he asks questions. One thing about him is that he will ask you: "look, I want to know: is this a fact?" When you answer in the positive, he would repeat the question again "is this a fact?" He wants you to tell him the truth. And one of the lessons that one should learn about him is that he will tell you "I do not want to go to court and embarrass myself when the other party or opponent springs a surprise. So, when you are dealing with him you must be prepared to tell him the truth no matter how grave the situation is.

Then I also know him as a prodigiously hard worker. He wakes early and most of the time when we had cases I would be in his chambers up to 9 p.m. and when I woke up the following morning and called him, Afe would be the person to answer, "Kabiesi, I hope you are not tired" and I will say "you are already up?"

I know him to have a very fantastic and well stocked library, at least he trained so many lawyers. Apart from that not many people see the other side of him; that he is a traditionalist to the core. The fact that he is a man of his word, he is intelligent, and he is a lawyer who respects traditional institution very very well. The respect he accords the traditional rulers you will never believe that people of his enviable position and with what he has attained in law would do.

Afe Babalola is a humanist. So many people in the country are blessed but hardly you have them going about engaging in philanthropic gestures. Afe has built schools; has attended to solving health problems not only

of his own State, but where he has succeeded in making some money in Oyo State here, he has helped a whole community. His involvement in University Administration brought a lot of changes to the University of Lagos. He used his position to attract people who have money to assist the University in several ways. They donated millions unannounced, those who are his clients, those who have benefited from Afe Babalola's legal knowledge, who have profited and gained some recognitions through him and instead of using it back for his own personal, immediate family needs, he then concretized these things, advantages for the community, and for the nation at large.

Another side you should know of Afe Babalola is that once you are his friend he does not desert you, he never does. Whenever you have a problem or you are at trial or travail, Afe will never desert you. Take for example during the battle between the Alaafin and the Asipa not very many people would do it. Afe did not charge me any fee. He never took a kobo as his professional fees not even filing fees. He did everything. What he was concerned about was that you state the truth. When you want to make an affidavit he would tell you to cross check it properly. "Please Kabiesi take this thing home, you sleep on it, read it very well, areas that you are in doubt about, if you are in doubt about any point please put it down. It is only in areas that you are absolutely sure of traditionally, culturally and historically that you are sure of the facts that you should state there because if you are called to the stand to defend your statement, I will not be there with you. I am only your lawyer, but once I put it down and I sign it then I believe also that I have the responsibility to convince the judge that I know what I was doing when I was writing those things". That is a man that his brain is very alert.

There was a time at one I was reading a newspaper where Afe was commenting on the Administration of Toll gates and I was astonished. I thought because of the volume of his legal practice, meetings, constant meetings with people and clients, with lawyers in his chambers, the man

would not have time to write on what to me was mundane and when I told him what I thought, he said "Kabiesi, collection of toll by the Federal Government is not mundane". He was able to get people to know the number of vehicles that plied the road from Lagos to Ibadan and from Ibadan to Lagos on the expressway; the vehicles that made use of the other side of the road, heavy trailers and buses, etc. and he was able to come out with a comprehensive report, daily report of how much money the Government was making from the Toll gate takings and how much it should give back to repair the road. He wrote that column for several months.

So Afe to me is a complete man, I want to call him complete man, very religious. He is absolutely very dedicated a human being. Unfortunately for him, he seems to believe that everybody is like him. That is his weakness. If there is one weakness that Afe has, he believes until he finds out that you are not the person he thinks you are or who you tell him you are. And he is a thinker of formidable age. I used to pride myself as when I see Chief Gani Fawehinmi advocating when I see Chief Rotimi Williams. I said if I were a lawyer, I would have been in the same mould as them, but Afe, if he is going to court, I like one thing about him, his advocacy is very strong. He believes he will win his case but he also respects his opponents or other lawyers too. He once told me that you might be a good lawyer but the other lawyer must be respected. That you do not know all the points. So he will prepare. If he is going to take judgment he will prepare immediately, he will prepare paper for appeal and for injunction citing several legal authorities already, whether he was going to lose or not. Then I once asked Afe why, he said "look as a lawyer even a small lawyer will have his point"

Furthermore, if you see Afe in the court, and I have watched him several times. when advocating before a Judge or several Judges if he is in the appeal court, when they are bombarding him with question after question,

he never panicked or lost his cool, but he would try to answer questions satisfactorily to the judges. He is also a tactician. If you are advocating and you are a lawyer, you have to be a tactician. Its like going to a war. A Greek Military General once said you do not give your opponent battle on their own terms, but you will dictate your own terms. Afe Babalola is a tactician. That is why I called him a thinker of formidable age, when a man can recognize the ability of his opponent, he will never underrate you when you are going to court even if you are the smaller lawyer. If a lawyer starts practicing even yesterday if Afe is meeting him today he will never underrate him. Afe does not engage in social life but he is a promoter of life in a way that most people would not know. Not many people know that Afe contributes generously to NGOs unannounced.

He is also a methodical man. Today is a Thursday; if it were on a Saturday evening, and I pick up my phone and telephone him and I say "Chief where are you" he will say "Papa you already know where I am, I am in my office". If you tell him you are coming 2 pm make sure you are there 10 minutes before the time. If you are not there, you are held up by traffic, you are in a hold up, tell him "Chief I am in so so place, I am held up by traffic," he will tell you "how long do you think you can meet me here because I don't want to miss my lunch." He will then wait for you, if you get there he will say look at the time, we are to spend may be the appointment is for an hour. "I can only give you 30 minutes", he would say. At the end of 30 minutes he would reschedule the meeting. So when you are going to deal with a man like that, you will know that he is a man who has a strict schedule, a completely organised man who does not waste his time on frivolities.

Recently, a whole village, Afe sustained the village, other people would have announced it, we have the big people, movers and shakers of this and that throughout the State who would have been present but he was

very modest about it and if you are to interview him on it he will probably not even tell you what it costs him to do it.

What we want to do with this chieftaincy for Afe is that I want to portray what was stated in the biblical book of St. Matthew that "you are the light of the world, a city set upon the hill cannot be hidden, neither do men light a lamp and put it under the bushel but on the candle stick that it giveth light unto others in the house even so let your light so shine before men that they may see your good work and glorify your father which is in heaven".

And so it is left for us to profile him or we leave him for God to profile him. He has never asked anybody to give him chieftaincy title.

So Afe is like that, if you are close to him if you recognize him, if you study him closely. Chief Obafemi Awolowo said "it takes the deep to recognize the deep." I read a lot, I read about cases, judgments and advocacy. I want to read more about logic, presentation so that when you read my books that I have written, you will see they come naturally from my memory; you see certain things about legal, nature or logical presentation. It is only because I study people like Afe. No lawyer that is worth his salt will go to court if he knows he is not prepared for the case

Sir Henry Carr graduated at the age of 19 in Fourah Bey College in 1887. He went back to University of Cambridge to defend his thesis during which time in 1889, he posited a question: "What is the greatest gift that education conveys on its recipient?" He went on to argue that the greatest gift that education conveys on its recipient is depth of character; and what do you mean by character? Character means your environment and training. And he said that the brain is capable of being nourished and sustained through a certain set of methodology, which we call training. The brain is never tired. It is only human beings that get tired. You can

continue to nourish it by being current in whatever you are doing and that is what Afe does at this age. Whether people appreciate it or not, he is up there with the likes of people like Christopher Sapara Williams, the first Nigerian lawyer; J.I.C. Taylor; Chief F.R. A. Williams.



**OBA ADEYEMO
ADEJUGBE
ALADESANMI II**

The Ewi of Ado-Ekiti

We must give glory to God Almighty for creating a man like Chief Afe Babalola.

I know him to be a gift to this generation, not just Ado-Ekiti, not just Ekiti State, not even, Nigeria alone. Chief Afe Babalola is an international figure and for God to have given us such a person on this side of this continent we should give glory to God for that.

Chief Afe Babalola is from Ilotin, Ado-Ekiti. He is a son of a High Chief in Ado-Ekiti, a self-made man, a man who, as a result of hard work got to the peak of his career.

Today by the special grace of God there is no part of this country where you mention the name of Chief Afe Babalola that people will not know him. But he is from here, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria. He is a friend and a fellow, kind-hearted human being and generous to a fault. Whoever you are, if you need help and go to his office or his house he is ready to give to you, even if you are richer than him. He is ready to give you, you can not leave his house without him giving you something. Even when it

is to his own discomfort he is ready to part to let you get. And that is why in Ado-Ekiti today there is no project you can think of that he is not part of. And he does not just take part, he normally leads. The most recent of such projects is the Endowment Fund, which we had for this Palace. He was not the Chief Launcher but his donation was above that of every body.

I have been here now for 17 years plus and there is nothing you point to in Ado-Ekiti that you will not see the hand of Chief Afe Babalola in it. And in this State, there is nothing happening that you will not see Chief Afe Babalola playing prominent role in it. Some people wonder why he is doing it and when people do not seem to appreciate it he will continue to tell you that he is created for such duty and he is ready to do it and do it well. The other day, on 22nd February 2008, the Federal Polytechnic Ado-Ekiti was launching an Endowment Fund of N3billion. They call him the Father of the Polytechnic. When you go to the University College Hospital of Ibadan, you are told about the building he put up there. So, he is a man of many parts. He is a man I regard as a gift to the present generation. A man that is a source of inspiration to the younger generation.

Chief Afe Babalola is a man that can be said to be the "*Jesus Christ*" of our time who has come to liberate his people from the shackles of sins and wickedness of days gone by. He affects the local people, the poor people, raising them and decreasing the poverty level in this State because he is ready to give willingly and ready to help to the detriment of himself. He is ready to abandon his own job to satisfy you. One cannot know why he is doing it. It is only God that created him for this purpose.

I am not a praise singer but this is an individual that the good qualities in him are beyond human explanation, very very kind. One thing we should do is to continue to pray for him that God should spare his life so that he will live to reap the fruit of his labour. Not in monetary terms. He will

not say he needs money from his children, but he wants to see them doing better things, becoming greater than himself. That is the kind of prayer that I am continuously praying for him. He is a person that when you wake up in the morning you want to use his name to pray for yourself. Yes! You say, "God of Afe Babalola bless me and my children" because his God never fails. Yes! There may be problem, yes there may be tribulation but at the end of it you will come out a stronger person. He is the kind of person when you batter him here or there he will just rise up as a morning Star Yes! That is how he won an award outside the country, at a point when you thought that everything about Afe Babalola was at the lowest ebb. He is a special human being and he is a gift to this generation and I thank God that at least he is one of the people who is assisting this Kingdom.

There was a time when the Vice - Chancellor of University of Ado-Ekiti (UNAD) came to me and told me series of programmes and projects that were required in that University and that because they were lacking, academic courses of the University were not been accredited. I requested for the list of the academic courses and he gave me a long list. I decided to pick up the Faculty of Law and told him that my community will put up that structure for the University. Then I sent for my children, including Chief Afe Babalola. We organized a launching and we decided that my Palace will not accommodate the people that will come to the launching because we were expecting a very large turn out. Then, we decided to use the stadium for it. That day two, three hours after the event was to kick off, nobody of substance showed up, not even the Chief Launcher. Then Afe Babalola decided to make himself the Chief Launcher and he said one thing: "Kabiesi, do not worry. I can see in you that you are worried. Do not worry, the fewer we are the better the share of glory". And he decided took it upon himself to be the Chief Launcher and he donated the amount that was used to put up the Faculty of Law. Apart

from that, he, on his own, put up another structure in that University. Today, if you go there you will see it. It cost him millions of naira.

As Ewi of Ado-Ekiti, this seat is supposed to tell the truth and nothing but the truth, the way you see it, you do not change, you do not stage manage. That is why people say whatever the Ewi says here on earth the heavenly throne will accept it because our Lord is the Lord of Justice, the Lord of reward and Lord of retribution. So whatever Ewi is saying ought to be the truth. On some occasions the authority will not be happy with the truth. It will get to a stage where you will say okay if need be we go to court. There have been more than two occasions within the last 17 years. Afe will say he waas to defend the traditional institution. He is ready to stand up to the occasion. Even when people are not talking to you and not giving you what is your right he would say "don't worry Kabiesi".

I remember about two years ago there was a funny incident in Ekiti here. The Government of the State bought 31 vehicles, we had 31 Obas in Ekiti and the Government decided to buy 31 vehicles, one for each traditional ruler, and the one that was meant for this palace, not me, I have been riding vehicles for more than 40 years, the Government of the State decided to give it to one of my subjects, a Prince who is not an Oba. And he did that to spite me and to instigate a crisis in the town. The Government of the State wanted to create crisis so that they will say Kabiesi started it. When the story came to me I said I thank God that is one of the vehicles in my Kingdom. He can take it away, but my subjects saw more than that. They said it was an affront. They decided to buy a vehicle on their own.

It got to a ridiculous stage. I was hosting Dynamic Club meeting here, members came for their meeting because I was a member from Lagos before becoming an Oba. They came to the Palace and i agreed to host

them, on that particular occasion. Then, one man brought a vehicle it was the second day that I heard about the story. They said somebody brought a vehicle and he said he wanted to sell the vehicle to me and the members saw the vehicle and to them the vehicle was very good, a befitting vehicle for the very standard of Ewi of Ado-Ekiti and they jumped at it. They said they wanted to buy that vehicle and they started levying each other, at least to spite the man that had attempted to belittle their Oba. They knew Chief Afe Babalola was in town and so in the evening they went to his house and they narrated the story of how they saw a vehicle that afternoon and decided to buy it for their Kabiesi. He asked, "what type of vehicle is it and is it a brand new vehicle?". He told them to be very careful and that it might be a set up. It could be a stolen vehicle that could put Kabiesi into problem and in any event if we must buy a vehicle for our Kabiesi it has to be a brand new one. He said they should go and look for a brand new car that he was not interested in a second hand vehicle. When they went back to him, he gave them a cheque for the full amount to buy it. The issue here is not just the value of the vehicle but the spirit behind the gift, which is to remove an attempt at a disgrace and an affront.

It is not because he has too much that he is such a giver but he is always ready to give. It is not common but it is a virtue to want to give. There are people who just want to hold tight to whatever comes their way and people like that do not impress anyone.

That is Chief Afe for you – kind hearted, complete gentleman, very humble. Humility you will see it in him. To the traditional rulers he is ready to prostrate because he believes in culture and respect for the same.

On the creation of Ekiti State, Chief Afe Babalola connected us with the Late General Sanni Abacha. When he was the General Officer Commanding, in Ibadan himself and Chief Afe Babalola became friends.

It was that connection that we used to meet General Sanni Abacha, when he became Head of State. So the first visit to General Sanni Abacha was facilitated by Chief Afe Babalola. We traveled with one of our subjects Reuben Famuyibo to Abacha in Lagos. And apart from that there is one man at Ibadan. We call him **Seriki n'shasha**. The Anglican Communion, Ekiti Diocese led by late Bishop Akingbola they were celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the creation of the Diocese here and the then Bishop invited all Obas in Ekiti to Emmanuel Church Cathedral. On the morning of that service, it occurred to me to phone the Bishop to find out the arrangement after the service for the Obas. Because Obas do not go to people's houses, I wanted to find out the arrangement for the Obas from the Bishop. It was here in this hall that we met after the service. The Obas were more than seven (70). They came and that day it was the issue of state creation. It was after the first nine sets of States were created. My people felt so bad that Ekiti was not one of them and so we all talked, talked and talked. I was made the Chairman of the committee to canvass for Ekiti State. When you are leader apart from the normal meeting you want to go extra mile so that you will achieve the objectives of the Association. That was how we traveled to see **Seriki n'shasha**. Chief Afe Babalola linked us with Seriki n'shasha. Seriki was so close to General Sanni Abacha. He was like a god father to General Sanni Abacha. What his father, Abacha's father, could not tell him to do, Seriki n'shasha would order him to do it.

There was a famous story. The officers were going to Enugu on a faithful day. We sent Seriki n'shasha to see General Abacha and we stayed at Ibadan. General Sanni Abacha had to come out of the car to attend to him. So when people talk they do not know the details of Chief Afe Babalola's involvement. Apart when the Mbanefo Committee on State Creation was set up, it was moving round and when it got to Ekiti, one of them, now an Ekiti person, telephoned the leader, one of our subjects, Chief Esan, that it appeared we would lose out and that he felt sorry for Ekiti people.

He said we should approach Chief Afe Babalola to present our case at Mbanefo Committee. That was why it became the role of Chief Afe Babalola to present the case of Ekiti at Mbanefo committee.

I have said it before that Ewi is not a praise singer. He would not praise sing anybody but I am ready to say the truth as I see it. Chief Afe Babalola is a special human being. If I say he is an ordinary human being you will argue but he is a special human being and a gift to this generation. We are only praying and we will continue to pray that God will continue to spare him. He will continue to spare him, grant him good health.

You see there is no perfect situation in life. If God has given him that much there will be a time for God to test his faith. Jesus Christ came to this world doing good to all manners of people and yet people betrayed him.

As a big man you expect the bombshell as you are going on like that. Those are challenges of life, when you see them and you weather through and you come out a stronger person. I mentioned it the other time that at a stage his reputation was some how at a low ebb as a result of this politician but then an award came. He went to receive it. He did not tell me and when he came back I said "Chief you did not tell me because you think if you tell me I will go or you think that I do not know what is going on?" And I said "God used this award to put to shame your detractors, that is all. If not, why was it that they had those equipments ready at University College Hosiptal, Ibadan, the people that donated the equipment are you saying that they could not afford to build a house to house the equipment? Are you saying that Oyo State Government, if God wanted to use them to put up that structure, could not put it up? Are you saying Chief Afe Babalola was the highest and richest individual at that time?" But God wanted to use that building to raise his name beyond Nigeria and let the whole world know this man that you do not value here; this man that you are

despising here: this man that you are running down here; this man that you are saying "kill him, crucify him." So as a human being you are bound to face the good side and the wrong side of life. God Himself said at a stage, he regretted creating human beings, which means that God Himself was not that pleased by our conduct.

If Chief Afe Babalola was born with a silver spoon in his mouth probably that would not have given him opportunity to see issues of life the way he sees it. He suffered as a child. He had it rough and now he knows what it means to be a poor person. There are some people who do not believe that it is impossible not to have N500 in your pocket. But there are people in this country today that cannot afford N200. People like that, when we tell them about poverty they know what is poverty, when you say hardship they know what it means. So I know Chief Afe Babalola's background contributed a lot to where he is now and what he is doing.



THE MOST REVEREND SAMUEL

ADEDAYO ABE

**Bishop of Ekiti and
ArchBishop of Ondo
Diocese, Anglican
Communion, Nigeria**

Chief Afe Babalola is a man of the people. He is a man who will listen to you because on many occasions when I visited him you will see almost a market of people in his house, asking for something, lodging one complaint or the other. He will listen to everybody, even when you are saying you have no money, you are troubled he will listen to you and he will sympathize with you, he will dip his hand into his wallet bag and he will give you money. I have seen him do this on many occasions. Chief Afe Babalola spent a lot of money to build our Saint Paul's Anglican Church, Odo Ado. If you go to that church today it singles itself out by the structure and the beauty and it is through the instrumentality of Chief Afe Babalola. Apart from being a legal luminary you know he will come back home and be with his people. When people lodge complaint before him as regards one thing or the other he will pursue it to a logical conclusion and he will make sure that he satisfies his people.

And apart from that, Chief Afe Babalola is a man who loves Agriculture. He goes to the farm. He will come around and will put on his shoes and go to the farm. So he is a man of the people apart being an international man, he does not forget his people. You know if a river should forget its

source it will dry up, but as he is as an international man, he does not forget his people at all. He will come back home and listen to them.

Anytime he comes around here you know some people because they are at the highest rung of the ladder they just forget about men of God but he does not and up till now the Pastor of that church and the Baba Ijo will still go to him and he will listen to them about any problem they have concerning church. For instance, of recent he bought a piece of land worth hundreds of thousands of naira. He tidied up all the papers that will back it up and gave it to the church.

We wanted to give him an award to show our appreciation but he said "no no." It was during the political turmoil. It was when there were battalions of soldiers and policemen around him at that time. He said "no no" we should not come around that point in time, but we wanted to. In fact when we had ordination of our Pastors, we took him to that church and we said it was to honour him and give him award but he said no.

He is a religious man. When we are talking about Emmanuel (Chief Afe Babalola's middle name) there is nothing philosophical Emmanuel is the name given to Jesus. It means "God be with us." And you know he has been very successful legally and Emmanuel is a name given to our church and to the school. And God has been with Chief Afe Bablola.



**HON. JUSTICE
MORONKEJI
OMOTAYO
ONALAJA, CON**

**Retired Justice, Court of Appeal
Chairman, Council of Legal
Education in Nigeria**

I met Chief Afe Babalola when he was a junior counsel in the chambers of Ayoola brothers, the late Justice Olu Ayoola and Justice Yinka Ayoola. Chief Afe Babalola was very popular among the juniors at the time.

I had just established my own chambers. That was in 1964. But the thing that drew me close to him when I was at the bar was that Afe Babalola is a very hardworking lawyer and his life can be put in the Shakespearian trilogy of greatness: of being born great, of working hard to achieve greatness; and of greatness to be thrust upon you. I will say that Chief Afe Babalola grew from grass to grace. He is a self-made man. And when you have cases against Chief, you have to be extra careful and put in more efforts to be able to oppose him vigorously.

Also, we were both involved in a very serious criminal case against the first Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health in Kwara State. Fortunately for us all the accused were discharged. Afe was representing the first accused, the Permanent Secretary. Justice Kawu gave that judgment and made all of us to respect him up till now. When we concluded the addresses and he adjourned for judgment that very day Justice Kawu left Ilorin and went to Kainji with all the exhibits and the record to write his judgment. Nobody knew where he was until the

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morning that he was to deliver the judgment. He did that so that nobody could influence him. It was only members of his family that knew where he was.

Chief Afe Babalola has been sowing the unity of the Ekiti people trying to unite them. You will notice that the Ekiti State has a Federal Polytechnic. It was through the influence of Afe Babalola. The respect which the then President, Alhaji Sheu Shagari, had for him made that possible. This is because they already established the Federal University of Technology in Akure and Ekiti was then part of Ondo State, so it was not common to have two Universities in one State at that time. So out of respect for Chief Afe Babalola President Shagari sited the Federal Polytechnic in Ado Ekiti and Chief Afe Babalola has been responsible for most of the things in Ado Ekiti concerning the University.

Chief Afe Babalola has exemplified the particular creed of **Thomas Aquinas** that "where there is injury let me sow pardon, where there is doubt, let me sow faith, where there is despair let me give hope"

His exemplary performance as Pro-Chancellor of the University of Lagos made the National Universities Commission to name Afe Babalola the best Pro-Chancellor of all the 52 Nigerian Universities. He has been holding that position for two years. Chief Afe Babalola is a very religious person. He single handedly built a church, Anglican Church in Ado Ekiti, his home town. The Church can accommodate over a thousand worshippers. He built it, so when his people are in problem they go to this Church and they pray and God has been answering them.

But we have our ups and downs. When a very brilliant junior of his, Seeni Okunloye died, Chief Afe Babalola was shattered because he took him as a son and uplifted him up to the position of a Senior Advocate of Nigeria. This young man was the bread winner for his family and extended

family. The family and everybody lost hope that their bread winner had gone but Chief Afe Babalola took up the responsibility which the late SAN was bearing. He established a trust fund for the education of the children of this late SAN and has been continuing with the maintenance of the young Seeni Okunloye's family.

All these I am saying Afe does not want that people should know. He says he is doing it as his mind and God directed him.

Now, Aquinas said "where there is darkness let me give light and also where there is sadness let me give joy." These have been the philosophy of Afe Babalola. All that I have said and quoted from Thomas Aquinas, Afe Babalola has been fulfilling all. As I have said in respect of Seeni Okunloye, when he died there was complete sadness all over but he brought joy by continuing to maintain and keep Seeni Okunloye's family.

Now, Chief Afe Babalola has got the credit that in the whole of Nigeria since the establishment of the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria he has produced from his chambers more Senior Advocates of Nigeria than any other chambers in the whole of the country. No one has been able to match him in training people. The beauty of it is that when they become Senior Advocates, they are at liberty to still continue in his chambers but invariably many of them have established their own chambers which are first class and can be compared with any chambers anywhere in the world. I do not want to mention names but we all know. I also know them.



**DR CHRISTOPHER
KOLADE, CON**
Formerly Chairman, Cadbury
Nig. Plc.
Formerly Nigeria's High Commis-
sioner to the United Kingdom

The privilege that I have is that I knew Afe Babalola as a boy because we went to school together, primary school, at Emmanuel Anglican School, Ado – Ekiti and therefore have known each other since before the age of 10 years.

In those days the thing that struck one about Afe Babalola was that there was nothing that daunted him, nothing that he was afraid of. He took up every task with determination. For instance, I still remember when our school, Emmanuel School, was moving to a new site from the middle of town. The boys had to prepare the new site, to clear the site, and trees, cut down the bush and so on and so forth. We were little boys of less than 10 years old. It was not easy getting us to do that. But you could always see that if it was something that required unusual energy to accomplish, then Afe Babalola will be there. So the rest of us sort of took our cue from him. I recall a particular day when, as we were clearing the bush, a snake suddenly appeared and of course most of us just scampered away but not so Afe. The snake ran into a hole and he just went to that hole, put his hand into the hole, got hold of the snake by the tail and drew it out and killed it. To be able to do that at 10 years old was courageous. But it is a certain quality of spirit that actually makes somebody that courageous.

I think it is that spirit of the courage to take on anything that has marked his career, the law career, and that has driven him to rise to the top of that profession in becoming a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN). And in all of that I will say that he has remained true to his origins, to the early upbringing that he had. In the village community in which we grew up nobody played sophistication with anybody. If there was something that needed to be said, you said it as it was. If there was a truth needing to be told, it was told and if there was a relationship that needed to be discussed or straightened or whatever then there was no pretending on the part of the people. People were forthright and they spoke to each other directly as they felt.

In the years that followed, and in most recent years and on those occasions that I have met with Afe Babalola whether at home or at some function, the same quality of communication has remained between us. For instance, the last time I was talking to him was when he was Pro-Chancellor of the University of Lagos and he was sharing with me the problem they were encountering. He did not dress anything up. He said everything as it was and therefore, he is one person whom I have known since when I was young that I am still comfortable to talk with, to interact with because I know that if there is something I am doing that is improper he will tell me and if there is something I am doing that he sees as very good, he will not hesitate to say either. And really that's the kind of relationship that you come to appreciate more and more the older you get. That is more precious because you know you understand the quality of it and you know where it is coming from.

I am not surprised that he has achieved so much in his career with the law profession I am never into his law practice so I do not know anything but I suspect that if I went to him for instance to ask him to represent me and

state my case before him, if there is something wrong with the case he will tell me and if he thinks it is not worth pursuing it, he will let me know. So that is him I know the quality of the man. He is somebody I am prepared to trust with anything at anytime.

Our school, Emmanuel School, had an impact on us all, but we were more influenced by the society in which we grew up. Our school, Emmanuel School was part of that society and it reflected the values of that society. In that society people were respected or admired for what they achieved, what they did, the value they were adding to the situation. No one had too much money to throw about. So you could not admire somebody for being such or for having very many houses. No. That was not the brain.

So the values we imbibed as we grew up were true core values of human performance; that you were given an opportunity and you utilised that opportunity to the best of your ability to produce something that people could look at and commend. And I think the primary school, the church and other things that we did at that time all fell into that particular perception that a human being is to be judged, to be measured by what he is able to do; how he is able to be more productive than other people and not running around mundane or whatever it was. We grew up in a village and village values are always very basic.



**PROF.
OYEWUSI
IBIDAPO-OBE, OFR**
Former Vice-Chancellor,
University of Lagos

I met Chief Afe Babalola in year 2000. That was when I was appointed the Vice Chancellor of the University of Lagos. I think I met him the 2nd day I was appointed. Chief Afe Babalola to me is a coloration of so many things. Nobody can take it away from him that he is very passionate about whatever he wants to do.

When you look at his background, I am enthused. Really I am excited because I said this man has done what I cannot imagine myself doing. So I give him a lot of respect. Coming from his kind of background he has been able to achieve so much. Honestly, what people see of him from outside is just a minuscule of what he really is or has done or of his real performance.

Chief Afe Babalola is a well self-trained, self-made and highly disciplined patriot and gentleman. He has a disarming capacity for hard work, knowledge (beyond the 'learning' of top and well celebrated solicitors and advocates), openness in personal and professional life as well as transparency in public affairs.

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Chief Babalola is oftentimes too trusting especially of people with a different agenda from his well known vision of transparency and human oriented development.

Chief Afe Babalola demonstrates a commanding spirit of leadership-by-example that inspires. He is a good listener, strict time manager, an excellent fund mobilizer with zero tolerance for corrupt and corrupting practices. He is a very fearless, kind and generous man (sometimes generous to a 'fault').

Chief Afe Babalola was Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council during my tenure as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lagos from 2000-2007. He provided excellent fatherly support throughout my tenure and we worked excellently together. He served selflessly as a Pro Chancellor. It was therefore not a surprise that he was twice named Best Pro - Chancellor for two consecutive years by the National University Commission. Remarkably, he is the only person who has a Building in the University of Lagos after him in his life time. Chief Afe Babalola believes in African Traditional mores and values such as respect for elders but accords respect to all persons irrespective of age or status.



**PROFESSOR
ABIODUN
ILESANMI**

**Chief Medical Director,
University College
Hospital Ibadan**

The University Hospital, Ibadan is Nigerian's first and foremost Teaching and Tertiary Health Institution. By the grace of God I have been here since 2003. I am a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Since assumption of office, it has been God's assistance and team work, that have seen me to this stage.

Talking about Chief Afe Babalola is a unique opportunity. Chief Afe Babalola is a rare Nigerian, very unique and rare Nigerian and when I look at him and my close association with him these few years I thank God. He is a perfect role model and I have learnt a lot from him both formally and informally.

When I came in as the Chief Medical Director, we used to talk by telephone. The first time I met him I was with my uncle. What struck me was that there were a lot of people in his office and as I observed, he kept on giving notes, he kept on calling people to assist one person or the other. It was as if it was a centre for those who really needed help. And when I left his office I kept wondering to myself that if many privileged Nigerians

could really stretch their hands forth like that, then may be the society would have been better than it is.

Our close talk revealed to me that here is somebody who was self-made, who started from a very humble background and tutored himself. God has blessed him and what he has been doing for many years is to give out and in places he has given out he is reaching out. So he is there. He makes himself available to everybody irrespective of your status and that is very rare. He is a natural leader. A natural philanthropist. Now you then wonder, how Chief Afe Babalola did come into relationship with the University College Hospital and all that.

Along the line one of our retired Professors, Professor (Mrs) C. Osifo brought this idea of bringing Nuclear Medicine into Nigeria and rightly U.C.H. should be the first consideration and I thought may be we were not ready to do this but I was actually impressed by Prof (Mrs.) Usifo's energy and passion. She worked tirelessly and in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency, invariably U.C.H. was given Nuclear Medicine Facilities, the very first along this coast of the continent of Africa.

Now again they brought the Gamma Camera and what have you, and trained a lot of our staff across all cadres - Doctors, Nurses, Radiotherapists, Radiographers, even Pharmacists. This led to the establishment of the first Nuclear Pharmacy Programme in Sub-Sahara Africa.

Now these things (activities) were going on, but we needed a location, a building to house the equipment and the facilities and the staff. We needed to expand and the future of the programme must be sustained and must be assured. At that point in time, we thought with N40million we would be able to put up a befitting structure. We reached out to many banks and many companies and many financial institutions for funding and financial

assistance but after they gave us initial appointments the next thing we got was a cold treatment. I think between Professor (Mrs) Osifo and I, we must have tried over 10 institutions and some private individuals. So it was out of frustration that we went to Chief Afe Babalola and we were just expecting that maybe if we could just persuade him just to donate between N2million to N3million to start off. Then I told him "Chief I have this problem. This is the programme we have, etc etc." He said, "okay". After some minutes he said I think I will do it since humanity will benefit from it. That was it, just like that. That happened to be one of my happiest moments in this assignment. And I tell you even when we were no longer going to him, he was the one pressurising us to bring the architectural plans and drawings and asking for Architects to see him. I tell you, he spent over N200million on that project.

Chief is wonderful and because of that, because of the seriousness displayed by a Nigerian, because of the commitment by a Nigerian, because of the selflessness of a Nigerian who sees beyond his generation, who thinks that not only the present crops of patients and Nigerians should benefit, but those even yet unborn, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) recognized our efforts and today as I am speaking to you U.C.H. has further been designated as the Major referral centre for both West Africa and Central African Regions. Can you imagine! And again Chief has risen to the occasion. Since IAEA has added enormous assignment to us, we may probably need further expansion and Chief Afe Babalola has agreed to expand the structure.

The structure, did you see how massive it is? He has agreed to raise it further up.

If I say I am not overwhelmed, embarrassed and all that, I will be telling lies. I am not playing to the gallery. I know the number of people that I approached for help on this project and they were not interested. Most

Nigerians are only interested in things that will give them instant publicity or where they will do something and take something in return. But this hospital has never given Chief Afe Babalola anything. He has never even been here for any medical treatment and I do not think he will. God will continue to sustain his health. God is the Chief Physician. He is the Physician of physicians and He will continue to bless him.

Now that is one aspect which everybody will just know and all, but the other aspect people do not know about Chief Afe Babalola, as I mentioned earlier, is that he keeps on helping people. There are many times he has intervened in settling health bills, in trying to see if people could be placed for employment, and there are many instances he has helped in very wide ramifications. So at times I wonder how he gets the time for his law practice. Sincerely, I wonder because there is no time I visit Chief Afe Babalola in his office, morning, afternoon or dead in the evening and not met him busy trying to assist people.

Now the third aspect is that there are many times, even the hospital has gone to him for legal assistance and he has not collected any fee from us. He has made himself available, even some of us on personal and private basis have gone to him, have taken people to him for assistance or legal assistance and he knows that these people can never afford his bill and he still helped.

He has been there for us. He is a unique Nigerian. And this statement is not my opinion alone. Anybody that comes across him, by the time you leave his presence he must have touched your life. I know a lot of people in other companies that Chief has helped greatly to restore their job, to help them in actualizing their life ambitions. He is always there from the beginning.

I think we should all just learn a lesson from him. It follows the Biblical injunction, when you give and as you are giving you are receiving, but when you do not give or you are tight-fisted, you might think you are smart, but what you think is much is minimal compared to what God has planned for you.

Chief Afe Babalola's contribution to humanity is immeasurable. It is just limitless. It will never die. It is there and I thank God for his life. He is a gift to Nigeria, to Africa and he is a gift to the world, and he has won so many accolades all over the world.



**PROFESSOR BOLA
OLUWAKEMI AYODELE
OSIFO**

**Consultant and Head, Department
of Nuclear Medicine, University
College Hospital, Ibadan**

When we are looking for how to get a building to house our equipment and staff, we applied to many places but nothing came up. From nowhere Chief Afe Babalola turned up. He did not even know what Nuclear Medicine is all about.

Nuclear medicine is an area in which we use Nuclear Technology to diagnose and treat patients. We are more specialized in cancer and cardiac diseases and we are doing a lot for patients. But other areas now are coming up that Nuclear Medicine can take care of. We now handle *Renal*. This morning for instance we have a patient here with renal problem. We now handle even neck patients. In the area of nuclear medicine we do not take blood specimen. We use Gamma Camera with Gamma lens. When we put the patient under the Camera, the Gamma lens can identify where the Cancer is and whether the Cancer is spreading. If it is a cardiac problem, what exactly is happening in the heart: if it is Renal, what exactly is happening in the Kidneys: if it is Chest, what is happening in the lungs.

A lot of people identify Nuclear Technology with atomic bomb or weapon of mass destruction. But that is the whole idea of the International Atomic

Energy Agency. The International Atomic Energy Agency(IAEA) is showing that you can use Nuclear Technology for peaceful means and not just to make bomb.

Now, when UCH was chosen by IAEA and they gave us equipments and trained our people, we needed a building because what we had could not contain us any longer. IAEA had trained about 12 people for us, 2 Radio Pharmacists, 2 Nurses, 2 imaging scientists, 3 Physicians, etc

Nobody was forthcoming. It was by chance that we met Chief Afe Babalola and this is why I always say that he is a God-sent person to Nuclear Medicine in this Country. It was by chance the Chief Medical Director met him at a social function and the Chief said "you people in U.C.H. you don't need anything" and the CMD said "No we need something" and Chief said "you need something, what is it?" the CMD said, "I think my head of Department will be better placed to explain what we need." The CMD later told me, but I guess both of us did not take him seriously enough. I was in my office when Chief Afe Babalola rang and said "you said you needed something and you have not even come to tell me, can you come tomorrow".

I went with the CMD. Before we left I asked the Hospital Architect to give us a drawing of what the building will look like. So I took a copy of it and the CMD and I and some other staff went there to Chief Afe Babalola office. We got there and the Chief was already expecting us. I introduced myself. He told me he was from Ado Ekiti. I told him that I attended Emmanuel Primary School in Ado-Ekiti. He said he was in Emmanuel School too. My father was a Civil servant so we were in Ado. He was my senior in Emmanuel School Ado. I was in Standard 2 when he was in Standard 5.

So I informed him of our mission to his office, that we needed someone to finance the building for Nuclear Medicine Department because it is not a small department. Then, I gave him a copy of the Architectural drawing. He started reading from the back and then he was moving to the front and when he got to the front he went back again to the back. He read it twice and we were all looking at him. He did not say a word and when he talked, he simply said "I will build it". I was the only one who first got the message so I literally had to push the CMD up from his seat. You know it was like a bolt from the blues. We never expected it. We expected that he would say "I will look at it and you can come back." But he just said "I will build it" Ah! That was his language "I will build it".

Before then, we had contacted Institutions, banks, companies and nobody showed interest.

Then all of us, the CMD, the PRO, everybody we all got up and started clapping for him and then we sat down. He said, "I came from a poor home and everything I have got I never got it through contract. I never got contract to supply Garri or rice or even supply furniture to an office. No, everything I have I made it through this Profession with God's help and I have decided to give the wealth back to Him by doing something for humanity." We were all shocked and thrilled at the same time.

We visited Chief Afe Babalola in March 2006. Sometime, in May 2006, the CMD called me and said "we have not heard from Chief Afe Babalola". But shortly afterwards, Chief Afe Babalola came to the Hospital and said "where is my land. I am ready to put up my building, where is my land". We, the CMD and I, decided that the building would be located at the car park. I said, "excuse me sir, your land?"; he said "yes, my land. I want to put up my building". So the CMD pointed to where we are now and said "that is the land sir". Then he told us to announce that everyone should remove their cars and that if there were pipes under the place, we should

remove them. Before the end of July, they had commenced construction. He brought a block making machine and moulded the blocks here. By August, they were already doing the foundation and the CMD said he wanted the thing ready in February (6 months) The only thing Chief Afe Babalola is not responsible for are the chairs we are sitting on. Chief Afe Babalola installed every other thing; Air-conditioning, the fans, everything. Look, you can see that this place is very well built. Look at the finishing, That is Chief for you. When we had to move our laboratory here, it was important we moved the lab, Chief said we should not worry and he built the lab for us again. We commissioned this place on *March 22, 2007*. It took between 8 and 9 months.

This year again, the IAEA called us. Every 2 years IAEA has a programme that they call country programme framework. All the countries that are part of IAEA, they allow you to tell them what you want them to do in the next 3 years for you. So last year 2007 we held a meeting in August in Abuja. IAEA has forced the Government of Nigeria to establish the National Atomic Energy Commission (N.A.E.C) which caters for IAEA's interest in the Country. Dr. Sai Sai, a Nuclear Engineer, is the Director General of N.A.E.C. So they said we should write project, which is the normal thing. I wrote the one for U.C.H. We have to develop another hospital. So we chose Port Harcourt. They had to hold a National meeting. IAEA is interested in water, solid minerals, human health, animal health, agriculture, etc. All these areas, they are very relevant. NAFDAC is interested in the Pharmacy aspect. Right now, as I am talking to you the Director General of N.A.E.C. said they have given 8 new projects to Nigeria. They are also interested in electricity, power generation etc.

Then the IAEA decided to upgrade U.C.H.. Immediately I heard this, I rang Chief Afe Babalola. I called him and said "Chief (Oga) they said they are going to upgrade us o". He said, "*se ka tun kole mii ni?*" (should we build another house?) So I said "Oga we will not need another building,

Have you forgotten the way you made your foundation for this structure? It was massive. So we can go up and do not need to spread.” He said he will raise the structure up and the process has already begun.

If you come here next week you will see this building being upgraded. He is going to put up about 24 rooms upstairs to accommodate our new status as a Regional centre. In fact we are no longer going to be a department because IAEA were so pleased with us. IAEA now decided early this year that since we have done well now, they will help us to expand Nuclear Medicine for the Country. IAEA said they will spend money and the Federal Government too will spend money because they want to establish about 10 Nuclear Medicine Centres in this country; 5 in the North, 5 in the South and the Nuclear Medicine Centres will be directly under Ministry of Health. So no University can swallow it up and strangle it because they are interested in health care. What we have done is that all Nuclear Medicine Centres will be in hospitals, not in the Colleges of Medicine of the Universities so that the Federal Ministry of Health will make sure they supply adequate money to fund the departments and then they said U.C.H. will be the Technical Supervisor of all the Centres in the Country and they are making us a Regionalhead so that West African, Central African countries can send their staff here for training.

So, Chief has decided to upgrade the building . A Library will be up there. A Seminar room will be up there. Everybody goes up. The ground floor becomes a Gamma Camera room and that is the latest thing that Chief has decided to do. So you can see that Chief is a God-sent person to U.C.H. In case you do not know, this is the first in the history of U.C.H. where an individual decided to put up a building with his own money and ensure that building is well maintained. Chief has gone to the extent of saying that it is in his will to continue to maintain it and renew maintenance after every two years even after his death.

So he is the one maintaining the building. Everything we need he supplies. The maintenance is every 2 years. He will be repainting and replacing any damaged doors etc. Whatever we need we have to let him know. It is even embarrassing to me. Look at the things here, they are very expensive. The whole of this place is totally Air-conditioned. He built and equipped the place. It got to a point Chief said he will come and plant flowers for us and the CMD asked "you put up a building for us, you want to plant flower for us again?" It becomes embarrassing really because he wanted to give us everything we needed. At that point we had to beg him to let us handle that aspect.

We have been able to take care of about 1,000 patients. We are already well known internationally both in America and in Europe.

Yes what we do is that we diagnose all cancers. Cancer is a disease that starts from one spot and continues to spread to other parts of the body. The Radio Pharmaceutical we use, once we inject patients it will adhere itself to any cell that has cancer spread to it. For instance, lets take the commonest in a woman which is breast cancer, it can spread to brain, we are the only one that can see it and that makes a lot of difference. The Surgeon will not choose again to operate once the cancer has spread to the brain or to the lungs because once it has spread there, there is very little that can be done. So rather, such patient would go for Radiotherapy treatment. But we are the ones that handle Thyroid cancer completely from beginning to the end. You might not be aware, we have a lot of Thyroid problems in Nigeria. We are the only ones that handle Hypo, Hyper and Thyroid. The Surgeons used to do a lot of work in those days to remove part of the Thyroid but now they refer most of the patients to us. Most of the patients are referred to us because we do not use knife. We use what we call Radio active iodine.

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Anyone can walk in here, all the qualification you need is that you are a Nigerian, if you call that qualification. You walk in and nobody will turn you back in this hospital. People just walk in and I find out that many of them do not have any doctor at all. They hear that U.C.H. is doing this and they just come.

And Chief Afe Babalola is so happy that he was asked to help. In fact one of his clients came and saw the name "Afe Babalola" on the building. He said that Afe Babalola is a lawyer and what is he doing in health. Then he called Chief to tell him what he saw and asked if Chief had any business here. Chief said it is not business, that he had no business there but he built it for us. He said "you built it for them? That is a beautiful place oh; the people there are very nice oh; they take good care of me, they don't even know I know you". We are an internationally based department, so we cannot afford to lower the standard they expect from us. They can sanction us, so we have a level that we ensure that every patient is well attended to and we give report every six months and once a year they come to visit us. That is what they do all over the world and not just with us in this country. So we give reports every 6 months and when the Chief asks us and we give all information to him, he feels so happy that at least he has been able to contribute to humanity, to help humanity.

I had to inform IAEA naturally that I had a private person who is partnering them and IAEA were very happy. So they put his profile on their website and, it was from the website that the European Business Assembly saw his name. They saw that he was the one that has done most work for humanity in the whole of Africa. He is the only African they gave the Queen Commemorative Medal. In fairness to him, Chief never knew he will gain anything from assisting us because that was not the purpose. He never knew that it will fetch him anything internationally. He built it because it was going to be the first in the country and he wanted to do something for the hospital.



**PROF OLAWUNMI
AJAJA**

**Rector, Federal Polytechnic Ado
Ekiti, 2000-2008**

A lot of people hear a lot things about Chief Afe Babalola from afar, but until you get closer to him you do not get to know who he really is. I was part of that group until about year 2000 because I too used to hear about him from afar. He has been my role model indigene of Ekiti State, an Icon.

I had an opportunity briefly of meeting with him before I became Rector of the Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti. My brother was then an Managing Director of Co-operative Bank, and he was going to meet "Baba" himself in his office and went with him . So it was the first opportunity I had to meet with Baba. We all know, the average Ekiti man is aware of the immeasurable contributions of Baba in various ways starting from the creation of the Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti of which I am now Rector. I mean not really the creation, but the movement or relocation from Akure to Ekiti because Baba was actually going to fight for the University then. He had even gotten the approval. It was only at the last minute that the government then decided that any Federal University must be sited in the State Capital, which then was Akure. That was how they had to settle for the movement of the Polytechnic from Akure to Ado Ekiti and he was

the first Chairman of the Governing Council of the Polytechnic, Ado – Ekiti. Most of the structures in place until recently were started by Baba, and many of them were completed. I wonder if you had the opportunity of walking round the campus. It is one of the largest Polytechnic campuses in the country and I give credit for that, may be 90%, for Chief Afe Babalola. I was happy when I took over and I heard all those things about him. By next week it will be 8 years and ever since I got here I never stopped consulting “Baba” “I tell him, this is your baby, before I become Rector, I know that anything that affects the Polytechnic affects you personally”

I was very close to him. Anything I wanted to do here I always sought his advice. You see, the first thing that surprised me about Chief Afe Babalola is that in spite of his busy schedule, and you know there are many big men in Nigeria that even seeing them is a big problem, “Baba” is so simple and accessible that you can walk in straight to him. He gives his telephone numbers to practically anybody. I mean, I have seen people here sit with him who do not have the money to re-sit their School certificate, they will come and Baba will give them his telephone numbers to call him and he will pick calls from virtually anybody. That, itself, is unbelievable. I told him that “I wish I could have the patience that you have”. I am sure you have noticed that too. You will see a lot of people come here to see him for various problems and “Baba” will patiently listen to all of them and give some of them letters to different places. He is such a lover of humanity. He is not just the ordinary listener. I have seen that kind of thing before when I was in California doing my Doctorate Programme. I saw the Europeans and Americans display that kind of willingness to help especially people who are under privileged or people who are really in need. “Baba” is one of the first amongst the few ones in Nigeria who truly gives not just money but attention to the ordinary folk. I have commended him and said, “Baba” there are many parts to you that I wish I could emulate.” His patience in dealing with

people, eagerness to help people, the ordinary man there us extraordinary. I go to his office, I see how busy he is but he creates time to listen to everybody. It is an unusual quality, which I have seen in him. So I am not surprised that God is blessing him because anyone who gives, receives. It is in the Bible. When you give, you receive. I do not want to give the impression that he only gives to individuals because even the creation of Ekiti State he led, though I was in Lagos then. I used to come and we were following all the development, all his arguments before the Panel, the fire of enthusiasm in him. That is one thing with him, whatever he throws himself at, he does with total commitment. He never backs out. Once he goes in, he pursues it until he gets meaningful result. So, he did a lot for Ekiti State. He is not only the father of the Polytechnic but he is one of the great fathers of Ekiti State.

If I can zero in on our Polytechnic because that is really the area where he has done the most for us. When I got there, I heard about all the things he has done. I heard quite a little bit of it when I was outside but I heard it all when I was Rector. I was in a position to see all clearly. I observed the fact that although he practically brought the Institution to Ado - Ekiti, there was nothing named after him. So I made a proposal to the Governing Council to name our administrative building after Chief Afe Babalola. It was not debated for five minutes. It was a unanimous decision. We took the proposal to the Minister of Education for endorsement. He immediately signed the approval and said of course that "Baba" earned it. So that was how that building was named after him, in recognition of his role in and contribution in to the Polytechnic. He never stops following up with the activities in the Polytechnic. There are times he will drive through the Polytechnic without our knowing it. He was monitoring that Polytechnic like his own baby.

When I heard of his appointment as the Pro- Chancellor of the University of Lagos, the kind of facilities he has attracted to Unilag no Pro-

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Chancellor has ever done that. So, one day, I approached him and told him. "Congratulations I am not surprised at what you are doing here because tht is your nature. I know you like giving, but you have to come and also help in our Polytechnic in Ekiti." He said "call me anytime and I will be there." He organized an Endowment Fund like he did in Unilag and that was about 3 months ago now. "Baba" did a lot. He himself gave us ten million naira and he contacted well meaning people to contribute as well to to what we called "Obasanjo Skills Centre"

It is the first of its kind in the Country. It is a fabrication centre. We have to give glory to God for giving us Baba especially in this part of the Country. I have always said it that if there can be one person like him in each State of the Federation we will make a big name for this Country. Now he is just one person that is absolutely committed and willing to give.

I came from the University environment and I have always believed that the major difference between a University and a Polytechnic is that the Polytechnic is supposed to concentrate on skill development than on theory. I have been on both sides so I should know actually what I am saying. While I was in the Lagos State Univeristy (LASU), I was Dean of Engineering, and the Vice Chancellor appointed me to go and be the representative of LASUat the Council of Lagos State Polytechnic. That appointment exposed me to the working of the Polytechnics. So, when I got here, I saw how the programmes were being - like in a University but they could not meet the standard of a University. So I thought that we have to be training students with skill. Some theory and a lot of skill. And I decided to develop Obasanjo Skills Centre for general Education and it is a skill development centre. We manufacture laboratory glass text tubes, solar energy plates, etc. etc.

We have laboratory centres, where we are manufacturing stabilizers. We are now assembling tractor harvesters. We have an entrepreneur who imports the parts from China and when he comes, we assemble. We are also serving as a servicing centre when the tractors harvesters have problems.

What we have decided to do is to upgrade so that we can do so many things. We now produce bottled water and sachet water. We have bottled juice, yam pounder and so many other things. The whole idea is to build that place to level of a full-fledged factory where we will produce items and make profit to support the Polytechnic, and provide opportunity for our students for industrial training . We will continue to improve on the quality of the Centres. That is how Baba came in because we decided to improve on the standard of the facilities through the endowment fund.

Apart from naming the administrative block of the Polytechnic after Baba, he a fellow of the Polytechnic. He was one of the earliest Fellows of the Polytechnic back in the 80s. I believe that people who have made contributions should have their names mentioned. That their names should live long after they themselves are no more. I envision that in the nearest future, someone will just wake up to change the name of the Polytechnic to "Afe Babalola Polytechnic."

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**OLUWAROTIMI
OLADIMEJI ADUNBARIN
SHODIMU**

**Registrar & Secretary, Council
of University of Lagos**

I am a graduate of University of Lagos and I have been in the system for decades. I was a student activist in my days. I was Secretary of the Students' Union. My activism endeared me to the staff and the community. I was given an award as a Student Leader. All that afforded me a very good understanding about student management. I have the spirit of Unilag running in my blood.

In 2000, Chief Afe Babalola was appointed as the Pro-Chancellor of the University of Lagos and Chairman of Council. At that time Prof. Jelili Omotola was still the Vice Chancellor of the University.

And that was the beginning of a new lease of life at the University of Lagos in 2000. The embattled Professor Jelili Adebisi Omotola, in all fairness to him it must be said whatever anybody said about him, had a welfare package for staff that was second to none. It will take a lot for anybody to meet up with his welfare package, because the man was very anxious to satisfy staff. During his tenure he acquired landed properties for staff housing scheme, he acquired buses to take them to places. He was paying 13 months salary and bonuses. He did a lot of things, but we did not know how he was able to get them done. There was a serious

allegation against him that he was awarding degrees of the University to some people in North Korea without going through the due process of award for a degree of the University. Remember we are talking about a Vice Chancellor who was a Professor of Law, who was a Senior Advocate of Nigeria and he committed such a fundamental breach.

At the time Chief Afe Babalola was appointed as the Pro-Chancellor, the entire University community was then divided. There were some group who saw in Professor Jelili Adebisi Omotola a frontwheel runner, an achiever. It is on record that for most of the time when he was here, this University was not closed for a day and you know that is what is killing our University system today.

So when he came in, as a good father, you know, Chief Afe Babalola is very humourous, and a gentleman to the core and he rarely hurt someone except when you infringe on another persons right t he thought he only way he could solve the problem then was to call the two factions together to a meeting called a stakeholders' meeting at Ibadan and they all attended. At the end of the day, there was an imposses. It dawned on Chief Afe Babalola that he may not likely move forward having regard to the entrenched positions or the opposers and supporters of Professor Jelili Omotola. So Chief Afe babalola decided to employ his political clout. He wrote a letter to the President of Nigeria, and reported what he found. Most of the Professors said they could not compromise and they came out and articulated their points that Professor Jelili Omotola had no moral right to continue as the Vice - Chancellor of the University.

Chief Afe Babalola came in with the idea that justice should prevail as much as possible. He came in with the idea of due process. He came in with a position that the minority would have their way but the majority will have a say. So that is what he promised the people.

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Professor Jelili Omotola himself and everybody met at Abuja at the Aso Rock Villa. At that meeting, President Obasanjo established all the grievances. It was after the committee submitted its report. Another committee that was set up had looked at it again in the Presidency and they all said, well this man is a good man, but there are fundamental breaches or the ideals of the University. By September 26, 2000 he was asked to resign and an Acting Vice Chancellor in Professor Oye Ibidapo-Obe was appointed.

So, the first challenge that Chief Afe Babalola faced in the University of Lagos was how to reconcile the feuding groups and resolve the crises on the ground. There were newspaper publications, I can remember then there was a Guardian newspaper editorial that welcomed Chief Afe to University of Lagos and highlighted the problems he would face. So Chief Afe Babalola faced the problem with all his energy, with all his drive, with zeal, and so to a very big extent he succeeded wonderfully.

What he first did was to set up various committees. The University was used to having some sets of committees that were statutory committees. He came up and said the Law allows the council of the University to make bye laws and rules and regulations, so he set up many committees. Part of the committees was the Peace Committee. There was also Reconciliation Committee, then the Petitions Committee. I was a beneficiary of that petition committee. It was that Petition committee that reinstated me I had been dismissed in 1999.

There was also one they called the Conduct Evaluation Committee. He set up about 14 Committees on his own and these Committees were assigned the tasks to first of all forge ahead of get things straightened out. So Chief Afe Babalola spent the first two years of his term of office, in fighting and maintaining peace and reconciliation. He was doing rehabilitation, reconstruction, changing peoples' mentality, etc. I was

lucky to be appointed as his personal assistant adrwe I was re-absolved. He had seen some qualities in me at the time of the "struggle". So he insisted that I must work with him. So, while he was at Ibadan. I was in Lagos here. We collected petitions. I realized that he replied every petition that got to his office and he opened his door as soon as you get to that Chambers as busy as it was. Once it was announced that someone was from Lagos, he will say "come in I need information. He will talk to you. From the gardener to the cleaner to the Professors, we were all going there. So that Petition Committee reinstated not less than 62 of us that had been victims of the University Political in-fighting after reviewing our cases.

Chief Afe Babalola does not listen to rumours or encourage rumour mongering. When, for instance, A alleged that B was bad, he would call A and B, and say "this is what this one had said about you, what is your response." That way, he suppressed criticisms that were baseless. What came after that was of great surprise to me. For all my time in the University, I never heard of a Pro-Chancellor who said he had a programme or a plan. What we knew them for was they came in, signed cheques, provided small comfort for themselves in anyway. Some of them had lifestyles.

But we had in Chief Afe Babalola, a highly disciplined person who did not have anything to do with anything outside the central administration of the University and part of how he started this was that he has strong empathy for the needy. He said he wanted an endowment for the University. You see, that was a surprise, coming from somebody who readily tells anybody who cares to listen at any time that he never wore a shoe until he was 16 years old; that his father and mother were farmers; that he did not go to a University. The ideas that he had were unique.

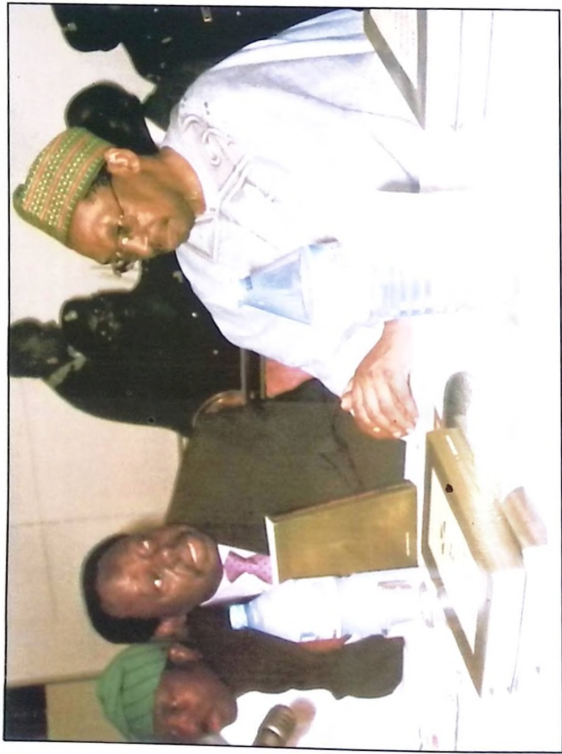
Between 2001 and 2000 the University did not actually take him seriously, but he went ahead on his own. What he first did was to get some of his clients to donate to the University. Before we had a formal launching of the endowment programme, Chief Afe Babalola had managed to gather assets worth about N2billion yourself for the endowment. There is a building called Julius Berger Lecture Theatre. He brought Julius Berger (a construction company) here to build it . As a human being that saw that, you begin to wonder and say to yourself "if this man is a greedy man he will just tell them to go and build for him in his home town" because that is what some people do."I have now arrived, I have helped Julius Berger. Julius Berger wants to help me, why can't they build a mansion for me in my town at no cost" they might reason, but Chief Afe dragged them here and that was the beginning of endowment in this University. He did not stop at that. He, in collaboration with the then Vice Chancellor, got MTN, the telecommunication giant to establish a GSM Training Centre in University of Lagos. He did not stop at that. He got the ABB, World Bank project and NEPA to have an high voltage Laboratory in the University of Lagos.

Chief Afe Babalola laid the foundation for the rehabilitation of endowment in the University of Lagos. It was not that we were not having endowments before, but he introduced another dimension. It is on record that it was at his time that we had any building or structure named after a living individual. I mean, what he did was that he got me as his Personal Assistant to head that team, to be the Secretary of that team. He put me in the Alumni and endowment office. I was combining Alumni and Endowment office, Special Duties of the University with my work as Personal Assistant. Chief Afe Babalola demands that you must be hardworking, you must be honest and you must be time conscious. If he fixes a time for an appointment with you, he is waiting for you at the agreed time and that was part of the idea he inculcated in this University. Before his sppointment as Pro-Chancellor we were used to a situation where when

Vancouver: Trade & Convention Centre



Chief Afe Babalola in Vancouver, Canada during the ceremony for the International Bar Association Award to Chief Gani Fawehinmi in 1998. Chief Afe Babalola later that evening hosted all the African delegates to a sumptuous dinner to honour Gani. On the extreme left is Hon. Justice Olatenu-Olagbegi. Behind him is Chief Bayo Ojo who later became the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice



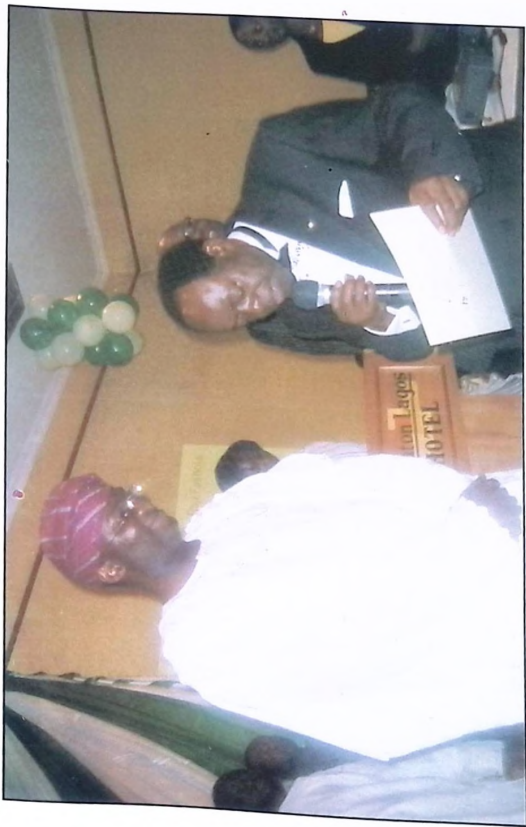
The launch of Chief Ale Babalola's book, "Law and Practice of Evidence in Nigeria" in 2001. To his left is Hon. Justice Muhammadu Lawal Uwais, the Chief Justice of Nigeria, and to his right is Otunba Adeniyi Adebayo, the Governor of Ekiti State



Chief Afe Babalola in a jovial mood at a public function with Hon. Justice Kayode Eso and Mr. Akintola Williams, the Accounting guru



Chief Afe Babalola presenting an Award of Fellow of Chartered Institute of Accountants to Honourable Justice Umaru Abdullahi, May 2008



Chief Afe Babalola with Mr. Babatundé Raji Fashola,
the Governor of Lagos State, in May 2008



Chief Afe Babalola with Mrs. Dora Akunyili, Director-General, NAFDAC, in May 2008



At the Annual President's Dinner of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Nigeria, Chief Afe Babalola (The President) with the Chief Justice of Nigeria, Hon. Justice Idris Legbo Kutigi, May 2008



Chief Afe Babalola with Chief (Mrs.) Folake Solanke, and Mrs. Olarinde, Dean of the Faculty of Law University of Ibadan. Behind him is Mr. Adebayo Adenipekun, SAN



Another public function at the University of Ibadan, Chief Afe Babalola in company of Dr. Christopher Kolade, Prof. Tam David-West and Chief Felix Ohiwerei

Council fixed a meeting at 10 am, it would not start until 1pm. They would go and call a professor "are you ready"? So when Chief Afe first arrived, so I was told, for a meeting and asked after the members at the Council meeting venue and they were not there on time, they said he laughed. When the meeting started eventually, he told them his style and they all looked at him in disbelief. At the second meeting (he always came from Ibadan) he got there earlier than most of them who were on the campus and some of them who knew he was serious got there on time. When the latecomers arrived and greeted him, he would first say "my friend go and sit down, do not disturb our meeting." Because they were used to that, they thought they could come late. Chief Afe will endure that but he will not call you throughout that meeting to contribute. I remember there was a case of a Professor who was from another University, who was so sure of himself and will say "we are all here" then Chief Afe told that one that "I am the only one appointed by the President. All of you they may not even know that you are here. That is why they make me the chairman." So he had control the Council and people really appreciated his tenure here. He never used the Pro-Chancellors' lodge. Some Pro-Chancellors not only used it, their children used it, their wives used it, when they were gone, their concubines came and they would eat at the expense of the University. Afe never touched anything that belonged to the University.

Another thing that is very interesting about Chief Afe is his discipline. He went ahead and donated all the allowances he was entitled to the endowment fund. He created an endowment fund of the University and donated to it. And he did one thing that some of us felt may be illegal then. He introduced what we call an endowment levy. He laid it down that if you were a contractor to the University, you must pay 2% on the contracts to the endowment fund. That is why our money is growing everyday and that is still there now. You see he did not go to any University but he is such a brilliant and intelligent person. Most of the money that

he generated through the contract levy he used in giving scholarships to students. That was one of his major handiworks. The University started giving scholarships to its students. And how did he do it? He classified students into 5 categories and the 5 categories will be of interest to you. He said it is not only people you think that are poor that need scholarships. That somebody who does not feed well cannot do well in the school. Chief Afe allotted 50% of the endowment scholarship to the indigent students; that is, the needy, which we identified in various ways. If you are rich I am sure you will never go to a place where they are giving free food in the afternoon. Chief Afe first of all captured those ones. Chief Afe went for those who were handicapped in that category, before he went for brilliant students, then other categories, those with different qualities and sports men and women. So to a very large extent, Chief Afe Babalola touched the lives of many.

As if he had not actually finished what he wanted to do, he looked for what more he could do. He is somebody, I must tell you, his critics will tell you, who did more than a Chairman. He turned himself to an Administrator. He enlightened the whole world about what the role of a Pro-chancellor is and what it should be. He interpreted it from the statute and he said by being in charge of the finance and property of the University, the Pro-Chancellor is in charge of the Senate, because Senate members have to be paid for job that are done. That was how he saw it.

One of his landmark achievements was the introduction of "Build, operate and transfer" concept. He looked at the students' situation. He is someone who loves the needy and the oppressed so much and he said, "how can we help?" By the time he came in as Pro-Chancellor, there were already news that government said Universities should not build hostels again. He approached President Olusegun Obasanjo who told him that government did not say they should not build, but that government said it will not use its money to build hostel for students. Chief Afe Babalola

said, "no problem I will get people that will donate" and he went to town. By today when you are going out of this campus at the gate by your right, you will see two giant structures of hostels. That is where the idea of Chief Afe materialized. We have land but we do not have money to build it. So Chief Afe did, he gave developers the land for 25 years to build hostels. After the 25 years the land and the hostel will return to the University. The students now are paying rent to all developers.

Chief Afe Babalola also advanced the cause of the oppressed so much that at the Council he gave serious attention to it. consequently, appointments to various positions were very speedy. To a very great extent I think he made an appreciable impact to the whole system, and he used his resources. When we first did our fund raising in 2003 and we called all the "big shots", the number of people that were on Chief Afe's guest list was higher than that of the University. He wrote to them and said "this thing is my pet project. I do not know when or how long, but I want to get it done". He usually ended his letter with "I will be at the entrance waiting to welcome you". Everyone he invited were always there. So that is just an illustration.

I must also tell you about his attitude towards unionism. He always said the union leaders should not to ruin the life of students by embarking on strikes. That was where he got the greatest criticism here. He faced ASUU head on. He faced SAANU. He will faced ASUCON just to ensure that University of Lagos was open. And to a very great extent during his tenure, the place was opened for most of the time.

Then, he is a man whose capacity to sacrifice is limitless if he believed that we had to do something in Unilag. Chief Afe was here for a week and cut off all his personal programmes. You see when I look at some great men, when everything is going well for them like that, you know what I end up saying? I say God has a way of endowing them.

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Chief Afe Babalola is a transparent man. He created a prototype for the appointment of Vice - Chancellor. We never had it so good in this University before him. He heard a story that when you want to drop your C.V to be a Vice Chancellor another person takes it to copy your ideas. Chief Afe consequently got a big box, double-locked it and took the key with him to Ibadan. He would send a lawyer from his chambers to stay with the box when they are submitting the C.Vs after which they took the box to the bank for safe-keeping. So when at the beginning of the exercise some of the candidates did not put some of their papers there, it was clear that they that they were careless.

He conducted the selection in such a way that the short -listing committee decided on the short listing criteria and published same without knowing the candidates that applied for the post. And the box was opened only after the criteria had been drawn and settled.

Chief Afe babalola is a genius.



CHIEF JULIUSADELEYE FASUBA

The Oisa of Ado Ekiti, a member of
the Ewi-in-Council and Head of the
Traditional Chiefs

Chief Afe Babalola happens to be a very close relation of mine in terms of settlement. Here Lisa is the headquarter made up of other 2 quarters and Ilotin is a section of that quarter. Chief Afe Babalola is the son of the Chief in Ilotin. In those days, we were particular about who goes to school, which school and where, so we get more assessed by the fact that we were students. But student went with a difference. In those days those that were very clever or often pass in the 1st or 2nd position in the class were likely to know themselves. I happened to have the luck of passing very well and there was another great man who also passed very very well. That is Chief Afe Babalola. That was how we get to know each other and then we are from the same area.

So since then we have been very very close. He is a self-made man, from a decent humble family, respectable and well known in Ado Ekiti.

But in those days for one reason or the other first as I was the son of Chief Oisa I could not go to school regularly because I was going to the farm with my father. My father was a great farmer just like his father. I did not spend enough time in school but all the same we passed. There

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were then four terms in a school calendar year. We went to school fully during the 1st term, 2nd term, 3rd term and partially during the 4th term. After we passed Standard Six we were looking for Secondary schools to attend. I eventually went to Teachers' College. Then he came out that was where we got closer. If you had a degree in those days, whether in History or Geography, you are the teacher of all subjects. The next exam that became popular at that time was the General Certificate of Education (GCE) which we also passed. We were preparing to go to University to further our studies. On his own, Chief Afe Babalola managed to pass his School Certificate and GCE exams at home. On his own, he managed to pass the Inter LL.B at home. On his own, he managed to pass the Inter B.A. (Hons) Economics at home. As a result of that he did his Intermediate BSc., Intermediate LL.B then he decided to go to England. We had an interesting youth. In those days there was a popular song about leaving home to find greener pastures.

Chief Afe Babalola was truly interested in developing himself and achieving something in life. So he compared himself to somebody who left his father and mother to "join the Army". Then we established and organised the Odo- Ado Progressive Union, first to make sure that we had good roads; next to have a good market. Over there, Ojido Market was attended at every market days or everyday because every year we used to have the Ado Progressive Anniversary. We used to go to that market and clear the bush, burn the bush so the following year we would go to do the same thing. Chief Afe Babalola made his own contribution, although at a time he was in Ibadan but before he went to Ibadan he was very active with Odo Ado Progressive Union. There were a lot of things we wanted - a dispensary, we wanted a college, we wanted good roads, we wanted water, we wanted electricity. And we employed agitation. We took on the leaders and demanded these things from them.

Then for Odo Ado we had to educate the children, we had to talk to the fathers, illiterate fathers, illiterate mothers and then talk to the market women. These were part of things he was involved in. I think what he is doing today he started a long long time ago.

All the time, some people said he is a gem. I think I should say he is a gem of a person. He is more than a gem. If you simply take a gem, it is of no use. Chief Afe Babalola is a human gem. If you leave a gem in a dirty place it will become dirty. It will lose its value, but Chief Afe Babalola is somebody that you will love not because of the shape, because it shines or because its beautiful like a gem but because of all the dust, what he had been doing, his own contribution to the land of his birth. He is somebody who made people love him from what he is and what he does. Yes he is a very serious person. plain and honest. He does not like any "wuruwuru" at all. Then he is prepared to give you everything he has even to suffer as a result, if he knows that you need it very badly. I think, now as he is, I think he is the man that the Bible spoke about. O.K he did Economics, his own economics but God's Economics is different from the human, earthly economics. In economics, ordinarily the more you take out the less you have, but in the economics of God the more you give out the more you receive. If you want to prove I am wrong take a small piece of yam, plant it, give it to God in your farm, the following year you go and see the result if you have few grains of maize take it and plant it and you go back.

Chief Afe Babalola is prepared to give all that he has for Ado – Ekiti. He is in Ibadan, if we want to see him or want him to do anything for us, we go to him, he will be expecting us, once we arrive there he will make breakfast or lunch whichever it is. Similarly whether you are rich or very rich or whatever you are, he will distribute envelopes containing money to all of us before asking us what we came for. So he is a man like that. I think God made him what he is. He is a gift from God to Nigeria or to

Africa so that when people from other places point to or at their own big men we can say that we have Afe.

Before Ondo State was created, we wanted Ondo State and he thought that was a step in the right direction because it was nearer home. We were then under the Western Region. We all fought for it. We did what we could but I observed that he was not overly enthusiastic about it, even though we wanted our own region. I was on the Information and Enlightenment Committee Group for the creation of Ondo State. We got that in 1976 but we were not quite satisfied. Then he started all over, this time for Ekiti State. He is a man who is ordained by God.

Difficult people are usually his friends. Somehow when we were preparing for the creation of Ekiti State, he got us introduced to this naughty man, General Sani Abacha. We went through somebody in Ibadan, Baale of Shasha, Seriki n'shasha, an Hausa man, through Afe Babalola. The man was very close to Sani Abacha. At the time, the Oba and all of us we did not know who Seriki n'shasha was. It was Chief Afe Babalola who introduced us to Sani Abacha. Not only that, when they came it got to a point which nearly marred the whole crusade way back in January 1996. We were to decide where, which town would be the Capital of Ekiti State. I do not blame the rest of Ekiti that were against Ado-Ekiti being made the capital. Ado-Ekiti was always head, headquarters, head centre, commercial centre, political centre.

So other parts of Ekiti said that time around, the capital should not be in Ado Ekiti. But it became important to go before the Mbanefo Committee on Creation of States in Akure. So Chief Afe Babalola led us, he pleaded and pleaded and pleaded. I am quite sure he impressed that man and he had enough facts and figures and he succeeded in convincing the Committee, so that was why they made Ado Ekiti the capital of Ekiti State.

And since then he has been doing everything for the Ekiti people. But there are always people who backbite, some foolish people. About a year ago they said that he was interested in becoming the Governor. I was one of the two chiefs and the Kabiyesi (Ewi) of Ado Ekiti who met him on the request the of Present Obasanjo that he should come and be the Minister for Justice. We got to him, to plead and said "Please o! take this thing. Be the Minister." He said, "okay, rest first" because we met him in Ibadan. Then we rested, they gave us food. Then we sat in his office and he proceeded to tell us the story of how President Obasanjo, when he (Afe) visited him in his place, in his house, Obasanjo would hold his hand, walk together with him, take him into private audience and they would talk and talk and talk. He said if he became a Minister, his relationship with Obasanjo would become official and that if he wanted to see Obasanjo he would have to queue in a place, sit down in a place, book appointment and discuss only official matters, and all that, whereas when they went into a small place to eat or relax they could discuss anything, any subject, unofficially. He said that was better and that he would continue to do all he could for Ekiti even in his private capacity. I know he was approached about five times to serve as Minister of Justice. He refused. And some thoughtless people said he wanted to be Governor, whereas he is a king maker.

Chief Afe Babalola's fame has transcended his place of origin. Now very few people call him an Ado Ekiti man. They call him Afe of Ekiti, then Afe of Nigeria. Not long ago, he was given an International award, International recognition, a world award. So that is why I said at the onset that here is somebody whom God has chosen. He has given him to us as a gift so that we too can be proud, have somebody to be proud of. I remember one song that was popular when we were in the University in England. One part of it went thus:

"The Europeans are proud of their Danube river, the USA are proud of their Mississippi but on my neck haven't we got a river here and they said "yes we get River Niger we are proud of River Niger.""

I think Afe is the pride God has given us so that when everybody is pointing out at his own big man, we can also point to him as our own God given. He is not a gem for Ado alone. He is a gem for Africa. So he is not just Afe of Ado Ekiti.

One thing I will like to mention is that this law, his job, his employment his assignment, his duty, his function, his profession, he did most of this and became popular for trying to serve people, get them out of trouble. I know some lawyers who are proud because send some important people to jail. There is a difference between assisting people positively and touching people negatively. You know there are some people who will be proud to say "don't you know so so and so person? I was the one who sent him to jail. I was the one that did that. I was the one who did that."

Chief Afe Babalola is not such a person. He is more interested in helping people. If a Minister or Commissioner or Governor or anyone is in trouble, even a Chairman of a Local Government, say or any other person for that matter, if you are in trouble and he is aware of it he will come to your aid, send his lawyer to go and defend you free of charge.



**HIGH CHIEF DR. J.E.
BABATOLA**

**The Oloro of Ado-Ekiti
Commissioner in Western
Region Government
[1971-1974]**

**Chairman, Ekiti Council of
Elders**

**1st Ado Ekiti graduate of a
Nigerian University**

I know Chief Afe Babalola from his infancy. We are related through my grand mother and his grandfather. One can describe Chief Afe Babalola as a man who is very humane. He is very patriotic and truly speaking one can go on endlessly proclaiming his usefulness right from family level to the state level up to the National level. He believes in making people happy.

Chief Afe Babalola is my direct relation on my maternal side through my great grandmother Alademeye, who bore my grandmother, Ojamolawe, and my mother, Comfort Iwe Ibitayo.

He is one of the earliest Ado-Ekiti indigenes to succeed in modern times through dint of hard work. He is a self-made man who undertook his Law degree by private study and under extraneous conditions and yet succeeded in his career.

I observed over the years that Chef Afe Babalola is a role model and one of the very few Nigerians that are committed to career development and growth of the legal profession through his work and promotion of his lieutenants.

Though Chief Afe Babalola remains a highly principled man, he is a very generous and approachable personality. He has succeeded not only due to his hard work, but as a result of his undying devotion and determination to help people and to take up challenges without being ruffled.

Chief Afe Babalola is a patriot to the core. He has played significant roles as a citizen in the community and the State thereby enhancing his personal values and commitment and performing his civic responsibilities. As a Nationalist, he believes in the corporate existence of the Nigerian nation and works for it always.

He is a champion of the cause of Ekiti people and has never relented in that direction. In fact, he has become a rallying point and an enviable reference for Ekiti people in the past two decades in Nigeria, thereby filling the space some of us previously occupied.

Chief Afe Babalola remains an unbeatable investor in the welfare and development of his people and community. My personal record and knowledge of these facts consist of the following, among others:

- a. He actually facilitated the creation of Federal Polytechnic, Ado Ekiti during President Shehu Shagari's regime in 1981.
- b. He worked tirelessly for the creation of Ekiti State and placed much needed fund and contacts to the success of the project.
- c. He devoted his time and energy to the development of education and educational advancement of Ekiti people.

- d. He contributed to the growth and development of the University of Ado-Ekiti through support for the construction of its Faculty of Engineering by Ado-Ekiti indigenes.
- e. He has contributed to the growth and development of University of Ado-Ekiti through the construction of the Afe Babalola Faculty of Law Auditorium.
- f. He contributed in no small measure to the Ado-Ekiti Palace project and total support for the Ado-Ekiti Traditional political system thereby remaining a strong supporter of the Ewi in Council and a pillar in Ado-Ekiti contemporary politics and statesmanship.

Chief Afe Babalola was my strong supporter at Ewi-in-Council during the political crisis of the Second Republic without harboring any animosity, though he had identified with the ruling party. His positions on major issues at the time transcended partisan politics because he was more objective, constructive and accommodating than the average Ekiti leaders.

Chief Afe Babalola has a penchant for truth, reward of service and integrity. He was never partisan on issues of leadership and development of Ekiti State.

He spearheaded the move for the restoration of the dignity of Ekiti Elders and Traditional Rulers when it was assaulted incautiously by former Ekiti Governor, Ayo Fayose.

He remains a dependable ally of both young and old people who show great respect and confidence in him because he wears an unbeatable toga of leadership as an Asiwaju of Ekiti people.

Though Chief Afe Babalola is an Ekiti elder by all means, age and merit, he continues to give deference to us his elder brothers and to Traditional Rulers as a full manifest of his consciousness and respect for Yoruba tradition and culture.

Chief Afe Babalola is a legal luminary of no small measure in Nigeria and abroad. He has made a name for himself in the legal profession and has attained the status of a well respected member of the Nigerian elite.



**CHIEF GABRIEL OJO
FALEGAN**

I was in the same my primary school with Chief Afe Babalola I started my primary school at Baptist School, which we used to call Baptist School Alagoodo. I read primary one there but I read my primary two at Emmanuel school. I know that when I was in standard 1 Chief Afe Babalola was in standard 3, so when people were telling me that he was 75 years old I said "they were joking". I will be 78 years this year and he was 2 years my senior at the primary school and was quite older although we all related together but we knew he was older. So Chief Babalola should be either 79 or 80 years old now.

From Emmanuel school, I went to Upper Emmanuel School. Afe passed out in standard 6 I did not pass out in standard 6 at Emmanuel School I repeated standard 4 but the following year I went to Christ School, many of my friends after standard 6 went to Christ School, but I only went there in standard 4 and they thought I would not catch up but by the Grace of God I was able to catch up.

After that I think Afe went to Ibadan and for a long time we did not see. At one time, I heard that he was in a Teachers' Training College, Later on, he

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moved to a Co-operative College. I thought he had the idea of being a teacher but instead of going to the field to be able to practice he was forced to stay, because he was very brilliant, and lectured in the Co-operative College. From there he decided to develop on his own, passed the B.Sc. Economics, and later on, Law. He is a self-made person and from youth we knew that he would go places and we were not surprised that he was making it. He developed himself through the grace of God to do what he is doing.

Yes! I remember a time, we were, in those days, unable to eat very early in the morning before going to school, so our mothers used to wrap our "Iyan" (pounded yam) yes we ate Iyan in the morning, yes our mothers would wrap the "Iyan" and put it into our pocket. Soup was already on the Iyan, so when Afe was running in the field, the food fell, but luckily the food landed in such a way that the soup did not pour. So I picked it for him and he collected it and thanked me and put it in his pocket again.. I think he ate it later.

We were very close. In those days we believed in hard work, but nowadays the children of nowadays believe in making money without working.

Chief Afe Babalola, to me, is an avatar.

He is a legend and he is a great man. I have seen that, he has impressed me whenever I see him on the television being decorated or praised or abused. I am proud of him. I am happy.

Although he does not like to be abused, I have told him that he cannot avoid it. If he thinks that everybody will be praising him all the time, then he is not a leader. A leader must be abused and praised, you have to prepared for both.

Let me tell you, we were in the National Party of Nigeira (NPN) together. It was like a taboo for any Yoruba man to say anything different from what Chief Obafemi Awolowo was saying but about eight of us decided to pitch our camp with the National Party Nigeria (NPN). The Ruling party was NPN and we felt that Ado politics could not afford to be in the opposition all the time and that when it comes to the turn of Awolowo to be President we will support him.. And I am happy to say that, that was how we were able to get the Federal Polytechnic in Ado-Ekiti.

The Polytechnic was already at Akure and we were about five of us – Chief Afe, myself, Aduluyin and two other people organized how the Federal University, which is now in Akure would be at Ado Ekiti. In fact we had announced it. But Ajasin, the then Governor of Ondo State, knowing fully that he would lose the support of Ekiti people suddenly announced the University of Technology. First of all he said the University of Ondo State, he wanted the administrative headquarters to really be in Ado. He never said it was UNAD. He said University of Ondo State and said the administrative headquarters will be at Ado, but all others faculties, Agric, Education, etc, will be taken to other divisions within Ondo State. But when he heard that we were fighting to bring the Federal University to Ado Ekiti he announced the University for Ado-Ekiti. So we were confounded - would a Federal University and a State University be sited in Ado-Ekiti when we had other parts of Ondo State? In those days the norm was to have the Federal University in the state capital. If the University had to go to Akure, then the Polytechnic that had been in Akure must be moved to Ado-Ekiti. That was our reasoning .

Afe is a legend. Everybody, we were few, because we were few, we NPN members were few. majority of the people in Ondo State were doing everything possible to see that the Polytechnic did not come to Ado-Ekiti. It was Afe who put down his money and we started building the site where the Polytechnic is now located and they awarded contracts and the

contractors were deliberately slowing down the building of the infrastructures that will house the students. What we did? Anyway he is a lawyer and he would have defended us. The night the students were to enter that place, the place was locked and they were ready to resume but the Rector (Obiakor) wanted them to resume at Akure but we wanted them to resume at Ado-Ekiti (that set). They said the building was not yet ready at Ado-Ekiti. That night, with the Commissioner of Works, we assembled the students, Chief Afe gave money, we went and bought "Akara" and "Eko" (bean cakes and solid pap – local delicacies). The students, they were eating akara and eko and we found a way of getting in but there were no mattresses. We were there for three days before Obiakor and his administration believed that the Polytechnic had already started in Ado-Ekiti and he had to take over what we were doing.

Afe has always been the lover of his people. As I have said, he is a legend. He is great. He is an avatar. I am happy to be associated with him.



DR. ALEX AJAYI

I have known Chief Afe Babalola for 50 years, exactly in 1958. I was driving from Fiditi where I was closing from the Grammar School to Molete with a friend, Raymond. Here was a young man with a jacket heavy jacket on coming from the night about the side of Molete in Ibadan coming towards Oke-Ado, I remember him saying “Ah that’s an Ekiti man, that’s an Ekiti boy, he is a very very hardworking, brilliant fellow. I said “who is this fellow?” He said “they call him Afe”. So I drew level with him, and he had bushy hair on his head, very mighty hair and I stopped, and said, “Hi Afe, I hear you are from Ado” that was the only thing I said to him. But then he had finished from Saint Louis College and he was teaching but he just transferred and was also working on law. That’s how we got together and became quite friendly. That was 1958.

I have kept a close look on his career and work. He works really hard. I have watched him even in the Court, standing for over 6 hours defending a client. As a young man I was amazed I have never been such feat in my life. And he is a rare guru. A great achiever. Academically, he did not play with work. He read very hard. He studied cases very hard and he had very, very dependable faithful workers and his clients are lucky. To us here in Ekiti, I mean in Ado, well we all know he is our most illustrious son of

this generation and there is no immodesty about it all. Here is a man who gives and gives again and again all that the world has given him. Here is a man who worked so well for the welfare of the people, be it in the Church, be it in the State and he does not look for any gains from it for himself. And he is full of goodness always. And he has impressed us so much. We pray that he continues like that and live long and live heartily. You see that when you have people like that around and he is also a genius, here is a man who never went to a University and has become far more erudite than the most profound Professors, Vice Chancellors. He was the rated best Pro-Chancellor and made the Chairman of Pro-Chancellors, his fellow Pro - Chancell. And nothing can beat that. That is the top of it all.

I think what has actually amazed me about Chief Afe Babalola is his ultra-patriotism for Nigeria, for Ekiti and for Ado Ekiti. He has a single-minded devotion to Ado Ekiti and to Ekiti cause and he will give his life to ensure that there is progress, there is sanity in everything that we have around us in Ekiti. It is like he is trying to bring the people here residing here up to the level beyond their reach. This is why we stick with the man. This is why we all work together very hard. He is virtually the arrow-head.



**CHIEF MICHAEL
ADEBAYO
FALAYE**

**1st Ado-Ekiti Indigene to
qualify as a Librarian**

Chief Afe Babalola is my cousin. My grandmother was from Ilotin, then the grandfather of Afe Babalola is from Ilotin, so we are cousins. We are very close, by birth. You know, we grew up together. He was born around 1931, I was born around, I think, 1930. Well, he claims to be older than me but he is older than Osaloni and we are all age mates, you know, all of us we are all age mates.

My father, Falaye, was very rich, His own father was rich too but not as rich as my father. So you can say as a young man he was poor, but despite the fact that he was poor he was always helping people who are poorer than himself. But then he had so very much outstanding. He was very brilliant. In school, he was always within 1st to 3rd position in class. He was hardworking. Just like the old history of Israelites. You know, in those days before Jesus Christ came, God himself chose His own men from the poor and simple people hence people like Abraham, like Moses, like Samuel, like Ezekiel, like Jeremiah, like Isaiah were chosen as his men. So Afe Babalola as a young man was a poor man, but was hard working. So he was a chosen man because he was very generous, he was over generous but hard working.

In his later life, he put his experiences when he was young and poor, when he was helping people, into practice when he grew older. He was working like mad. Formerly he had Grade 3 Teachers training. At home he passed his Grade 2, he passed his G.C.E. Ordinary Level at a time. When he gained admission into London University, instead of going to the University he stayed at home. He got B.Sc. Economics. I would not be able to do that myself. But he was so self-disciplined, worked hard and was able to attain a degree through self study.

Chief Afe Babalola is a humble person, poor but self-made, strong minded and he likes to be appreciated all the time.

He is a highly talented person God has given him a lot of gifts and made him brilliant to make use of the gifts.

He was very brilliant. He was always working hard to achieve greatness, he was highly disciplined. He was poor, he was always willing to help people who are poorer than himself. I am not surprised that is one of the reasons that he is today a philanthropist.

Those that are still alive today with whom we were friends and are still close, we have Mr. Ajibade, who was our senior but all of us were friends. Another person is Mr. Omodara Pedro, senior Omodara Pedro, he too is a senior person but we do all things as friends and mates.

I am a Catholic. I attended St. Louis College Abeokuta. After leaving that place, I went to University of Cycherk in Glasgow. I was the first qualified Librarian in Ado-Ekiti, the first professional Librarian. I did my Librarianship in Cycherk University. After that I had my Masters Degree in Davis University Colorado United States of America. I worked for 12 years at the University of Ibadan before I went to Ikare College of Education. I was the Chief Librarian when I retired.

My happiest day with Chief Afe Babalola was when I came back from abroad. He asked me what was it I wanted to buy to put in my sitting room and that he would pay for it. I told to him I did not want to buy so many things but what I wanted was that he should give me little money and he gave me all the money I requested for. So I was very very happy and satisfied. Although the money was not up to what he actually wanted to give me but what I needed the money for at that time was very very useful for me and I was very happy that he did it.

My children and Afe's children are not so close friends, because their places of birth are quite different. Unlike us that we were born at the same time and in the same area. He attended Emmanuel College, I attended Saint George. He finished standard 6 in 1945, I finished in 1946. When we were at Odo-Ado Progressive Union he appreciated those that were educated. When we were struggling for offices in the Union and I was not put in a particular position he got angry and said that I was the right person to occupy the position and at last I was put in the position. So he likes to be sincere. He hates lies.



**LUCAS
SUNDAY ADEUSI
(late)**

I have known Chief Afe Babalola from our childhood together.

Going to school and working on the farm was the order of the day. I used to go to the farm and school. We were involved in clearing of cocoa plantation or clearing the bush for cultivation. The fact that some of us as today are able to read and write is through the inspiration, and encouragement of Chief Afe Babalola. He encouraged us, he encouraged us physically, morally and financially. So *'Baba'* as he is, if his right hand drops things for you, the left will not know. So he is a man of the people. I do not see him as an ordinary person but as a genius (I mean *'Anjoni'*). I have never heard that he was sick or that he is not in good health.

Educationally, Chief Afe was the first person that you can point to in the whole of Olotin family. Not only that, it was through him that many of us went to school. God has given him the milk of kindness, though if you offend *'Baba'* and he is angry with you, you will first pray that the earth should open to swallow you but thereafter he would simply forgive you and forget the episode. He does not get annoyed for a whole day. I think that is the work of God. *'Baba'* is very helpful in all aspects of life and

he will continue to encourage you. He encourages you. He keeps saying that the sky is the limit if you have education,

My relationship with Chief Afe Babalola has been sustained by his qualities. When we talk of transparent honesty he is one. When we say that somebody has strong determination he is one. When you say somebody is trustworthy he is one or when you say somebody is very hardworking, he is one. So, things like that will make one to continue to have relationship with him and he is a man who always forgives. If you offend him he will forgive you.

The only thing we can do for him in return is to continue to pray for long life and sound health for him.

Authors' Note:

The foregoing excerpt was obtained from Mr. Adeusi through the oral interview we conducted with him in Ado-Ekiti on Sunday, February 24, 2008.

Sadly, the man died on Tuesday February 26, 2008. May his soul rest in perfect peace.



**ELDER SAMUEL
ADELEYE AJIBADE**

I have been a childhood friend of Chief Afe Babalola. We started school at the same time around 1936. He was very brilliant in our school days. We trekked from Odo Ado bare footed to Emmanuel Anglican Primary School. We played together, we danced together and we ate together. We went to the farm together from the school. We read together. He was my senior in school by one year. He left the school around 1945 I left in 1946. Because he was so brilliant he led in his class

In those days we played and we danced. We loved particularly one song when we were in school. There was one story we always told people about somebody who went to the farm and brought leaves to give to the Chief

Sings:

Gbe we mi (2ce) etc.

In the song he said he has no enemy and has no permanent friends. He loves everybody.

There was another song we used to sing at that time.

Sings(with Chief Afe Babalola):-

Aya mi komi mase barika

Ye ye 2ce

Owo lowon obinrin owon

Oya oo

Res: Ara nbada owo oje

Call: Nba kole mi bi foba

Res: Ara nbada owo oje

Call: N ba Fe'yawo mefa jo

Res: Ara bada owo oje .

Call: Eeeh koje oo

Res: Aranbada owo oje,

Call: Me ye ye koje oo

Res: Aranbada owo oje, etc, etc.



**MICHAEL OJO
ADELUSI**
Chartered Accountant

I am No 236 in the roll of Chartered Accountants in Nigeria. I qualified in 1963 in London as a Chartered Accountant.

I have known Chief Afe Babalola from youth. I am from Ado Ekiti. He is very hardworking, honest and a great man. He is brilliant, he is not lazy and he is a very honest person.

We grew up together in Ado. We were born there, and we went to school there before we went out in pursuit of further education. I went to London School of Economics and he went to England also, and then we returned. We have been together all that time. He was to me very honest, beautifully straight forward and very hardworking

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MR. MICHEAL ALABI
Retired Policeman

I am about 120 years old. I backed Chief Afe Babalola's father to send him to school. Chief Afe Babalola lived with me here in Afogo Ekiti for sometime when he was a young boy. I took him to school, Emmanuel School. He was very brilliant and he was brave.

When he grew older I stayed with him in Ibadan anytime I visited the town. He is a very good man and very considerate. He sends money to me from time to time. I pray that God will continue to help him. God will not allow anything to hurt him and his children.

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**PA JAMES
KOWE OJALONI**

**Reported to be about 125 years
old
(Chief Afe Babalola's Uncle)**

Chief Afe Babalola was a very brave boy, sharp and clever. That was how he was, and even up till now.

His character is such that from a young age, he liked everybody, even the younger ones at that time he brought them together to teach them. He taught them very well and he was very humble and respectful of elders.

Mrs. Felicia Ojaloni, the last and sole remaining of the five wives of Pa Ojaloni chips in:

Chief Afe Babalola was studying abroad when I married his uncle but when he came back he was doing so well for me and all of us. He always pays salary to his uncle every month. He buys clothes for all of us and he takes good care of all of us. He is a good "husband" (*Sings Chief Afe Babalola's Oriki*)



DR. AKINAKEJU

Chief Afe Babalola and I went to Emmanuel Anglican School Ado - Ekiti. He was two years ahead of me but we were close. I know him as extremely hardworking, independent, friendly and benevolent but strict. He did not take nonsense at all.

He is somebody who is generally happy at other peoples success. As a matter of fact, he loves to sponsor success and progress. He used to come to me when I was in Lagos. We spent Saturdays together and on many occasions he advised that I should read law and that he would finance it. This is to bring the point out that he sponsors progress. When I came back from the United States of America after I completed my Doctorate Degree Programme, he organised a reception, very big reception for me in Ado-Ekiti. It was one of the biggest you can talk about at that time. I am talking about 1970. He arranged the reception with his friends, brought many people from Ibadan, the Makanjuola Esans, the Adenipekuns and so on. He did that and he was always doing that to people. Not only that, he will give you money. If you just came to see him, he will give you money to welcome you. If you are going he will give you money to send you off.

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During the time we were growing up, it was a haven of friends, hard-working people, doing our own bits. Most of us students were 1st generation students. We walked to School from our various homes, did our farming, did our studies and we were very happy, happy people.

There was sincerity, devotion, fairness and firmness too. We told ourselves truths as we saw them. As for Afe, he was and is still, generous. At that time he will not cheat anybody. He will not suffer cheating either.

I worked with West African Examinations Council and retired 23 years ago. As a result of Chief Afe Babalola encouragement and all that, I went back to school and read Law and I was called to the Bar about eight years ago.

Our senior colleagues are transiting fast. I remember 'Oga' Franco, Ben Oni. They were really his core friends. They were a year or two years ahead of me in school but somehow I managed to get into their fold and we were all friends.



**PRINCE (DR) FREDRICK
OBATERU
AKINRUNTAN, FICA, FFPE,
MNIM
Chairman, CEO,
OBAT Group**

Chief Afe Babalola is like a father to me. I have known him for almost 30 years now and I can confidently attribute my achievement and the success I have attained today to Chief Afe Babalola. I am the Chairman of Obat Oil and Petroleum Limited and I happen to have the biggest Tank farm in Africa; the third largest in the world and the only company in Nigeria that has Tank farms simultaneously for three products PMS, AGO and PPK. I have received a lot of awards both locally and internationally.

Chief Afe Babalola is my mentor. I knew him when I was nothing. I remember how I met him. I had a case somewhere and somebody asked me to go and see him; that Afe Babalola was a very good lawyer. I never met him before then. When I got to him and told him my problem he asked me to pay N600 but I could not afford to pay N600. That was around 1982. I could not afford the money. He now said "my boy," that's the name he called me, "what I will do for you is that I will help you to prepare the case and then you go and give it to another lawyer. I won't take any money from you". So he prepared the case for me. Since then I have not had any other lawyer in the country.

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He is a person that has one quality that you do not find in many people. He has developed so many Nigerians, the young ones, through words of advice, through encouragements and through sponsorships of their education.. One thing about Chief Afe Babalola, before he can be friends with you, you have to be straight forward, very straight forward person. If you are not straight forward, you cannot be his friend. He will not allow you to be close to him if you are not a straight forward person. You know he is an Ondo/Ekiti person – we are straight forward where we come from. When you are not straight forward he will not be your friend .

Secondly, he is very committed to his job. Look at what he is doing here I try to emulate him. These are the qualities I really appreciate and copy from Chief Afe Babalola- how to be serious about your job, how to have focus. He was the one that thought me how to have focus in business. You know, it is common in Nigeria to have interest in all businesses that is being 'a jack of all trade'. But when I told him about all things I was interested in at once he said I should concentrate my energy on one, so that I will excel in that one. All the papers for my business, all the documents, he prepared everything for me free of charge. He did not take one naira from me. I want to tell you today that the position I find myself today is by the grace of God and Chief Afe Babalola. So he is my father, he is my mentor, he is everything to me and that is why if I am in Ibadan I must come here to see him to get advice.

I always come here for advice. Although Chief Afe Babalola is not a businessman, what he has in his head is more than what we businessmen in the country know.. He is so articulate when it comes to advice about a business "do this, do that". You know he is an economist. He knows a lot about business and I enjoy him anytime I come to Ibadan to see him. Chief Afe Babalola is somebody I respect so much in this country. I will also tell you that Chief Afe Babalola is the No.1 lawyer in this country.

The case of the Obaship in my town is a case in point. There were riots in our town in 1814 and in 1934 there was problem of fighting etc. 1954 problem again. In 1984 they finally went to court. The case was in court for 23 years before we got the landmark judgment from the Supreme Court in 2007. Chief Afe Babalola won the case for my family. He did not take too much money because once you have been with Afe for a long time, you just tell him what you want him to do for you, whether you give him money or not he will do it for you.

He believes in long-term friendship and also your "yes" must be "yes" with Chief Afe Babalola before you can be close to him. He studies people to see whether they are consistent in what they are doing. When you are consistent in your principle you are his friend, you are a son. I have emulated that trait from him. When you come to me now, the moment you tell me lies you are my enemy. You know that is a very good quality. As a businessman if you are not consistent with your business you will have problem, people will not like you, people will not trust you. People have to trust you before they can give you their money. If you are not trustworthy, people feel that if they give you money, you are going to be wayward with the money, nobody will do business with you.

All in all, Chief Afe Babalola is a great and good person and I respect him and anybody that deals with him never regrets it at all. In addition, he has been involved in a lot of philanthropy. The man has been doing a lot of things for many people.

He donated a building to the University College Hospital here in Ibadan. They call that "Afe Babalola Nuclear Medicine Building."

So many places in the country, he has been helping a lot of people. If you come here during the day, a lot of people come here to take money. So many people come you will think they have business with Chief Afe

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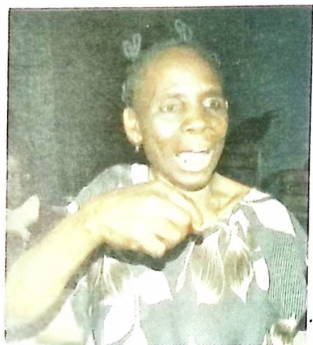
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Babalola No, they just come here to ask for money or some other form of assistance. He will open his purse and give, and he does that every day. He does it for a lot of people everyday, even if he does not know them.

One day I asked him "what do you enjoy in giving people money when you are not a businessman." He replied "That is my life. If I do not do it in a day I will not be happy." I have also emulated that trait too from him. Now I am giving to people also.



AINAFATOBA
(Nee Babalola)

I am the immediate younger sister of Chief Afe Babalola. There was a person between us, who died. Chief Afe Babalola is our father now. He has been and will be our father for long, by the grace of God

We are four from my mother's side that are left. After myself there are two other women, one is in Lagos, the last born is in London

I am a trader, I operate a beer parlor. My mother operated this business before now.

Since I grew up to know him, Chief Afe Babalola has been my brother, my father, my husband. He is everything to me. I have never seen anybody like him my life. I can only pray for him that God will let him live long for us. From the beginning of my life, I have not been very luck in marriage. For instance, my first husband is still alive today but all the children that I have for him he does not take care of them. My last husband is died. It is only my brother who has been responsible for my children's education, welfare, all of them. He sent them to school. He has not allowed me to become slave to the world.

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**MRS. EBUN
BAILEY**
Nee Babalola

I am a younger sister of Chief Afe Babalola.

Our mother's name is Abigael Ajayi Babalola. My father was Joshua Adubiaro Babalola. My mother is over hundred years old but I do not know her exact age.

My father was 75 when he died. He died in 1961 in Ado Ekiti. I was not present when he died. I was in school in Ibadan. My brother, Chief Afe Babalola was in London. I do not know what killed him. It was just one year after my brother went to England in December, 1960. Then in 1961 my father died.

I asked questions. What really happened was that then I was so young and as a young girl we only heard Baba died and he was buried and that time I asked my mother what really happened she said Papa was sick and was carried to Egbe Hospital for treatment. Unfortunately he died.

We all thought that may be he was killed but I was too young to understand most of the things that happened then; whether he was killed or he was not. But that time we all believed it was so

My mother told me we were supposed to be 10 children by her. We were supposed to be five girls and five boys because according to her, she had my brother, she had so many of them before they had me. Before I was born, many of them died. That type of thing was common in those days. It is not easy to be talking about them. But by the time I was born, we were only five. His younger brother, Ajo who was a bit junior to my brother, then my elder sister, Aina who is in Ado Ekiti, then myself and my younger sister, Taye who is in the United Kingdom. She was a twin. Her twin sister one died 3 days after she was born.

We are presently four, the one between my brother and my elder sister, brother Ajo died. I was too young then when my brother died but my father broke the news to us. We wept, my brother and myself.

I do not see Chief Afe Babalola as my elder brother. I see him as my father because I grew up with him. He is my father and brother. He brought me up so I thank God for his life. I grew up with him when he was a teacher. They called me "Omo teacher" (Teacher's child). Even other teachers used to call me "Omo Afe, Omo Afe"

He took me where he was a teacher in Gbongan in those days. One day my brother came home and told my mother that one other teacher said to him that a woman had me for him (Chief Afe Babalola) and ran away. My mother told him to tell them that I was his younger sister born of the same mother. I was small then. The reason he took me from home was that he was the only one who went to school at that time. Then he was a teacher and when you were a teacher in those days, you were seen as "a big man" in Nigeria. My brother has compassionate for people too much. This is one thing about my brother. He was compassion and it is still in him up till today. That is why he is doing what he is doing. I think God just created him for that.

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My mother told me that when we were growing up at home, I was there, my younger sister was there, my elder sister was there. My brother was not there then. My mother told me that my brother came home as a teacher in those days and said "mama, your 'wahala' is too much you are the only one, you don't have a mother again to help you, now let me take this one, Aina, my immediate younger sister is above school age so you should let me take Ebun to go and put her in school, let her start school so that your burden will be less". That was how he took me to Gbongan. I started school at Gbongan. My brother was a teacher there. He was in a senior primary school as a teacher there. It was like standard five standard six and those days pupils in school then, were so big. We were not small as they are now.

In Gbongan, we were using lantern then to read because there was no electricity in Nigeria. I attended Anglican Primary School, Gbongan.

For my secondary school, I went to Yejide Girls Grammar School, Ibadan. We moved to Ibadan the following year after 1953, 1954. We went to Ibadan where he continued as a teacher too. I was with him. I grew up throughout with him. When he went to the United Kingdom for his Law Degree, I was still in Ibadan on my own. He was there assisting me with my school fees sending money home..

What I do most of the time when I have any fear about whatever my brother is doing, I call him and he always said "mo ti gbo" I have heard you thank you, but he will tell you the reason why he is doing it. He will tell you the reasons and when he tells you the reasons you will pray for him. There is no other way than to just commit him to God and I believe God has been helping him I am thanking God for his help.

One thing is that, you see my brother is not the social public type. He does not go to parties. He has no time for so many things like that. You

cannot say you have a party and my brother will go there to drink beer. He has no time for such. All his thinking every time is about law and law. He enjoys it and he believes in certain things then he alone knows but you cannot interfere with him once he has made up his mind to do something. That is it. God will help him and God has been helping him. I am always grateful to God for everything.

Sometimes my brother may be tired of the work, feeling some kind of pain or fatigue. He will take some drugs and sleep off but he will not go to the hospital and he will wake up and be fine. He is very fit. We should be thanking God for him because up till this time he has never been hospitalised. I thank God for him. As a human being, sometimes its normal, like everybody, to be down but no major or serious ailment has led him to the hospital, to sleep in the hospital, no. I think it was always like that with our father. Our father was a very very hardworking man. He would only come home on weekends to go to church and then go back to his farm. My father was a successful farmer. He was a very successful cocoa farmer and at that time he was able to build a house in Odo Ado, I think, in the early 50s. So Chief Afe Babalola inherited that trait of hard work. Our mother too was a very hardworking woman. She is very old now.

Although he brought me up, Chief Afe Babalola did not influence my choice of husband. He did not match me with anyone. My husband is from Ijebu Ode and we met in Ibadan and got married. My brother gave his blessing.

If I say so much people may say it is because I grew up with him, but my brother is a strict disciplinarian. He was a teacher and he is still a teacher. I call him a teacher even up till today even though he is a lawyer now but

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once you are a teacher you are always a teacher. When he was younger I never saw him go to parties that may be because of the background .because we were very poor in those days but almost the family they did not see my father as a poor man because in those days a cocoa farmer was a very rich man. It was not only cocoa. Even during the yam period, my father's yam came out first in Ado before you count those of two or three other people. My father was very popular among his people and people respected him and I think that is just like that with my elder brother. That is why when I look back, when I think of my father, I say this man has taken my father's steps. It is the same that is happening now even among you lawyers thinking that "oh! we have to respect this man".

Thank God he is a learned man and that he has chosen the law profession. Why he chose the profession of law I do not know. May be God told him to do it for a purpose which I do not know but today he is happy and we are happy with him.



**MR. ADEBAYO
ADENIPEKUN, SAN**

**Head of Chambers Afe Babalola
SAN & Co.
(Emmanuel Chambers)**

The way I met Chief Afe Babalola, SAN was surprising. I had been seeing this chambers in Adamasingba but I never met the man before. So one day, in the 1980s I decided to see the head of the place and seek for assistance. By then, I was into my Law Degree Programme in the University of Ibadan and had difficulties in meeting up with the financial demands. That was in 1986. So I went to the Chambers that morning, met the receptionist and said "My name is Adebayo Adenipekun. I want to see Chief Afe Babalola". He asked where I came from. I answered that I was a student from the University of Ibadan. He directed me to go upstairs.

Remember, before then I had never met Chief Afe Babalola and he had never seen me. I greeted him good morning, introduced myself and stated that I had a first degree in English from Obafemi Awolowo University in Ile-Ife and that I passed out in 2nd Class Upper Division. The way I did my introduction and stated the fact of my schooling was spontaneous. Nobody gave me a previous information that Chief Afe Babalola loved brilliance and brilliant people. He looked at me and exclaimed "you made a 2nd Class Upper Division in English in your first degree? Oh boy, come and sit down with me here, sit with me here. What can I do for you".

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I narrated my story. That I was a student in the Faculty of Law in the University of Ibadan and that I was in Part II and that I had run into problem of finance. You see, I came from a humble background. He asked, "yes, what can I do for you young man?" I said I needed financial assistance to enable me complete my law programme. He then said "I will help you. I do not have any job for you but any time you are going to school come here and I will assist you". And he did, throughout the remainder of the duration of my course.

So when I completed the LL.B Degree, it became natural that I should seek to work for Chief Afe Babalola and he accepted me as a lawyer in his Chambers. He later encouraged me to pursue the LL.M. degree which I did and completed at the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

Since then, all that I have achieved in this profession, including the my being conferred with Senior Advocate of Nigeria, in 2006, and in my private life are attributabile to Chief Afe Babalola. And I still continue to learn from him every day. Through him, I have houses in the Nigeria and I have abroad. I have cars, etc, and I have made a name for myself. He is God-sent and he is like a father to me.

Chief Afe Babalola acknowledges and appreciates effort and hard work. When you are hard working, you are Chief's friend, whether you are an Hausa man, Ibo man, or you are from any other tribe; wherever you come from. He does not want to know who your father is, who your parents are, once you are hard-working you are his best friend. On the other hand, if you are the lazy type, do not move near Chief Afe Babalola.



ADEWUNMIADEDIPE
The Protem Secretary,
Odo Ado Development Forum

Traditionally, Ado Ekiti consists of 3 Major parts, viz:

- (a) Odo – Ado
- (b) Oke – Ewi;
- (c) Oke – Ila.

Generally, Ado Ekiti has one umbrella organization which is the Ado Ekiti Progressive Union. Under this umbrella organization we have several other organizations. Odo Ado Development Forum is one and it happens that Chief Afe Babalola comes from Odo – Ado. This organization is over 50 years old. It was established in 1956 by Chief Afe Babalola and others of his generation. Names that I can remember are Chief Eleshini, Baba Ajibade, Chief Adeusi and a host of others etc, including Chief Fasuba. Ever since, Chief Afe Babalola has been making meaningful contribution to the development of this Union in terms of financial assistance, support and co-operation. The latest in the series of his support is how the Union now is going to get a befitting Constitution for the union. so As the Protem Secretary, I am the one that goes to Ibadan to liaise with him on the issue and other issues concerning the organisation.

We are always very happy whenever anybody is sent to Ibadan in respect of our activities because we are ever seeing the socio-economic, physical and social political development of Odo Ado. Through the efforts of Chief Afe Babalola a lot of development have been coming to Odo Ado.

For example the Polytechnic. Then look at the be-fitting Cathedral Church in Odo Ado which should not have even come to Odo Ado, because we have all the Cathedral Churches in Oke Ilisan and Oke – Ila and that is the first Cathedral Church that we have in Odo Ado through the effort of Chief Afe Babalola.

You know that Ilotin area, during the rainy season in the past, say between 2000 – 2003, if you get there during the rainy season you will pity the condition of the people that are there because it is a low land so water comes there whenever it rains. And the people were victims of this massive erosion. Life was unbearable during the rain season. But Chief Afe Babalola solved the problem for us. He constructed a canal to divert the water and solved the problem of the people permanently.

As a philanthropist he has been awarding scholarships on a regular basis for a very long time not only to indigenes of Odo Ado alone but the whole town and even to people who are not from Ado Ekiti town or Ekiti State.



ADEBOWALE

ADEGBOYEGA ADEOYE

The Chairman, Nito Sports Club, a Sports Club of which Chief Afe Babalola is the Grand Patron and Financier

In Nito Sports we have Cycling, Boxing and Football (male and female) and we do contribute to other sports, but the major areas are those that I have just mentioned. Really, "Baba" (Chief Afe Babalola) happens to be our mentor not just the grand patron. He is a father to us and I want to say he happens to be a simple person that you can just approach, and he will agree to whatever you request at any given time even at odd hours.

It was in 2003 that we established nito queens football club, but nito sports was established and registered in 2000 by myself. In 2003, when we established nito queens football club, nobody introduced Chief Afe Babalola to me to confirm what I have just said that you need not to know him before hand before he comes to your aid or before he gives assistance to you. I just said we will need somebody to lean on if really we want to be fully involved in football activities because it is money consuming and capital intensive. So I just walked in, I want to believe that up till today none of the staff will be able to say this is the way I got to know Chief Afe Babalola. So I just walked in and showed him my proposal and requested if he would accept to be the Grand Patron of our club and he said "why not I will, I will support".

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That year, it was tough for us. It was like a test for us, an acid test indeed, because I visited "Baba" more than 10 or 20 times before I could get the opportunity to conclude that he was ready. That first time "Baba" gave us N2,000.00 I have to be frank with you, I felt bad. I thought, N2,000.00! We were spending millions on project thing. "Baba" said, do not worry, whatever it is that you need let me know. So I left and I continued with the business. Then it got to a stage in 2003, the same year we established the female football team. We won the Oyo State Challenge Cup. We went to "Baba" to inform him about the success, then from N2,000.00, that year he gave us N250,000.00 I was so happy, we continued.

Then there is one other thing about Chief Afe Babalola. With his tight schedule and nature of his business "Baba" will not request that you make prior appointment before any of the players or myself could see him. Anytime, he will say "my girls, Oya come, come, come" then he will discuss with them, discuss so many things and say, "Ok, I will keep supporting you". In 2006, we got promoted to professional league, the highest female football level in Nigeria. Then there comes the problem, because you have to pay salaries, you have to pay sign – on fees, you have to travel for away matches, even for home matches you need money. We have to pay referees indemnities and every other expense to take care of . We approached the State Government, it was just unfortunate that our first year in the professional league we could not get any money kobo from the State Government. All the burden of the club rested on Baba (Chief Afe Babalola) He has to spent and continues to spend and spend.

There were different occasions that he issued his cheques – two million Naira cheques: one million naira cheques; N750,000.00 cheques, I do not think I will be able to recall all the figures without checking the records because each time we say, Baba we are traveling, these girls are complaining, there is no money. "See me in the evening or see me

tomorrow morning” then we go to see him he will give us money. We have some of our players attending Lead City University in Ibadan. It is a private University and Baba happens to be the only financier even when it comes to their educational pursuits and he has never been tired of doing it. Then our other sports also, he has given money to purchase some cycling equipments and others. And anytime we say the boys and girls need something he will say, okay let me see what I will do. He will keep writing letter to most of his clients for support saying “I am the grand patron of this club, support or assist them”.

Last year Wema Bank Plc gave us N1,065,000.00, Intercontinental Bank Plc gave us N500,000.00 and some others gave us money through Baba’s effort. He wrote more than four letters to the Oyo State Government soliciting assistance. At a stage the Governor called and promised that he will do something. This present Governor gave us N2 million. To execute female football league in one season, if we manage, we will need about N25 million per annum. But then we still continue. We are in the mid-season now. We have not received a kobo from the State Government. We are still expecting and we believe that we shall cope. That was the advice “Baba” gave us: that with or without them, let us continue that God will continue, to be our strength.

When I first approached him to inform him of my programme because I am doing my P.hd programme in Economics at Lead City University he said, “that’s good, I will support you do not worry, when the time comes just come to me, I will do it”. He does not say “I will try”. It is always “I will do it” And he has never failed. It is like I am more or less his son. In any event, I have lost my biological father. He is now my adopted father and he has been very nice to us.

So when it comes to sports generally, Baba is interested in sports. He is a sports man. A very good sport loving philanthropist of note. Not quite three weeks ago he went to the Olubadan Stadium .He was invited there

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as a special guest for Olubadan Cup final. He donated over a million naira there. Even for the renovation of Olubadan Stadium, he gave them 1 million naira. Then the winner of the Olubadan Cup, originally the organizers made their own arrangements. Then he added a package N50,000.00 for the winner of the competition, N30,000.00 for the runners up and N20,000.00 as third prize.

Then "*Baba*" now again gave the sum of N300,000.00 to the winner; second N200,000.00 and N100,000.00 to the third placed team. People were surprised including the organizers. So, altogether he spent an extra N600,000.00 on prizes and in addition, gave the stadium management N1 million for renovation of Olubadan Stadium.

About a year ago, when Shooting Stars Football Club of Ibadan got promoted to the Premier League, he gave the club N1 million. He gave the coach N500,000.00 and some others like that and anytime the club has a problem, they usually come here as well for Baba's assistance, saying "please help us or do something". Most football coaches around come around for Baba's assistance. Most of the football coaches around know him to be a football loving father, so they will approach him for one thing or the other and he is always there and ready to give them the needed assistance any day, anytime.

Also look at NIPOGA (Nigeria Polytechnic Games). If you happen to be able to interview any of the organizers of the Games, they will tell you that Baba has put more life into NIPOGA games than before. What he did there, they will never forget who Chief Afe Babalola is. I went yesterday to buy the trophy that he is planning to give out to the overall winner himself personally and I will be surprised if he simply present that trophy. I am sure that he will support it with monetary compensation as well. That is his own way of life. To back it up with something. Our prayer is that God should just keep him and God should give him sound health so

that he will live longer than expected and thank God that his children are doing very well. When he spends, Baba is happy to spend. Especially when he notices that you are very enterprising or you are struggling. Tell him something about your future he will be ready, tell him something about your education, anything that will make you a great person or somebody that other people can lean on tomorrow, that is his own area of specialization. He will contribute to such things. And many letters, he keeps writing letters out to get assistance for people - not for himself, not for his family. I can say it anywhere that his fight and his struggles in Ekiti State is purely for the masses and nothing more.

I am not from Ekiti I am from Ibadan but we around him. at times we blame him for putting more problem, more burden on himself than is necessary. Not that he will say "go to Ekiti, go and collect something for me." People keep coming here for one assistance or the other, but we still have some. no matter what you give out to people we will still have a Judas. There is no doubt about that.

The NITO QUEENS FOOTBALL CLUB is also known as AFE BABALOLA BABES. Ibadan. We play in the National female football league.

He has agreed to sponsor the State Chapter of the National Challenge Cup for female football clubs, which will be tagged "Afe Babalola Cup" We plan to immortalize his name because he has been doing wonderfully well in terms of sponsorship of sports in Oyo State especially. So then we now said he should sponsor the Afe Babalola Cup. We want to make it an annual challenge cup. Because there is nothing stopping us from having it. We have Coca-Cola Cup, we have Globacom League. There is no challenge cup for female football.

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Yes, even the State Football Association is the one pushing and mounting pressure on me to do something for Baba because there is nobody in this State who will not want to do something to honour Baba, not only in sport but in all areas for his contributions to the betterment of peoples lives. He has agreed. We are trying to find out the cost, because of our own other commitments. Baba will not want anything that is not befitting. So we still believe that it is going to be the best in Nigeria ever, the best State Challenge Cup. Like I was trying to say, in Oyo State anything apart from Sports, everybody links it with or associates it with Baba's name or they want to get Baba involved in many activities because of his readiness to support. When you talk of community development or anything at all, he has contributed greatly in Oyo State and also in other States.

Yes, everybody wants to associate Baba's name with so many things. We know Afe Babalola to be a nice person because there is no way you invite Baba and he does not honour it unless your invitation is political. because he does not get involved in politics.

The Afe Babalola Challenge Cup for Oyo State will start next week because the National Challenge Cup starts in June. So, the State Challenge must have been concluded before the end of May.

We have some of our players in Afe Babalola Babes playing or featuring in the National Female Football Teams the Falcons and the Super Falcons. Presently we have one in the Super Falcons. Then there are two others, namely Patience and Agbokade (a.k.a Skele), in the Under 23 Falcons. We have Chioma Gilbert and Alaba Jonathan they play for under-17 National Female Football Team. Then another player has been invited to Under 17 as well as the Under 20 – Chioma Okafor Amarachi.

In conclusion, I see "*Baba*" as a God-sent person to assist the less or under privileged ones.

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**- Oba Adeyemo Adejugbe
Aladesanmi II, the Ewi of
Ado-Ekiti**

"Chief Afe Babalola's contribution to humanity is immeasurable. It is just limitless. It will never die. It is there and we thank God for his life. He is a gift to Nigeria, to Africa and to the world, and he has won so many accolades all over the world."

**- Prof Abiodun Ilesanmi,
Chief Medical Director,
UCH, Ibadan**

"Chief Afe Babalola is a self-made man, from a decent humble family, respectable and well known in Ado Ekiti. He is a human gem, serious, plain and honest. He is a gift from God to Nigeria and Africa. He is ordained by God."

**- Chief Julius Adeleye Fasuba,
the Oisa of Ado-Ekiti**

"My dad's life is his work. He is very disciplined and very grounded, studies hard and has a high sense of humour. Education, for him, is the most important thing. He is very focused and hardworking. His children took those virtues from him"

**- Bolanle Austen-Peters
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A Y O
OLANREWAJU had his first degree in English, a B.A (Hons) from the University of Ilorin in 1982. After a year of national service, he proceeded to the University of Ibadan where he bagged the LL.B (Hons) degree.

On being called to the Bar in October 1987, he started his professional career in **GANI FAWEHINMI CHAMBERS**. He also doubled as a member of the Editorial Board of the **Nigerian Law Publications Ltd.** publishers of Law books including the *Supreme Court of Nigeria Law Reports (SCNLR)* and the *Nigerian Weekly Law Reports (NWLR)*. He rose to become Deputy Head of Chambers, a position he held until January 1995 when he set up his law firm of **AYO OLANREWAJU & CO.**

Meanwhile, he continued with the Nigerian Law Publications and in 1998 he was made the **EDITOR** of the *NIGERIAN WEEKLY LAW REPORTS (NWLR)*. He was in that office until January 2008 when he was elevated to **DEPUTY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**, a position he still holds.

AYO OLANREWAJU is the author of *The Bar and the Bench in Defence of Rule of Law in Nigeria* (1992). He co-ordinated and edited several other works including *Eso Supreme Court Years - 1978 - 1990* (1990); *Judicial Footprints Oputa - His Notable Pronouncements* (2002); *Commentaries from the Bench Pts. I- IV* by Hon. Justice Onalaja (2003) and *Uwais Through The Supreme Court Cases* (2006).

He is married to Aderinsola Olanrewaju, also a legal practitioner, and they have two children, Iremide and Olamide.



MRS. BASIRAT FAWEHINMI-BIOBAKU, the co-author of this book, is a legal practitioner with 10 years post-call experience. Her aspiration to a career in Law commenced when she was

admitted in October 1990 for A Levels in the prestigious Edward Greenes Tutorial College, Oxford, England. She thereafter proceeded to obtain her LL.B degree from the highly distinguished University of Buckingham and in 1996 she went to the Nigerian Law School for a 2-year programme as a foreign student and upon completion she was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1998.

By the latter part of the same year, **BASIRAT** proceeded for her LL.M. Degree in the University of Westminster where she bagged combined honours in International Commercial Law. She has since been in practice under the direct auspices and guidance of her father, **CHIEF GANI FAWEHINMI, SAN**. She is a member of the Editorial Board of the Nigerian Law Publications which is responsible for publishing the ubiquitous *Nigerian Weekly Law Reports (NWLR)*.

Since her field of expertise is centered on procurement and structuring of records she decided to embark on her pet project which is writing biographies of outstanding achievers.

The co-author is married to Barrister **Adetunji Biobaku** and the union is blessed with two children, **Oladeni** and **Adedoyin**.