



3527

Special Release

13 March, 2015

**APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR (ACADEMIC):
PROFESSOR GBEMISOLA ADEREMI OKE**



The Governing Council of the University of Ibadan has appointed Professor Gbemisola Aderemi Oke as the 7th Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) with effect from 19 January, 2015. She succeeds Professor Abel Idowu Olayinka.

Professor Oke was born in Kano on August 25, 1957 to Pa Solomon Olaifa and Madam Rebecca Adebisi Aderinokun of Owu, Abeokuta.

After her elementary education at the Baptist Day School, Sabon-Gari, Kano and Surulere Baptist School, Alaka, Lagos in 1970, she gained admission to the prestigious St. Teresa's College, Oke-Ado, Ibadan, where she passed out in 1974. Her stay at St Teresa's College was remarkable, being marked by her excellent academic performance throughout, culminating in her passing out with the overall best result in the West African School Certificate Examinations (WASCE) in that year. She attended The Polytechnic, Ibadan for her A-Level education between 1974 and 1976 after which she gained admission to the University of Ibadan to study Dentistry.

Prof. Oke belonged to the second cohort of dental students produced by the University of Ibadan and she graduated in June 1981. In the University's bid to speedily build capacity for a new programme she, along with other promising graduates, was appointed as a Dental Training Research Fellow in 1983. Having decided to pursue a career in Community Health, she proceeded to the world-class University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) for a Masters of Public Health Degree graduating in 1985. She also holds a Doctorate degree in Epidemiology from the University of Ibadan and a Fellowship of the National Postgraduate Medical College, Faculty of Dentistry.

The new Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) is the first female Professor of Community Dentistry in Nigeria and she pioneered in 1987, the first Community Oral Health Programme in Nigeria at Idikan, Ibadan. This has served as a model for other schools and communities desiring to improve on teaching and oral health care service delivery. In recognition of her innovative approach to bringing dental care to the under-served, she was awarded the Fellowship of Ashoka, Innovators for the Public in 1991. Prof. Oke was also

appointed an Adjunct Professor of Community Dentistry by the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia in the year 2000.

She has served as external examiner at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels in many universities including the University of Lagos, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife and the University of Nigeria, Enugu campus. Prof. Oke has supervised and mentored many undergraduate and postgraduate students of the University in a wide variety of subjects including Dentistry, Entrepreneurship, Indigenous Knowledge and Development Practice. She has also served on many accreditation panels of the National Universities Commission (NUC), as well as the accreditation panels of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) to virtually all institutions where Dentistry is being taught in Nigeria.

Prof. Oke served as Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, College of Medicine for four years and Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEI) for close to five years, during which she raised the Centre to its current enviable level. She has facilitated a number of partnerships and collaborations of the University with institutions both within and outside Nigeria. Key among such linkages are the Federal Government YouWin Programme, Field Epidemiology Programme (FELTP), United Kingdom Science and Innovation Network (SIN), Enterprise Development Centre of the Pan Atlantic University and the Bank of Industry Bottom of Pyramid Scheme.

The new Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) has served and continues to serve as Consultant to a number of organizations such as the World Health Organisation (WHO), UNDP, and National Action Committee on HIV/AIDS (NACA). The experience she amassed at these different assignments has developed her capacity and linkages and she has brought all these to bear on her different assignments within the University.

As a result of her expertise, uprightness and vast knowledge of academic and extra-curricular matters, she has served the country in different capacities as Member of the Governing Council, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye; Member, Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria; Member, Investigating Panel of the MDCN; Member, Ministerial Committee for Entrenching Entrepreneurship Education in Nigeria; Member, National Working Group on the Control of Noma; to mention a few.

Professor Gbemisola Oke, a teacher of teachers, has among her former students, Professors within Nigeria and abroad. She is happily married to Professor Bankole Olusiji Oke of the Department of Veterinary Anatomy, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Member of Council of the University of Ibadan. They are blessed with children and grand-children.

Thank you.

O. I. Olukoya, MNIM, FPA
Registrar