



MOLUSI COLLEGE OLD STUDENT ASSOCIATION

**MOCOSA**

UNITED KINGDOM CHAPTER

# 2023 GLOBAL REUNION

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**LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM**

*"Stronger Together"*

21st - 23rd September 2023



- ◆ Clinical services
- ◆ Radio-diagnostic investigations
- ◆ Conference facilities
- ◆ Industrial healthcare support

📍 KLM. 10, Idiroko Road, Opposite Canaanland, Ota.

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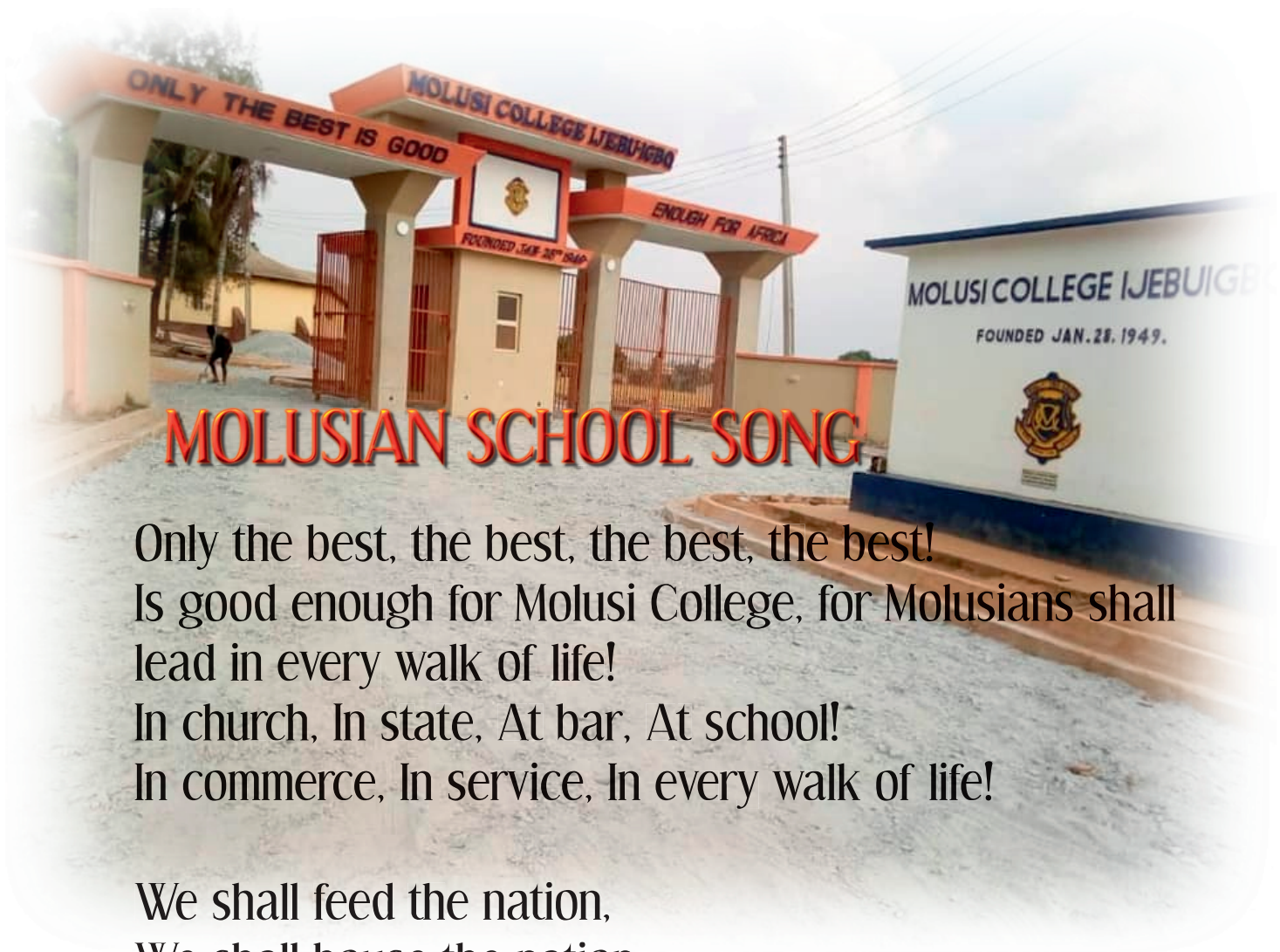


## **NATIONAL ANTHEM OF NIGERIA**

Arise, O compatriots  
Nigeria's call obey  
to serve our fatherland  
with love and strength and faith.  
The labour of our heroes past shall never be in  
vain,  
to serve with heart and might  
one nation bound in freedom  
Peace and unity.

## **NATIONAL ANTHEM OF UNITED KINGDOM**

God save our gracious King!  
Long live our noble King!  
God save the King!  
Send him victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
Long to reign over us,  
God save the King.



## MOLUSIAN SCHOOL SONG

Only the best, the best, the best, the best!  
Is good enough for Molusi College, for Molusians shall  
lead in every walk of life!  
In church, In state, At bar, At school!  
In commerce, In service, In every walk of life!

We shall feed the nation,  
We shall house the nation,  
We shall heal the nation,

Better than everybody!

We shall clothe the nation,  
We shall carry the nation,  
We shall please the nation,

Better than everybody!

We shall serve and guide, and lead mankind,  
to the glory of God and the peace of mankind!

# GLOBAL PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

It is a great privilege for me to welcome Molusians from across different geographic locations to London for this exciting reunion.

It's the grace of God that has made this event possible having been painfully delayed by the pandemic of 2020 that shut down the world system.

The last global reunion hosted by the North America Chapter of our Alumni Association in Calgary Canada in September 2019 infused freshness and energy into our fellowship under the remarkable leadership of the immediate past global President Barrister Femi Talabi.

I recall that the visit by MOCOSA's Pillar Prof. Ayo Ogunye to the UK Chapter in January 2020 did a lot to inspire and bring together the members. This was quickly followed by another visit by Global VP2 Ven. Dr. Bayo Odeniyi and myself that witnessed an encouraging assemblage of Molusians across UK.

I acknowledge the pioneering efforts of previous leaders, elders and members of the UK including former Chairman Prince Femi Sijuade and all officers of the Chapter. The UK Chapter has contributed significantly to the efforts of current MOCOSA Global leadership with the election of Mrs. Bunmi Ogunboye as the Global VP3 in the Executive Committee, and the inclusion of UK Chapter Chairman and some Set chairmen/secretaries as members of the MOCOSA Global Executive Council.

The importance of this reunion cannot be overemphasised; apart from bringing together Molusians from different areas, for fun, camaraderie and fellowship, it will afford us a golden opportunity to brainstorm and strategise to take our Association to higher grounds.

I thank the UK Chapter Chairman Pastor Ranti Okunowo and all members of the Executive Committee, as well as the Local Organising Committee Chairman and members for putting together this global reunion that promises to give us life-long experiences and memories.

Only the best!

Wole Kukoyi,  
Global President  
September 2023



# MOCOSA UK CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Great Molusians!

With great honour and pleasure, I welcome you all to this auspicious occasion of our 7th MOCOSA Global Reunion.

The last couple of days; climaxing today, are very important, it provides an opportunity for Molusians to meet each other after so many years. It also provides a chance for everyone to reminisce on great memories of time spent at Molusi College. It also helps us to notice the various changes, through which the college has gone through over the past few years.

I know time does not stop for anyone, and it takes a lot to take some time out of your busy schedule, to be here and for that I appreciate you. But one thing I can assure you is that at the end of the night, the experience you take home will be worth the time you all spared today.

MOCOSA UK have planned a very good show for you all that will surely make you all feel nostalgic.

I would like to appreciate all the efforts that have gone into the planning by the committee, and also your humble selves, for the financial donations and your presence to make this occasion grand. Thank you for justifying MOCOSA UK hosting this event. I wish you a wonderful evening of fun and togetherness.

Last but not least, MOCOSA is that of sacrifice. We shall all be humble and ready to give our time, skills, and money for the advancement of MOCOSA UK.

God bless MOCOSA UK, God bless MOCOSA GLOBAL, God bless MOLUSI COLLEGE.

Thank you!

Pastor Franklin Ranti Okunowo (MC 4509)  
(MOCOSA UK Chairman)



# MOCOSA GLOBAL REUNION MEETING/LECTURE



BECKENHAM HALL, 4, Bromley Rd, Beckenham BR3 5JE

22ND SEPTEMBER 2023

**5.00pm – 5.30pm**

WELCOMING  
Light Refreshment

**5.30pm – 6.00pm**

OPENING  
Call to Order/Opening Prayer  
Opening Remarks by Global President Dr Wole Kukoyi  
Molusi College School Song  
Self-Introductions  
Goodwill Message by  
Prof Ayodele Ogunye (MOCOSA PILLAR)

**6.00pm – 7.00pm**

SESSION I  
"STRONGER TOGETHER" by Venerable Dr Adebayo Odeniyi

**8.00pm – 8.15pm**

TEA & COFFEE BREAK  
Light Refreshments

**8.15 – 8.40pm**

SESSION 2  
Questions & Answer

**8.40pm – 8.50pm**

REMARKS by Global President Dr Wole Kukoyi

**8.50pm – 8.55pm**

CLOSING  
Announcement & Prayer

MC – Mol. Chief Oluwatoyin Oduyungbo

# MOCOSA GLOBAL REUNION DINNER

ANERLEY TOWN HALL, London SE20 8BD.

23RD SEPTEMBER 2023



5.00pm - 6.00pm

COCKTAIL SESSION

6.00pm - 6.50pm

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS by the MC

Prayer

WELCOME REMARKS by MOCOSA UK Chairman, Pastor Franklin Ranti Okunowo

GOODWILL MESSAGE by MOCOSA Global President, Dr. Wole Kukoyi

6.50pm - 7.10pm

KEYNOTE ADDRESS by Professor Emeritus Ayo Ogunye (MOCOSA PILLAR)

7.10pm - 7.40pm

DINNER

Serving of Dinner

Reminiscences

Jokes

Music Interlude

7.40pm - 7.55pm

RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION

7.55pm - 8.10pm

RAFFLE DRAW

AUCTION

8.10pm - 8.30pm

GROUP PHOTOGRAPHS

MUSIC INTERLUDE

8.30pm - 8.35pm

VOTE OF THANK by Mol. Ayodele Dalton Banjo (Reunion Planning Committee).

8.35pm - 11.00pm

DANCE, DANCE, DANCE

MC - Mol. Chief Oluwatoyin Oduyungbo

BAND STAND - Mol. Sanmi Dairo

**MOLUSI COLLEGE OLD STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (MOCOSA) GLOBAL RE-UNION  
LONDON UK'23  
EVENT LECTURE DELIVERED ON THURSDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER, 2023  
BY VEN DR ADEBAYO. O. ODENIYI,  
MOCOSA GLOBAL VICE PRESIDENT 2  
ON THE RE-UNION THEME:  
MOCOSA GLOBAL – STRONGER TOGETHER.**

I stand on the existing protocol but let me appreciate some people.

Let me start by appreciating the Global President, Dr Wole Kukoyi, on whose permission I stand here today to address this Re-union. Dr Kukoyi continues to be a resilient brother, a classmate and friend, reliable and dependable, who may strike you as fragile but will only bend but not break no matter the pressure. How he packed so much energy into life will remain a mystery that will remain to be unraveled for a long time. And standing beside him is his wife and partner, the power behind the engine, Pastor Mrs Sola Kukoyi who is just the living example of the theme: "Stronger together". May you both continue to wax stronger!

I also delightfully wish to acknowledge our MOCOSA Pillar, Prof Ayodele Francis Ogunye whose strength of purpose on the MOCOSA pedestal cannot be exhausted. In his Book of Tributes at his 80th Birthday celebration somebody wrote:

" It is clearly a very daunting and pragmatically impossible task to try and describe Baba Ogunye in words. His achievement, passion and love towards ALL is beyond what any dictionary (or even coined words) can describe or any expression can fully capture. A man so much favoured by God and so much loved by ALL." I cannot agree less, but also here, Mummy Ogunye stands solidly behind him as they get stronger together!

Let me also appreciate the chairman of MOCOSA UK Chapter, Pastor Ranti Okunowo and the organizing committee of this Re-union. If we consider your environment and the current global daunting phenomenon, it is not easy to organize a Re-union such as this but as a team, you keep rehearsing the theme: " Stronger Together" and nothing works like Team work! This team work resulted in a well-hatched hijack of making me give this lecture on the theme today! I take this assignment in humble deference to the dictum that to lead is to serve. But above all, Molusi College prepares you every day to take up assignment at very short notice.

I appreciate all the members of the chapter and other Molusians who have travelled from all over the globe to grace this occasion. May we all be richly blessed for all our labour of love in Jesus name.  
MOCOSA GLOBAL- STRONGER TOGETHER

The Theme for the UK Re-union is very relevant to the MOCOSA family as it is relevant to the world altogether. For any organization to grow organically, it must involve people of like vision and passion to build the concept of inner strength. God does not design man to be alone. You may be looking at the aspect of companionship but it is definitely more than that. There is this popular adage by Helen Keller, "Alone we can do so little; Together, we can do so much ". That by extension is saying, alone we are strong, together we are stronger. Scripturally, God designed man to unite to fight a common enemy. In the Book of Deuteronomy 32:30, we read that: "How could one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight...". This is only possible because when you stand alone, you are strong, but two people standing are stronger. This is true whether you are talking marriage or talking business. It is not good for one to be alone. The idea of a lone wolf or a person who thinks he doesn't need anyone is not only bad for the individual, it is foreign to God's design for humanity. We all need one another. I need you just as much as you need me.

There is an interesting story in Exodus 17:12-13. The Amalekites came and attacked Israel. Moses told Joshua to pick soldiers that will fight and he will raise up the rod of God. And so it was, when Moses holding up the rod held up his hand, the Israelites prevailed and when his hand drops, the Amalekites prevailed.

Then Aaron and Hur, his servants, devised a means by making Moses sit and they helped him by supporting his hands on either side and his hands were steady until the end of the day. This way the Israelites defeated the Amalekites. Moses couldn't have done it alone. What Aaron and Hur did was to help Moses and partner with him in intercession.

In Ecclesiastes 4:12, Solomon wrote:

"A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken"

There is no doubt that there is strength in unity. The Islamic Religion also affirms this. In Ayet 3:103, the qur'anic verse is a direction to combine efforts and move forward together! Islam seeks to unite people on the basis of thought, focus, and goals. There is strength in unity. There is also encouragement, fulfillment, joy and many other positive outcomes resulting from being part of a solid group.

"Disunity creates weakness, do not dispute or you will lose heart and your strength will be gone" (Q 8:46). Unity and good relationship strengthen a group of people and allow them to achieve much!

When we come back home, my Yoruba culture tells me that: "osusu owo ko se se" meaning when the broom is bundled together, you cannot break the bulk. But when you bring the broom stick out individually, you are able to break them one at a time. Truth is there is strength in Partnership have developed to make enterprise grow. That is more than one person combining to start a business. A sales-minded dreamer with a genius engineer will make wonderful partners. The co-founder relationship is perhaps the most personal of all business relationships.

Let me just give two examples:

William Procter & James Gamble (P&G)

William Procter and James Gamble, co-founders of what would become one of the world's largest companies, were brothers-in-law. Procter was a candle maker while Gamble, his in-law, was a soap maker. It was their father-in-law that convinced Procter and Gamble to merge their candle and soap-making operations, citing that they were competing for the same raw materials (namely animal fat and oil). So in 1837, they took their father-in-law's advice and Procter & Gamble was born (i.e. P & G). Today P & G is a multinational consumer goods company that employs more than 100 thousand people and has a market cap worth of \$200 billion.

Another example is the story of Bill Hewlett and Daniel Packard. These original garage entrepreneurs became friends in 1934 after they both graduated from Stanford University with degrees in electrical engineering. In 1938 they rented a garage in Palo Alto and started working on their first product: an audio oscillator for testing sound equipment. In 1939, they formalized their partnership and held their infamous coin flip to determine whose name got mentioned first. They thus arrived at Hewlett and Packard (HP). They took an employee-centric view of management. And as a result, HP became one of the first U.S companies to offer flexible work hours, profit sharing and several other employee benefits. As partners, Hewlett and Packard always had each other's back. When Hewlett went to serve in the Army during world war II, Packard ran the company on his own until Hewlett's return. And similarly, when Packard stepped down as HP's CEO to serve as the U.S Deputy Secretary of Defense during the Vietnam war,

Hewlett stepped up to take his place. Together, the two entrepreneur/ patriots developed a company culture at HP that has persisted for decades. HP appears on most computers today.

#### STRONGER TOGETHER.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

"Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls. For he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken".

This popular passage often used in marriage holds true for many institutions and social organizations. No doubt that "as individuals we are strong, but together we are unstoppable".

I look nostalgically at our Global organization, MOCOSA and I can beat my chest and tell us that because of certain cultural values that we cherish, the organization has become stronger and getting stronger still. We have embraced the cord of seniority that put your seniors ahead of you in whatever you do. This has helped us to groom ourselves and keep everybody in check while we forge ahead in what we have to do. We may disagree on principles, but we are united on our mission.

We have the Cord of Accountability. This is very important in life. There must be people in your life that you can be open and honest with. There must be people in your life that you will allow to correct, rebuke, encourage and motivate you firmly believing that to such people you must be accountable. We find a lot of that in MOCOSA.

The senior may not necessarily be richer or may not be the wisest, but he enjoys an unwavering respect from the junior. Once a senior always a senior is a dictum we hold dear.

There is the cord of Unity. This is togetherness to inspire each other. The strength of the long chain used as ornament to beautify our neck is as strong as the strength of the individual rings. If any of the component rings is broken, the chain cannot be used immediately if not completely useless. So, the Sets and Branches and Chapters represent the rings while the Global Body is the long chain. We hold this dictum true that we have been able to achieve an image we are proud of in MOCOSA as we strike this chord of unity!

And again, I emphasize the cord of Resistance, of inclusiveness and endurance.

We do have disagreement, we may even have conflicts, but this cord of Resistance is there to ensure we are able to made the tide. We may bend but never broken.

Since we embraced the Global picture, MOCOSA has enjoyed a phenomenal growth. The growth can only be sustained if we shun bickering and mudslinging and continue to hold high the principle of our school song, to lead selflessly in all spheres of human endeavor.

Our constitution has all the ingredients to guide us if we make it work. I can assure us that this moving train can only continue to race on without stopping and at the end we become the envy of all! Please let us join the moving train.

Finally, we must help one another to stand. We must learn to explore the latent talents of sets branches and chapters to foster the growth of our Alma mater that we are so proud of. Come January 2024, the School will become 75 years old and plans are already on ground for celebration. We need you; we need your moral and financial support. We need your brilliant ideas and we need you for whatever you have to offer because we agree that "Alone we are strong... together we are stronger and unstoppable".

Thank you very much for listening.



## MOLUSI COLLEGE OLD STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (MOCOSA)

### UNITED KINGDOM CHAPTER EXECUTIVES



**Mol. Nike Akinwande**  
Social/Publicity Secretary  
(89-94 Set)



**Mol. Prince Femi Sijuade**  
Immediate Past Chairman  
(84-90 Set)



**Mol. Elder Timi Adebawale**  
Ex-Officio  
(69-73 Set)



**Mol. Ayodele Dalton Banjo**  
Vice Chairman  
(75-80 Set)



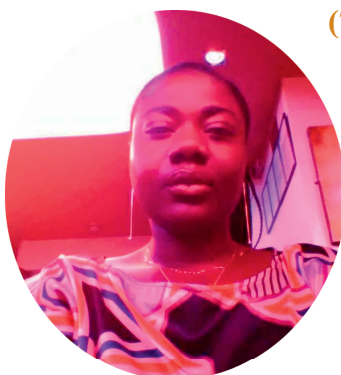
**Mol. Pastor Franklin Ranti Okunowo**  
Chairman  
(75-80 Set)



**Mol. Alhaja Abiodun Akinjisola**  
Financial Secretary  
(74-79 Set)



**Mol. Gboyega Onasanya**  
Treasurer  
(93-99 Set)



**Mol. Kafayat Kareem**  
Asst. Secretary  
(91-97 Set)



**Mol. Barr. Ayoola Oluwasemowo**  
Ex-Officio  
(84-90 Set)



**Mol. Babatunde Idowu**  
Secretary  
(89-94 Set)

# MOCOSA UK

It is a privilege to put a write up in this year MOCOSA Global Reunion brochure, organised and hosted by MOCOSA UK Chapter. This is an event that symbolises oneness among Molusians all over the globe. It is an honour to lead and served as the first Chairman of United Kingdom Chapter, one of the recognised Chapter and oldest in diaspora.

We started MOCOSA UK Chapter in the mid-nineties and most of us then, were either students or those who were trying to regularise our immigration status in United Kingdom but with these challenges, we were able to navigate through and put in place a solid foundation in which we are all benefitting today. At this juncture, may I say a big thank you and congratulations to all founding members for their dedication and commitment. Today's accomplishment is a testament of yesterday impossibilities.

MOCOSA UK Chapter was founded with the mission of providing support and resources to young Molusians in our alma mater. The idea for MOCOSA UK Chapter was born out of a desire to create a safe and supportive space for Molusians to come together and share their experiences. Since its inception, MOCOSA UK Chapter has grown and expanded. All thanks to mother of all nations, Chief Mrs Umo M. Balogun.

This write up will not be complete without mentioning my daddy, the MOCOSA Pillar, Emeritus Professor Ayo Ogunye for his fatherly intervention for the Chapter.

Molusi College Old Student Association UK Chapter, was incorporated on the 6th of January 2020 with the Companies House United Kingdom, with the company number 12388169 as a Private Limited Company by guarantee without share capital, with use of 'Limited' exemption. There are three directors appointed, namely: Ms Oludolapo Oshin, Mrs Adenike Akinwande and lately Revd Franklin Babaranti Okunowo. We have members spread across the United Kingdom. Our members are professionals and experts in their areas of businesses and professions.

Finally, I would like to convey my appreciation to MOCOSA Global President, Dr Oluwole Kukoyi for his leadership role, encouragement, and support for the Chapter.

Thank you all!

Only The Best

Molusian Olufemi Sijuade  
(Immediate Past Chairman MOCOSA UK)





**MOLUSI COLLEGE OLD STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (MOCOSA)**

**UNITED KINGDOM CHAPTER**

**UK '23**

**GLOBAL REUNION**

21st - 23rd September 2023

## Planning Committee



Mol. Past. Franklin Ranti  
Okunowo (75-80 set)



Mol. Dolapo Oshin  
(84-90 set)



Mol. Elder Timi  
Adebawale (69-73 set)



Mol. Bar. Ayoola  
Oluwasemowo (84-90 set)



Mol. Ayodele Dalton  
Banjo (75-80 set)



Mol. Tunde Idowu  
(89-94 set)



Mol. Dr. Femi Adebajo  
(79-84 set)



Mol. Abiodun  
Akinjisola (74-79 set)



Mol. Gboyega Onasanya  
(93-99 set)



Mol. Bunmi Ogunboye  
(84-90 set)

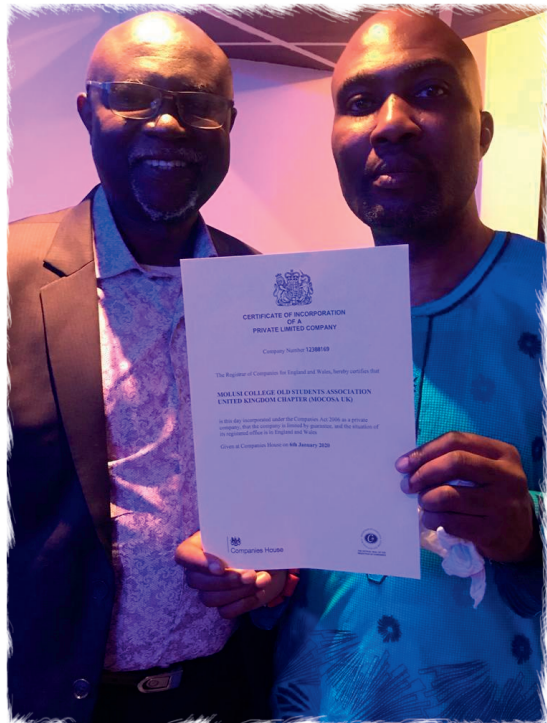
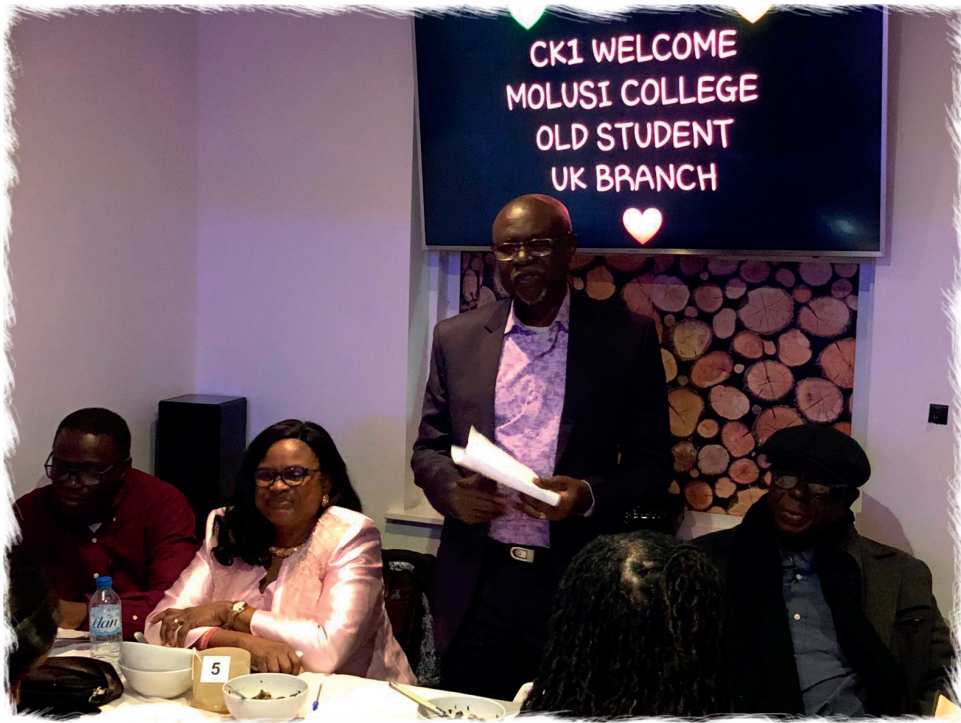


Mol. Chief Oluwatoyin  
Oduyungbo (91-96 set)



Mol. Ope Onasanya  
(92-97 set)

# Hosting our Global President & GVPi by MOCOSA UK CHAPTER



# Hosting our Mama, Chief (Mrs) Umo Balogun by MOCOSA UK CHAPTER



# FROM THE ARCHIVES

THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE FUNDRAISING DINNER ORGANISED TO COMMEMORATE THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOLUSI COLLEGE, IJEBU-IGBO AT THE SHERATON HOTEL AND TOWERS, MOBOLAJI BANK ANTHONY WAY, IKEJA, LAGOS. 'BONAJO BADEJO, S.A.N., FCI Arb. (CN 2540) (now late)

## PROTOCOLS

It gives me great pleasure to deliver this Keynote Address on the occasion of the Celebration of 70 years of MOLUSI COLLEGE, IJEBU-IGBO. 70 years of success; 70 years of challenges; 70 years of "ups and downs" in this highly engaging Country we find ourselves.

Indeed 70 years is a significant Milestone in the life of any individual and establishment. It ought to be the age of unquestionable maturity and re-examination. It represents the on-set of reminiscences when one begins to reflect on the past and the journey so far, establish a successor generation and plan for the future. It is an age when one begins to ponder on his legacy and its sustenance by the in-coming generation. Please permit me to conveniently call it a "YEAR OF THE ODYSSEY".

## OUR ODYSSEY

Molusi College was established and founded by the Ijebu-Igbo Community. The Ijebu-Igbo Patriotic Society (IPS) and the Ijebu-Igbo Students Union agitated for a Secondary School in Ijebu-Igbo for several years. The agitation faced several obstacles in and out of Ijebu-Igbo. The then Colonial Government was not so enthusiastic and created bottle-necks. There was in-fighting among some of the Wards in Ijebu-Igbo as to the location of the School. There were also those who thought that Ijebu-Ode Grammar School was enough to accommodate the quest for Secondary Education in Ijebu Division. With the tireless efforts of Oba Joel Adeboye and his successor, Oba Adetayo Sami (both of blessed memory), Ijebu-Igbo Market Women and other Community Leaders too numerous to mention, the establishment of Molusi College became a reality.

Then, our illustrious Professor Oluwole Awokoya took on the challenge to be the first Principal of the School. He confronted the billowing furnace on the three fronts highlighted above. On the first day of resumption, 28th January, 1949, an expatriate "INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS" inspected the School for only 30 minutes, wrote a comprehensive report about its non-viability and recommended its immediate closure.

Our Eminent Professor Oluwole Awokoya and his Colleagues fought with all their strength to ensure that the baby survived. He gave the School a profoundly ambitious and highly prophetic MOTTO: "ONLY THE BEST IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR AFRICA"!!!!. He composed an outstanding School Anthem which is one of the best instruments of mobilisation and motivation of young minds all over the world. The song set out the Vision and Mission of the College and what exactly is expected of the Students and an Alumnus of the School who is expected to strive for only the best, to lead in every walk of life, In Church, In State, At Bar, At School, In Commerce, in Service, in every walk of life. A Molusian is expected to feed, house, heal, clothe, carry and please the Nation better than everybody; serve and lead mankind to the glory of God and peace of mankind.

With an intake of 57 Students, the School have so far admitted as at the 2019/2020 academic year, 23,844 Students (last number on the admission list). Professor Oluwole Awokoya passed on the baton to Tai Solarin who then passed on the baton to Revd. O. Oredugba and Mr. Oluwole Orebanjo (who both spent brief spells in an interregnum) and then eventually passed on the baton to Ven. J. A. Larewaju who also passed the baton to our own, the very first Old Student to be Principal of the School, OLATUNDE BALOGUN all of them of blessed memory.

These Pioneers and the Students of their generation sacrificed a lot. They cleared bush, cut grasses, uprooted trees, moulded blocks, erected buildings and hostels. They established farms where maize, yams, cassava,

vegetables, tomatoes and groundnuts were planted, established fish ponds, rabbitry, piggery, carpentry workshops and botanical gardens. They excelled in sports and Games; played football, hockey, cricket and dominated athletics. They had real fun in an environment conducive to learning at that time.

On the academic front, qualified and competent teachers were recruited who taught the Students tirelessly from morning to night. The College presented its first set made up of 33 Candidates for the Cambridge School Certificate in 1953. All the Students who offered Physics and Chemistry passed. Twenty-one out of twenty-seven who offered Biology passed. Out of the 45 students that sat as the first batch of students to write WAEC Examination in 1958, 9 came out in Grade 1, 18 came out in Grade II. The 1960 set (THE OCTAVI) broke the record of that era when out of 47 students presented for the 1960 Cambridge School Certificate, 12 came out in Grade 1. All these epitomises the objective of the School to give "FUNCTIONAL EDUCATION as it sets out to train the mind, the head and the hands of its students".

Little wonder that in the first 20 years of its founding, the School had produced 150 University Graduates in the Sciences, Mathematics, Agriculture, Medicine and Engineering.

Today, we have many Professors in the Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences and the Liberal Arts. We have accomplished Medical Doctors, Engineers, Veterinary Surgeons, Architects, Agriculturists, Bankers, Economists, Political Scientists, Administrators, Teachers, Lawyers, Marketers, Businessmen, Designers, Vocationists, Artisans and Politicians of note. Mention any field of endeavour, you will find a Molusi thriving and excelling.

#### WHERE ARE WE TODAY?

Today, it can be seen clearly that the state of Education in our Country calls for a declaration of National Emergency. Molusi College is not an exception.

The performance of our Students in the WAEC Examinations in the last four years captures this eloquently. In 2015, the College presented 130 Candidates. 11 had Credit in English, 5 in Mathematics. Only 23 of them had Credits in 5 subjects. The Higher Education Potential was 1.79%.

In 2016, the Higher Education Potential increased to 15%. 211 Candidates sat for the examination. 85 had Credit in English; 67 in Mathematics; only 31 Students had Credit in the five subjects.

In 2017, 290 Students sat for the examinations. 213 and 243 had Credit in English and Mathematics respectively. Only 161 Candidates had Credits in more than 5 subjects. The Higher Education Potential was 56%.

In 2018, 299 Students were presented for the examinations; only 2 Students had Credits in 5 subjects. The Higher Education Potential dropped drastically to 0.67%.

The discouraging picture emerging from the above statistics is that out of 930 students presented in the last four years, only 217 (which translates to 23.3%) had potential to gain admission into a university at first sitting.

When we turn to the other indices of an all-round education, we found recently that the Hostels, Farms, Fish Pond, Piggery, Poultry, Carpentry Workshop have gone into extinction. We found that there are serious infrastructural decay calling for urgent intervention.

There is tremendous progress in securing a Master Plan for the School. Infrastructural decay is being addressed. The Tai Solarin building has been refurbished. Oluwale Awokoya building is currently being renovated. Flowers are being planted, provision of adequate drainages are being addressed, boreholes are being constructed, the general horticulture and aesthetics is being improved. The Gate house has just been given a facelift. A modern and spacious Library will be handed over in the next few days. There is a Rescue Fund launched to finance the uplift in infrastructure. Many of the Branches and Sub-Sets have contributed. Many of

our members have sent in donations. Specific mention must be made of the Oluwole Awokoya Foundation, a body which has contributed immensely to the Infrastructural development and Academic growth of the School.

## THE WAY FORWARD

Quite apart from improving the infrastructure and aesthetics in our Alma Mater, we must, as a matter of urgency and enlightened self-interest, focus on the improvements in the Students and quality of Education. There can be no MOCOSA without a successor generation of young ones, well trained, articulate and ready to step out to enrich and serve our Nation in all fields of endeavour.

We have to double our efforts in paying attention to the quality of education in the School, train, equip, employ and sustain more qualified Teachers; adopt the students as our Children and constantly monitor their Progress; visit them regularly in the environment we would have made conducive to learning; organise sponsorship and training programmes, debates, quiz, essay writing and other forms of competition.

Our overall objective ought to be the development of the three domains of education in the Students; comprising the psychomotor, the effectual and the cognitive.

If we do not take decisive and sustained action now, we run the risk of being the generation in whose hands the dream of the Founders of Molusi College become utterly defeated.

Let us continue to spend and be spent. Let us donate generously and contribute ideas in a bid to touch our humble beginnings and improve the glory of our Certificates and attainment. Let us give back to a School that moulded us to strive to be one of the best. This is the time to "double up", act in unison and quicken our steps. Together we will move forward to achieve our Vision and Mission.

**Culled from the original speech delivered by late Badejo Bonojo SAN at the Celebration of 70 years of MOLUSI COLLEGE, IJEBU-IGBO.**

Since this speech was delivered there's been improvement in WAEC result as shown below

WEST AFRICAN EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL												
WASSCE SCHOOL CANDIDATES EXAMINATIONS 2019 - 2022												
PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS FOR SCHOOL CANDIDATES IN MOLUSI COLLEGE, IJEBU IGBO OGUN STATE												
CENTRE NO	TOTAL NUMBER SAT			5 CREDITS AND ABOVE INCLUDING ENGLISH LANGUAGE			5 CREDITS AND ABOVE INCLUDING MATHEMATICS			5 CREDITS & ABOVE INCLUDING MATHEMATICS & ENGLISH LANG.		
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
<b>2019</b>												
<b>4280901</b>	148	99	247	146	99	245	147	99	246	146	99	245
PERCENT	59.91	40.08	100	98.64	100	99.19	99.32	100	99.59	98.64	100	99.19
<b>2020</b>												
<b>4280901</b>	165	133	298	164	132	296	164	133	297	163	132	295
PERCENT	55.36	44.63	100	99.39	99.24	99.32	99.39	100	99.66	98.78	99.24	98.99
<b>2021</b>												
<b>4280901</b>	190	171	361	188	171	359	177	168	345	177	168	345
PERCENT	52.63	47.36	100	98.94	100	99.44	93.15	98.24	95.56	93.15	98.24	95.56
<b>2022</b>												
<b>4280901</b>	149	131	280	148	131	279	97	89	186	96	89	185
PERCENT	53.21	46.78	100	99.32	100	99.64	65.1	67.93	66.42	64.42	67.93	66.07



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Pastor & Pastor (Mrs) Franklin Ranti Okunowo (MC 4509)

.....

“Congratulations to MOCOSA UK & Global Family, for hosting the MOCOSA Global Reunion 2023. God bless us as we grow stronger together.”



## **GOODWILL MESSAGE FROM MOLUSI COLLEGE (SENIOR) PRINCIPAL ON THE OCCASION OF MOCOSA GLOBAL REUNION LONDON UK 2023**

Protocol!

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen! It please my mind to welcome you all to this august gathering, as we are all here today to witness the 2023 Reunion of MOCOSA, North America Branch.

There is no gain saying to the fact that our ancestors, teachers and community leaders years back have said into our future that all Molusians will become major transformational agents of positive change in whatever establishment they find themselves. No doubt, this prayer had been yielding positive answers as the School is witnessing many transformational and lives impacting projects that were financed and carried out by different sets of MOCOSA.

As the Principal of the Molusi College Senior School, I can boldly say that:"We would not have gone this far without your support."

However, your candid support are presently needed in this following areas of our needs:

- (1) Provision of Ultra-Modern School Hall.
- (2) Provision of Labtops for the School ICT.
- (3) Upgrading of the School Library to E-learning Compliance.
- (4) Purchasing of new School-Bus.
- (5) Provision of furniture for the teachers.
- (6) Renovation of the Laboratories building.

Fellow Molusians, all of the above listed school needs, if provided, will no doubt make our Alma Mater be the choice of all, particularly when our 75th Founder's Day Celebration is fast approaching.

May Almighty God continue to prosper our affairs. May you never lack and whatever you lay our hands upon continue to prosper.

Thank for you for your usual supports and anticipated actions towards our requests.

Kafaru, M. Ayinde

Principal (Senior).



## PROFESSOR AYODELE FRANCIS OGUNYE (MOCOSA PILLAR)

### PROFILE . . . .

Prof. Ayodele Francis Ogunye is a legend whose indelible imprints in academics and oil and gas have continued to resonate for over five decades. He completed his secondary at 18, won scholarship to Imperial College, London where he studied engineering and became the first Nigerian in his field to earn PhD in 1970 shortly after the civil war.

What is it like celebrating 80?

I was born on July 31, 1942 in Ajabandele in Ogunye village. I feel great turning 80. And not only that, I have achieved all I wanted in the world. Two, I have set a record in my family, because my father died at the age of 67, while my mother died at the age of 73.

You said you had achieved all in life. What were those things you wanted to achieve while navigating through life? And at what stage did you nurse the ambition to study Chemical Engineering?

Well, I wanted to be a professor, I am already one. It was my first year at the university; Imperial College of Science and Technology, the University of London that I made that decision. Those days, only in Imperial College that you have more than a professor in a department. There were six professors of Chemical Engineering at Imperial College in my days; three of them would only give about five lectures during their three years of stay at the university, while the other three were giving regular lectures.

But (Professor KG Dembe), the father of Chemical Reaction Engineering handled the introductory course in Chemical Engineering, and when he comes into the class, a white man in a white robe, a janitor, will follow him and when Dembe has written to the half of the board, the janitor will clean the board. I had to ask myself, why is this person so special? He was special; he was the contract professor occupying the chair of the professor that was endowed in Imperial College by Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI). That was how I had the ambition of wanting to be a professor of Chemical Engineering and when I completed my PhD, I had three jobs in the country. The first was the Institute of Computer Science at the University of Lagos, the salary was 1350 pounds; the second was the University of Ife, at the Department of Chemical Technology, which was changed to Chemical Engineering the following year, which gave me a job of a lecturer Grade 2 at a salary of 1575 pounds; thirdly, Shell BP at 2750 pounds.

You became a professor at a relatively young age of 36. Was it part of your plans?

Yes in a way. The next of my ambition then was not just to be a professor but a timeline. In those days, the average age of a professorial appointment was 45. After listening to the foremost statistician in this county, Prof Biya Aja, at his inaugural lecture, I promised to work hard to be a professor before I was 40. To God be the glory, I became a Professor of Chemical Engineering at the University of Lagos at the age of 36.

Growing up, what were the building blocks that contributed to who you are today?

I was an over-pampered child. My mother was not pregnant for 16 years before I was born. So you can imagine how the woman will treat me. When I was born in the village, I am not ashamed of the village in Ajabandele in Ogunye Village. It was a rural setting where palm leaf was the roofing material.

My mother gave me anything I liked. So in November 1947, I was just five years old when the Anglican Mission wanted to start a primary school in our town, Ijapara in Ijebu-Igbo. They needed to populate the new primary school. My two uncles, my mother's immediate juniors, were lay readers in the church. So, the senior one came to the village to inform my mother that I should be one of the foundation pupils of the school. My mother objected. I was told there was a fight between him and his sister, eventually, he had his way and he took me to the town to school on November 10, 1947. The other pupils with me in the class were ten years and above my senior.

You won several scholarships. How did it happen?

In those days, Government College education officers often came to our school to interview pupils and they could pick two or one, and sometimes if none qualified, none would be taken. I had two other competitors who joined Standard Six. They were the children of elites, their father had been a nurse working across the country and the man decided to return home after retirement and these two boys were his children. So when Government College education officers came and they interviewed two of us, within me, I knew I would not be taken, because the spoken English of this Osinubi boy was outstanding. You will think he was born in England.

Finally, I was not taken, it was one of the Osinubi that got admitted to Government College Ibadan. So, I decided to write a common entrance examination to two secondary schools in Ijebu: Ijebu Ode Grammar School and Molusi College, Ijebu-Igbo. I passed the common entrance for Ijebu-ode Grammar school and was number one on the list of people invited for the interview.

Then Molusi College is in Ijebu-Igbo, and Ijebu-ode Grammar School has no science laboratory but the first principal of Molusi College, late Professor Awokoya, made sure that we had a well-equipped laboratory. The fact that there are subjects not being taught in Ijebu-ode at Molusi spurred me to go to Molusi College. And at Molusi College, I was loved by my teachers. So, I had a good time at Molusi College and that is the reason I am so much involved in Molusi College affairs.

You experienced a lot of setbacks before you attained greatness. You lost your father along the way. What has been your staying power?

It is power of vision, being focused and commitment. My father's desire was to send me abroad to study. Unfortunately, he died in October 1959.

When I passed my HSC, the Ijebu-Igbo Local Council scholarship was available for me. That local council had given only a scholarship and it was given to me. That scholarship covered tuition and 75 pounds allowance. Fortunately for me, when I gained admission to Government College, the principal, even though I did not pay my school fees, did not reject me.

Miraculously I won the scholarship, the school fees, 42 pounds, the local government paid and 75 pounds was given to me as pocket money and out of that, I paid my friend, Adefunwa's school fees of 42 pounds and what was left was still big money then and people started to see me in designer wears. And you can see how pleasant my days have been.

We finished the school certificate exam and the next was to travel overseas. When the school certificate examination result came out, I was given a pardonable failure in English and that pushed me to Grade 2. I am sure nobody else was given a pardonable failure after me, the reason being that I was the best at Molusi College. In those days when your school has just one Grade 1 school certificate examination, you are considered a great school, except in Government College. But in Molusi College, in my class, 12 were in Grade 1 and if I had Grade 1, we would have been 13 out of the 47 of us that left that year. So, I could not apply for an overseas scholarship. Luckily, the scholarship I have could take me for my university education. So, I was okay with that.

You got married early juggling education with marital life. How did you cope?

My wife and I started dating when I was in Form 3 and 1963, she wanted to travel overseas and I said if that is the case, I needed to travel overseas myself. I wanted to study Aeronautical Engineering, but my uncle said no that I should look for another course. My senior and mentor, Prof Babajide, a former president of Chemical Engineering was studying in Medford then and he advised me to study Chemical Engineering. There was no counsellor in the schools in those days, that was how I came back to look at all available information.

How did you get to Imperial College, London?

In Britain then, there were 26 Departments of Chemical Engineering. In those days, if you wrote to England, you were sure to get your reply, at the latest one week. I wrote to all the 26 departments of Chemical Engineering. The first 25 said admission had closed and the only one that sent me a form was Imperial College. Immediately, I ran to Ibadan to fill it and asked my chemistry master, for my recommendation letter to Imperial College and I went to drop it off at the Post Office. And within a week, Imperial College replied that the condition of my admission was that I must have a minimum of two distinctions and a B. But when the result of the GCE A level came, I had four distinctions so it was easy for Imperial College to admit me.

When I was admitted, the last hurdle was that I must have a Federal Government scholarship. So, I applied for the FG scholarship and in those days there was still merit. We were graded on the number of As produced at HSC or GCE A level and school certificate examination. I did the selection examination and I scored 22 points. So I was very confident that I would get a scholarship. Eventually, that year, four of us were awarded a FG scholarship to study chemical engineering and I was on top of the list.

Would you say you have achieved all your life aspirations?

Absolutely. I have no regret. I attained the highest in my profession by becoming a professor. I have resourceful children who responded to training. While climbing the ladder, my Magodo house was built within eight months and I bought a brand new Mercedes car. I still kept my faith in the university, mostly UNILAG because the platform made me what I am today. It was that opportunity that I was given when I was 31 years that made me popular in engineering throughout Nigeria and the world. And to show my appreciation to UNILAG, when I retired, my gratuity and pension till today have been ploughed into the Professor Ayo Francis Ogunye Trust Fund, professor of chemical engineering endowment. The endowment has about N120m today, which gives prizes, scholarships and research grants to eligible candidates every year.

How will you describe yourself outside academics?

Prof. Ogunye is a family man who loves his profession. He is a very humble person. I would like to be remembered as a professor of Chemical Engineering that singlehandedly established the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Lagos. I want to be remembered as a humane person, I do not hold a grudge, I will shout at you but in the next seconds, I have forgotten. I am also a community man.

Excerpt from ThisdayLive, published on 30th July 2022



*Only the Best is Good Enough for Africa*

# *Congratulations!*

On behalf of Molusi College Alumni Association -  
North America

Congratulations to our comrade, Molusi College  
Alumni Association - UK Chapter for hosting the  
2023 Global Reunion.

We celebrate with Molusians worldwide for your  
relentless service to humanity.



Mrs Tolani Oshikoya  
Chairperson '21-'23



Dr Ayo Okunola  
Secretary



## SPOTLIGHT

### BIOGRAPHY OF MRS. UMO M. BALOGUN

By Molusian Leke Odumuyiwa



Mrs. Umo M. Balogun was born in the eastern part of Nigeria (Calabar in Cross River State to be precise) on the 27th of May 1944. She is the first of five children born to Chief and Mrs. E. A. EneObong.

Her father, a civil servant worked with the Post and Telegraphs Department (later known as NITEL) and her mother was a primary school teacher. Being civil servants meant that the family moved around a lot so Mrs Balogun lived with her grandmother in her early years.

Mrs. Balogun attended Duke Town Primary School, Calabar for her primary education between 1950 - 1957 and went off to Union Secondary School, Ibiaku, Ikot Ekpene from 1958 - 62, then proceeded to Arch Deacon Crowther Memorial Girls School, Elenwa from 1963-64 for her Higher School Certificate (HSC)

She moved West to attend the University of Ibadan where she studied English in 1965.

Studying in Ibadan was an extremely new experience as this was her first time outside the Eastern part of the country - the language was different, the food was different and coupled with that, the Nigerian civil war had broken out which practically cut her off from family for the most part of her undergraduate years.

After graduating from the University in 1968, Mrs. Balogun got a teaching offer in Molusi College Ijebu Igbo and with prompting from a friend, accepted the job. On a sunny day in June 1968, armed with all her belongings and a determination to succeed, she arrived the small town which unknown to her at the time would become her home. She met and married Mr. Olatunde Balogun, a 'son of the soil', the 'Lion Son Merchant', erstwhile principal of this great school and former student of Molusi College - a primus for the matter. (Olatunde Balogun with college number 57 was one of the pioneer students to enroll in Molusi College in 1949).

After serving as a teacher in Molusi College for 4 years, Mrs. Balogun transferred to Ijebu-Igbo Girls Grammar School for one month before she was transferred to Anglican Girls Grammar School Abeokuta. After about a year, she transferred to Government College, Ketu and then Government College, Ikorodu when her husband served as pioneer principal in the newly founded Government College, Ikorodu.

In July 1979, Mrs. Balogun returned to Molusi College as a classroom teacher when her husband retired and returned home. She continued there as a classroom teacher and later Acting Vice Principal after which she was transferred to Sopen Comprehensive High School as Principal in September 1981.

In September 1983, she was transferred to Molusi College as Principal. During the 12 years spent in Molusi College as Principal, Mrs. Balogun put everything she had into the development of the students and the school.

With the help and support of the teachers, parents, the Old Students Association and the Community, the school rose to be one of the best in many spheres competing at state level in Mathematics, Science, Sports and Essay and Debating competitions.

In her tenure, the boarding school, which attracted students from far and near was revived bringing diversity and inclusion to the community.

In 1995, there was a mass transfer of principals and she was transferred yet again to Ijebu Igbo Girls' Grammar School where she served until forced retirement in March 2001. The Government had at the time conducted a "rationalization exercise", which mandates the retirement on many school principals and teachers. However, because of her immeasurable contributions to the growth and success of the school, she was issued a contract appointment by the Ogun State government to stay on as principal; a position she held from September 2001 till September 2003.

During her stay in Ijebu Igbo Girls' Grammar School, she had the opportunity to bring the school up to such an enviable standard; that one of her colleagues said she had the magic wand to revive ailing schools'.

After final retirement in 2003, she left public life to fully face her private life with her husband Mr. Olatunde Balogun who sadly, passed away in July of 2011. They had both lived together happily and raised their children together - all of whom are proudly ex - Molusians too.

**AYO BANJO (MC 4469; 1975-1980)**



**FELICITATES WITH THE**

**ENTIRE MOCOSA FAMILY ON THIS**

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**WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER & PROUD TO BE PART OF THIS  
EPIC JOURNEY**

**ONLY THE BEST!**

**The children of late Mr. Felix Olumuyiwa Ayodele Oshin (aka IOIO Bobo) MC 227 felicitate with MOCOSA UK Chapter for hosting the 2023 MOCOSA Global Reunion London UK '23 tagged "Stronger Together".**

**Only the best is good enough for Africa!!!**



**Oshin Olukayode MC 4754**

**Oshin Sholabomi MC 5511**

**Oshin Abiodun MC 7200**

**Oshin Oluseyi MC 10294**

**Oshin Amuwa MC 15652**

**Oshin Adebola MC 4962**

**Oshin Omobukunola MC 7045**

**Oshin Oludolapo MC 7115**

**Oshin Modupe MC 14249**

**Oshin Ebunoluwa**





**BUKOLA ADEKOYA FAGBENLE,**  
Medical Herbalist Bsc(Hons) MNIMH(UK) MSc Dev.Econs

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**ABOUT BUKOLA**

Bukola holds a Bsc in Western Herbal Medicine from Middlesex University in London, an MSc in Development Economics from The University of South Bank, & a PGCE in Education (for Further Education) from University of Greenwich – all in the UK.


She is a member of the National Institute of Medical Herbalists in the UK, a Pax Herbal Health Practitioner, member of Oyo State Traditional Herbalists & Amalgamation of Herbalists, Oyo State chapter; and currently practises herbal medicine in the UK and Nigeria.

**ABOUT HERBAL MEDICINE**

Herbal medicine (also known as phytotherapy or herbalism) is a therapeutic discipline that relies on the medicinal properties of specific plants. These plants, often referred to as medicinal herbs, have specific and often well-defined effects on human physiology.


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“Adebukola Adekoya-Fagbenle, Diaspora Coordinator of the 1975/80 set, (MC 4542) felicitates and is proud to associate with MOCOSA UK Chapter on the hosting of the 2023 MOCOSA Global Reunion. Congratulations”



The **Adegboyega Onasanya Foundation (AOF)** is a non-profit making organization that is dedicated to bridging educational lapses in the society. The Foundation's focus is to support children who are potentially high achievers but cannot afford a decent education and where possible, to create a conducive learning environment for students.

Donate to make a difference:  
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For sponsorship or partnership, please contact ——— aofmemo1@gmail.com

Felicitations!

Warm congratulations to the entire Molusi College Old Students Association, Global and Chapters, on the forthcoming celebration of the 75th anniversary of our venerable school.

Special congratulations to the MOCOSA UK Branch on the imminent anniversary celebrations in London.

I wish our guests from various parts of the world safe travels, as we gather to commemorate this significant milestone of our dear Molusi College.

Deep and grateful thanks to all those striving behind the scenes to make this event the huge success that it promises to be.

Let us continue to push for improvement of the great Molusi College, recruiting our personal resources, our friends, associates and wellwishers in the noble project of continuing support for Molusi College.

**ONLY THE BEST!**

Femi Adebajo

MC 5784

Chairman, MOCOSA Fundraising Committee





### **ONLY THE BEST!!!**

We the **Oluwasemowo** Molusian family of Oke Agbo, Ijebu Igbo, felicitate with the MOCOSA Global President **Molusian Dr. Wole Kukoyi** and the entire MOCOSA family worldwide on the occasion of the MOCOSA Global Reunion 2023.

We thank God for the "IROKO" and PILLAR of MOCOSA **Prof. Ayo Ogunye** for his exemplary, unwavering and consistent leadership role in MOCOSA and his unequalled contribution to the development and progress of our Alma Mata from decades past till date.

We do appreciate our dear mother and former principal **Chief Mrs. Umo Mayen Balogun**, our teachers past and present, and classmates for their laudable contribution towards the progress and development of Molusi College, Ijebu-Igbo.

We also rejoice with the MOCOSA UK family under the able leadership of **Molusian Rev. Franklin Okunowo** for successfully hosting a memorable reunion.

Signed:

**Molusian Ayoola Olalekan Oluwasemowo** C/N:7308 (Chairman 1984-1990 set)

**Molusian Dr. Olukunle Seun Oluwasemowo** C/N:9183 (1991-1997 Set)

**Molusian Olubunmi Dupe Obidike (Nee Oluwasemowo)** C/N:9297 (1992-1998 set)

**Molusian Ololade Adewunmi Oluwasemowo** C/N:9720 (1993-1999 set)

**Molusian Omolara Oyinlola Adeola (Nee Oluwasemowo)** C/N:10726 (1995-2001 set)

**Molusian Oladayo Olusegun Oluwasemowo** C/N:14679 (1999-2005 set)

**Molusian Folasayo Abiola Sonubi (Nee Oluwasemowo)** (1999-2005 set)

**Molusian Olajide Ifeoluwa Oluwasemowo** C/N 15009 (2003-2009 set)

Please note: **Oluwasemowo** (formerly known as **Ogunsemowo**)



# **LATE PROF. (CHIEF) STEPHEN OLUWOLE AWOKOYA THE MOST EMINENT EDUCATIONIST OF OGUN STATE AND THE FOUNDING PRINCIPAL OF MOLUSI COLLEGE 1949/1951**

**BY PROF. A. F. OGUNYE MC467**

Professor (Chief) Stephen Awokoya was born on the 9th of July, 1913, at Awa Ijebu, Nigeria. Young Oluwole Awokoya attended Sagun primary school at Oru near Awa, St. Andrew's College, Oyo (1929-1932), Yaba Higher College, Lagos (1934-1936) and University College, London (1943-1946). The first position was literally reserved for him in all the examinations he took in all the schools he attended.

Professor Awokoya was the first Nigerian to obtain a degree in Chemistry (1946). He was at various times a School Master at St. Peter's School Aremo, Ibadan; Science Tutor at St. Andrew's College, Oyo; a Senior Master at Abeokuta Grammar School and later the founding Principal of Molusi College, Ijebu Igbo on January 28, 1949. Without a man of his calibre as the first Principal, Molusi College would have been a stillborn baby or would have been murdered in its infancy, and the whole world at large would not have known what had been lost. Molusi College has an enthralling history both in its subsequent resounding greatness as an educational institution as well as its very epoch-making birth. Molusi College is a conqueror child littered in the midst of warfare and turmoil. At that time, a neighbouring community near Ijebu-Igbo felt that another Secondary School in the Ijebu area would reduce the greatness of the Ijebu-Ode Grammar School, which, all over the years, had dominated the scene as the only Secondary School in Ijebu. The then Colonial Government too did not welcome any concept of "Education for All". It wanted Education for only a privileged few for the sustenance of an Elitist Society where a well stratified class of a few will dominate the multitude of uneducated people who will be available for cheap labour. And so, Government approval was not forthcoming.

At the home front at Ijebu-Igbo, there was internal "war", uprising and rioting! A section of the Ijebu-Igbo Community started agitating that the siting of Molusi College should be in their area instead of where it was sited. It was a real internal combustion! The three fronts, as such, define the furnace into which Chief Awokoya decided to plunge his head by accepting the Principalship of Molusi College and risking his very brilliant career. The then Colonial Government was bent on murdering the baby school at birth when they sent an expatriate "Inspector of Schools" to inspect the school on its first day of opening which was the 28th of January 1949. He spent about 30 minutes "inspecting" the School and went back to write a comprehensive volume of report about the non-viability of the school and recommended the immediate closure of the school by the Government.

Meanwhile Professor Awokoya countered the report of the "Almighty Inspector" by writing a Rejoinder Report. Chief Awokoya continued running the "illegal college" which we, Molusians proudly today declare as our cradle built with gold and diamond and which the world at large recognizes today as one of the best among the good schools in Africa, nay, in the world. Like procuring insomnia for the people in the then Government, Professor Awokoya kick-started Molusi-College with two surprises to the Government, the first was that Molusi College was going to run a four-year course for the then Cambridge School Certificate; whereas all schools in Nigeria were running a six-year programme for the Cambridge School Certificate! The second was that the school would start by teaching all the three sciences (Physics, Chemistry and Biology) to the students starting with the first set! Over these two ideas, the officials of the Education Department, as the Ministry of Education was known at that time, were raging with anger. The then Chief Inspector of Education who was an expatriate for sure almost swore to commit suicide and bring down the heavens if Chief Awokoya should try it. Chief Awokoya went on doggedly. He did both! All obstacles were trampled over by the great giant!

The rest is now history that Molusi College and Chief Awokoya triumphed gallantly. The first set of the students wrote their Cambridge School Certificate Examination after spending 5 years in the school instead of four years originally designed because he left to join the government of Western Region in January 1952.

The students offered the sciences for their examinations. This feat was concluded by Dr. Tai Solarin who took the baton from Chief Awokoya in January 1952. He played the able role of great successor. He had unusual energy, profound knowledge, zest and indomitable courage.

The rewards of the duo of Awokoya and Solarin went thus that the school presented 33 candidates altogether for the first Cambridge School Certificate Examination in Nov/Dec 1953. All the students who offered Physics with Chemistry passed! Twenty seven sat for Biology, Twenty one passed! Later on, the school succeeded in recording that all the top three of her students who went for University Degree Courses with their mates who spent six years in all the other older schools passed again! Lo and behold, these students studied Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics for their University Degree Courses! One specialized in Physics, Professor Akin Osiyale and the other two specialized in Mathematics, Mr. Olatunde Balogun and late Mr. J. A. Rowaiye, all of blessed memory. One of those who specialized in Mathematics, Mr. Olatunde Balogun even did his Science degree course by Private Study using the very Molusi College laboratory for his practical for his Advanced Level Subjects and he passed! That class produced also Senator Biyi Durojaiye, who never followed the trio who studied the sciences but studied privately and graduated at the same time with Honours degree in Economics at the University of London. The author of this profile remembers very vividly that science equipment from Molusi College were borrowed by Nigeria College of Science, Ibadan in January 1963 for the practical examinations for the University of London Advanced Level. One of the whinstone bridges which was allocated to him had been used earlier at Molusi College which Prof Awokoya procured thirteen years earlier as Molusi College Principal.

When Chief Awokoya joined the Government as Minister of Education in 1952, nemesis, however, later treated the evil "Inspector" who wrote a damaging report when he came to inspect Molusi on the opening day about 3 years earlier. The "Evil Inspector" of that day misplaced the answer scripts of some students who sat for their Grade Two Teachers Examination. He was an examiner. He dared not confess that he lost the whole batch of the scripts. So, he sat down in his room and "cooked" up random scores for each candidate as to suit his fantasy. Meanwhile, the lost scripts had been found by someone who delivered the scripts to the office of the Minister of Education. Chief Awokoya was the Minister! The nefarious "inspector" could not produce the scripts when the Minister asked to see the scripts. Later, the unmarked scripts were shown to him, intact, as he himself parceled the scripts when they were given to him for marking. He left the shores of Nigeria in the following midnight! Nobody sacked him! He did the honourable thing, at least on that occasion!

Chief Awokoya's period in politics was active but brief during which he was a member of the Drafting Committee of the Macpherson Constitution for Nigeria and was the first Minister of Education in the old Western Region. As a Minister of Education, he implemented the Universal Free Primary Education Scheme in the old Western Region between 1952-1956. In 1956, Chief Awokoya was on the Queen's Honours List and was made a Commander of the British Empire for his pioneering work in Education.



LATE PROF. (CHIEF) STEPHEN OLUWOLE AWOKOYA C.B.E., D.Sc.  
THE ASETO OF AWA, AND THE MUWAOLU OF IKUJA

On leaving politics in 1956, Chief Awokoya went back into his first calling, which is education. He was later invited by the late Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa to head the Federal Emergency Science School (Later called Federal School of Science) in 1958. In 1961, he became the first Nigerian Chief Federal Adviser on Education, during which he was instrumental in the take-off of the African Scholarship Programme for American Universities (ASPAU). Those trained under ASPAU returned to boost Nigerian high quality man-power development. He was responsible for the Federal Policy Paper No. 1 of 1961 which outlined the setting up of the National Manpower Board, the National University Commission and the Bureau of External Aid for Education. Between 1962 and 1963, Chief Awokoya was the Scientific Secretary to the United Nations Conference on the Application of Science and Technology to Development in Geneva, where he coordinated the contributions of Sierra-Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria and the Cameroons. He was a pioneering member of Council of University of Lagos and served on that Council between 1962 and 1966.

Upon completing his United Nations assignment, he was appointed the Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Education, a post he held with that of Chief Federal Adviser on Education between 1963 and 1967. During this period, he was a consultant to several International Organisations such as the United Nations, International Institute of Education Planning and World Book Encyclopaedia among others. It was also during this period that the National Education Research Council (NERC) was inaugurated in 1965. In 1967, he was appointed a Director of UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation), Paris, France. At various times he was the Director of the Division of Science Teaching, the Department of the Application of Science and Technology to Development, the Department of Scientific and Technological Research and Higher Education. In 1973, he was awarded a Doctor of Letters (DLitt) degree (Honoris Causa) by the University of Lagos. By 1973, when he retired from UNESCO, he had risen to the post of Deputy Director-General for Science which is the highest non-political post at UNESCO, Paris. In 1974, he was appointed a Professor of Education at the University of Ife. While at the University of Ife, Professor Awokoya was the President of the Chemical Society of Nigeria (1976-1979); member of the Board of Trustees of the International Foundation for Science, Sweden (1975-1981); head of the Nigerian Delegation to the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology in Vienna (1979) and was a consultant to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Economic Commission for African and the Association of African Universities.

Professor Awokoya was the Chairman of the Lagos State Planning Committee of the Lagos State College of Science and Technology (1975-1977). Professor Awokoya was the author of many books and numerous publications.

He retired from the University of Ife in 1984. He passed on to the great beyond on March 15, 1985.

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Profile Collated by  
Prof. A. F. Ogunye.



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