

₦150 MILLION MICCOM MEMORIAL E N D O W M E N T

for Engineering Development



In memory of

**Engr. Michael Ayantunde
PONNLE [FNSE, OON, OFR]**

**Engr. (Mrs.) Comfort Olufunke
PONNLE [FNSE]**

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026

12:00PM

ODUDUWA HALL
*Obafemi Awolowo University
Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria*

*Proudly established by
The Ponnle Family*





Obafemi Awolowo University

₦150 MILLION
MicCom MEMORIAL
E N D O W M E N T

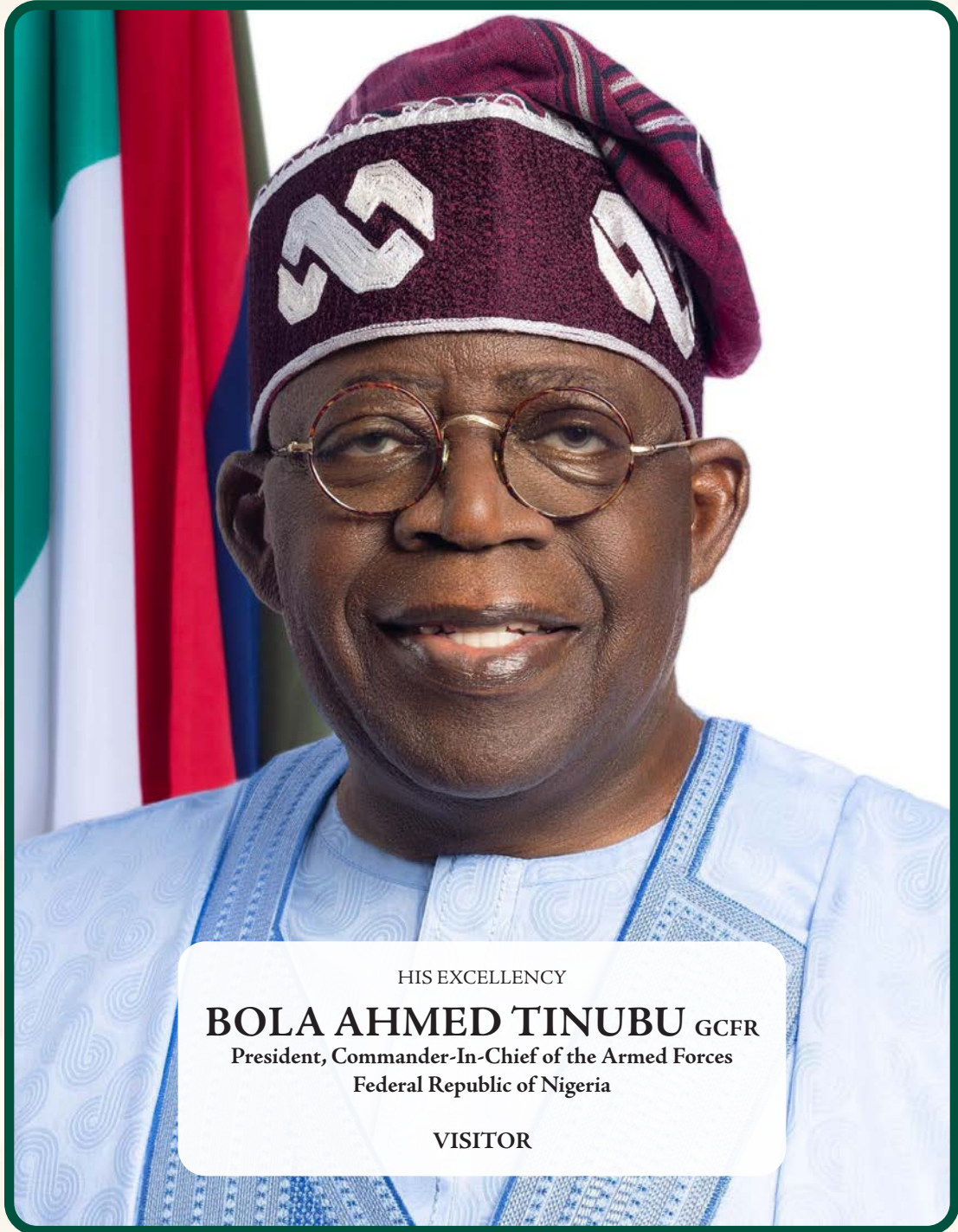
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MicCom Cables & Wires Ltd

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HIS EXCELLENCY

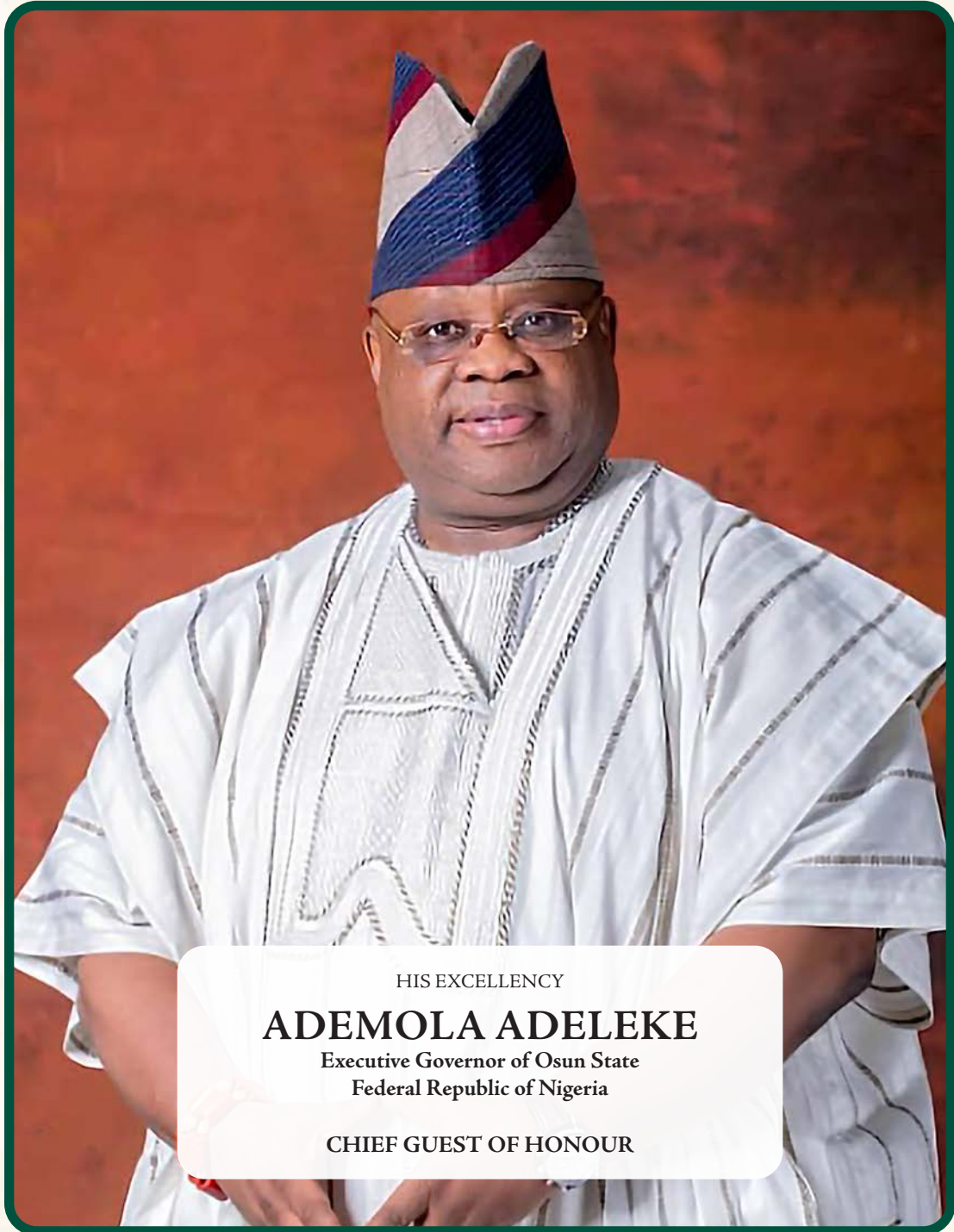
BOLA AHMED TINUBU GCFR

President, Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces
Federal Republic of Nigeria

VISITOR

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HIS EXCELLENCY

ADEMOLA ADELEKE

Executive Governor of Osun State
Federal Republic of Nigeria

CHIEF GUEST OF HONOUR

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HIS EXCELLENCY

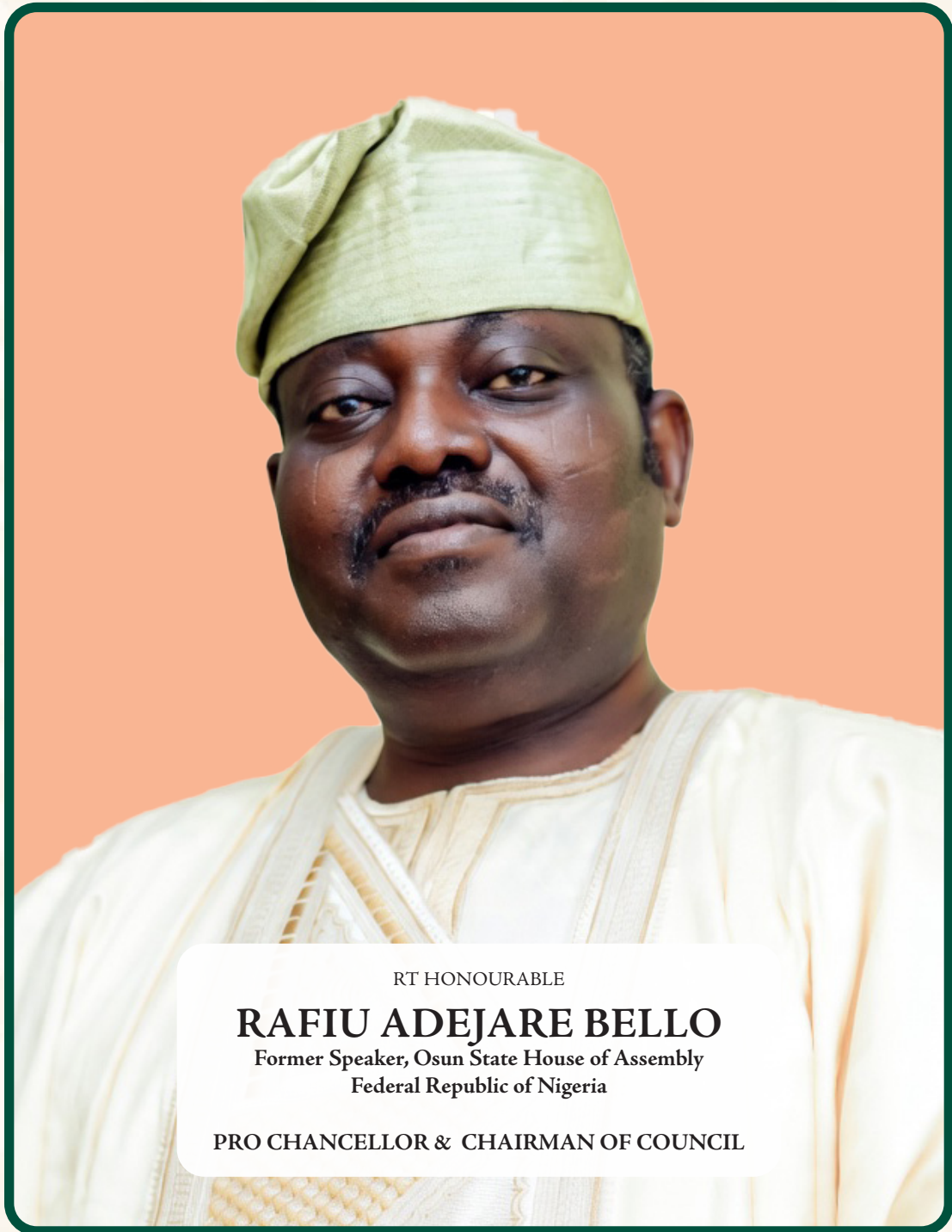
ALHAJI YAHAYA ABUBAKAR GCFR

Etsu Nupe

VISITOR

MICCOM MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT

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RT HONOURABLE

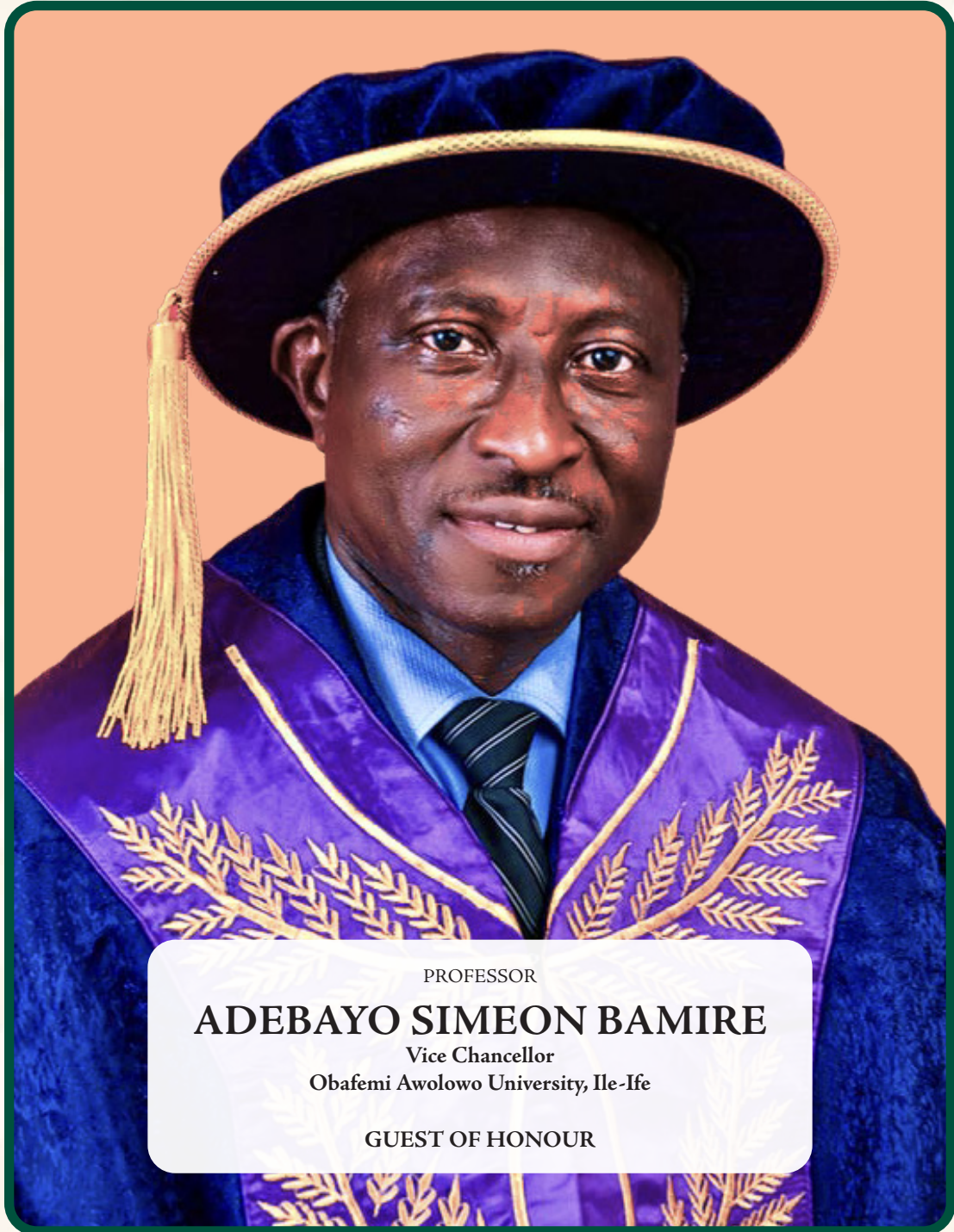
RAFIU ADEJARE BELLO

Former Speaker, Osun State House of Assembly
Federal Republic of Nigeria

PRO CHANCELLOR & CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL

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PROFESSOR

ADEBAYO SIMEON BAMIRE

Vice Chancellor

Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife

GUEST OF HONOUR

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Professor

G. A. Aderounmu

DVC, Academic

Obafemi Awolowo University



Professor

E. O. Akinfala

DVC, Administration

Obafemi Awolowo University



Professor

A. I. Akinyemi

DVC, Research Innovation & Development

Obafemi Awolowo University

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Mr.
K. A. Bakare
Registrar
Obafemi Awolowo University



Dr.
O. A. Fadehan
Librarian
Obafemi Awolowo University



Mrs.
O. I. Abogan
Bursar
Obafemi Awolowo University

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Engr. Michael Ayantunde Ponnle [OON, OFR, FNSE]

and

Engr. (Mrs.) Comfort Olufunke Ponnle [FNSE]

ENDOWMENT BENEFACTORS

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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

*All guests are kindly requested to be seated before
the commencement of the ceremony.*

1. National Anthem
2. University Anthem
3. Opening Prayer
4. Welcome Remarks
DVC (Academic)
5. Remarks by the Dean, Faculty of Technology
6. Short Drama / Musical Presentation
7. Welcome Address
Vice-Chancellor
8. Citation of the Endowment Benefactors
Late Prince Michael and Mrs Comfort Ponnle
9. Keynote Lecture
10. Address by the Governor
11. Formal Launch and Presentation of the
MicCom Memorial Endowment Cheque
12. Goodwill Messages
Government, Industry, and Royal Fathers
13. Special Recognition and Presentation of
Commemorative Gifts to the Ponnle Family
14. Vote of Thanks
15. Closing Prayer
16. Recessional

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NATIONAL ANTHEM

Nigeria, we hail thee
Our own dear native land
Though tribe and tongue may differ
In brotherhood we stand
Nigerians all, are proud to serve
Our sovereign Motherland

Our flag shall be a symbol
That truth and justice reign
In peace or battle honour'd
And this we count as gain
To hand on to our children
A banner without stain

O God of all creation
Grant this our one request
Help us to build a nation
Where no man is oppressed
And so with peace and plenty
Nigeria may be blessed



GREAT IFE ANTHEM

Great Ife! Great Ife!
Africa's most beautiful campus.
Conscious, vigilant, progressive
Aluta against all oppression
Forward ever, backward never
For learning and culture, sports and struggle
Great Ife! I love you
There's only one Great Ife in the universe
Another Great Ife is a counterfeit
Great! Great! Great! Great! Great!



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WELCOME REMARKS

Prof. G. A. Aderounmu (*Chairman LOC*), *DVC (Academic)*

It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of honour that I welcome you all, in my capacity as Chairman of the Local Organising Committee and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), to this historic occasion - the launch of the ₦150 Million MicCom Memorial Endowment Fund for Engineering Development.

Today's event is both significant and inspiring. It brings together eminent personalities, professionals, and stakeholders who share a common vision: the advancement of engineering education and the strengthening of capacity for innovation and national development.

We are gathered to celebrate and honour two distinguished personalities - *Prince (Engr.) Michael Ayantunde PONNLE [FNSE, OON, OFR]*, and *Engr. (Mrs.) Comfort Olufunke PONNLE [FNSE]* - whose lives and careers exemplify excellence, dedication, and service to humanity. Their remarkable contributions to the engineering profession and to societal development have left an enduring legacy worthy of recognition and emulation.

The MicCom Memorial Endowment Fund represents a forward-looking investment in the future of engineering. It is designed to support academic excellence, enhance research and innovation, provide scholarships, and strengthen the training of the next generation of engineers who will drive technological progress and sustainable development.

At Obafemi Awolowo University, we remain committed to maintaining our reputation as a centre of academic excellence and innovation. Initiatives such as this endowment fund are critical in enabling us to provide world-class education, modern facilities, and opportunities for our students and faculty to excel in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

I wish to sincerely commend MicCom and all partners, donors, and well-wishers whose generosity and commitment have made this noble initiative possible. Your investment in education is an investment in the future of our nation.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, as we proceed with today's programme, I encourage us all to reflect on the importance of giving back, supporting education, and contributing meaningfully to the advancement of knowledge and society.

Once again, I warmly welcome you all to Obafemi Awolowo University and to this landmark event.

Thank you for your presence, and may God bless you all.

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REMARKS

Professor Lasisi Ejibunu Umoru

Dean: Faculty of Technology, Obafemi Awolowo University

Distinguished guests, respected colleagues, industry partners, proud alumni, and our exceptional students. It is with profound honour, humility, and a deep sense of responsibility that I welcome you all to this historic occasion - the launching of the ₦150 Million MicCom Memorial Endowment Fund for Engineering Development in our great Faculty of Technology.

Today is not just a ceremonial gathering; it is a defining moment in the journey of engineering education at Obafemi Awolowo University. It is a moment that reminds us that true legacy is not measured by wealth accumulated, but by impact sustained. This remarkable gesture did not emerge in isolation. It is built upon a long-standing tradition of generosity and commitment by this distinguished family. Over two and a half decades ago, they laid the foundation with a 2 million endowment supporting key departments: Materials Science and Engineering; Geology; Physics and Engineering Physics; and Pharmacy - departments that shaped their children's academic journeys.

More recently, their continued dedication has been evident through:

- A ₦1 million prize for the Overall Best Graduating Student in the Faculty of Technology
- A ₦10 million departmental award for the department that produced the best graduate.

These contributions, made in honour of Engr. (Mrs.) Comfort Olufunke Ponnle, speak volumes about a family whose commitment to engineering education is both enduring and visionary.

Today's ₦150 million endowment is therefore not just a donation, it is a powerful vote of confidence in our faculty, our mission, and our future. This fund will serve as a catalyst for transformation. It will:

- Strengthen our research infrastructure;
- Support cutting-edge and solution-driven innovations;

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- ✦ Provide scholarships and financial support for deserving students;
and
- ✦ Deepen collaboration between academia and industry

In essence, it will help position our faculty not just as a centre of learning, but as a hub of technological advancement and national development. I must especially commend the children of our revered benefactors for sustaining and amplifying this noble legacy. Your vision ensures that the impact of your parents will continue to inspire generations of engineers long into the future.

On our part, we make a solemn commitment: this fund will be managed with transparency, accountability, and strategic focus to deliver measurable impact. To my colleagues and dear students, this is a moment of responsibility. We must rise to the expectations this investment represents. Let us innovate boldly, think critically, and build solutions that will move Nigeria from consumption to creation. The future of engineering in Nigeria is not a distant dream, it is being shaped here, today.

Thank you, and welcome once again.

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WELCOME ADDRESS

Professor Adebayo Simeon Bamire

Vice Chancellor, Obafemi Awolowo University

It is with profound gratitude to Almighty God that we commence this auspicious gathering, giving thanks for His abundant grace in making this historic occasion possible. We are gathered here to celebrate the gift of lives exceptionally well-spent in the service of humanity and the relentless pursuit of excellence. As the late sage, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, wisely observed: “It is not how long we live, but how well and productively that matters.” Today, this timeless truth resonates deeply as we honour two icons whose lives were defined by extraordinary purpose, impact and dedication.

With immense pride and a deep sense of honour, I warmly welcome you all to Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, for the official launch of the ₦150 Million MicCom Memorial Endowment Fund for Engineering Development.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, esteemed guests, members of the Ponnle family, industry leaders, alumni, faculty, students, and friends of Great Ife: today marks far more than a ceremonial milestone. It is a powerful testament to the enduring power of legacy, vision, and selfless commitment to the advancement of knowledge and national progress. We are privileged to gather here to honour and celebrate two extraordinary pioneers and icons of excellence, **Prince (Engr.) Michael Ayantunde Ponnle**, FNSE, OON, OFR, and **Engr. (Mrs.) Comfort Olufunke Ponnle**, FNSE, whose exemplary life, groundbreaking contributions to the engineering profession, and unwavering dedication to humanity have left an indelible imprint on our nation.

Their remarkable journey from pioneering industrial achievements to profound service to society embodies the very ideals we instil in every “Great Ife” engineer: innovation, integrity, resilience, and a relentless pursuit of impact. In establishing this endowment in their cherished memory, the MicCom family and partners have not only paid a fitting tribute but have also created a lasting bridge between past accomplishments and future possibilities.

The ₦150 Million MicCom Memorial Endowment Fund represents a visionary investment in the heart of what drives sustainable development: engineering education and innovation. This fund will empower us to foster academic excellence through cutting-edge research, provide vital scholarships to deserving students, upgrade facilities, and nurture the next generation of engineers equipped to tackle

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Nigeria's and Africa's most pressing challenges in technology, infrastructure, and energy across Nigeria and Africa. In a world where rapid technological evolution demands bold, creative, and ethical leadership, such forward-thinking initiatives are indispensable to positioning Obafemi Awolowo University as a global beacon of engineering prowess and innovation.

This current endowment powerfully reinforces the MicCom family's longstanding commitment to excellence in our Faculty of Technology. We remain deeply appreciative of their earlier generosity at the last convocation, where they instituted an annual financial award in honour of Engr. (Mrs.) Comfort Olufunke Ponnle, FNSE - comprising One Million Naira for the Best Overall Graduating Student in the Faculty of Technology and Ten Million Naira to the Department that produced the student. These prior endowments have already begun to inspire and reward outstanding achievement, and today's larger fund builds magnificently upon that foundation, amplifying support for academic merit, departmental strength, and broader engineering development.

Obafemi Awolowo University has long been a cradle of academic distinction—a place where intellect meets purpose and theoretical knowledge is transformed into tangible societal good. Endowments like the ₦150 Million MicCom Memorial Fund are the lifeblood of this mission. They provide the vital resources required to attract top-tier talent, facilitate groundbreaking research, and produce exceptional graduates who are prepared to lead industries, shape national policies, and build a brighter future for Nigeria.

I must extend my heartfelt commendation and profound appreciation to the MicCom family, all generous donors, partners, and well-wishers whose faith in education and collective resolve have brought this noble endeavour to fruition. Your investment is not merely financial; it is an act of profound patriotism and an unwavering belief in the transformative potential of our youth and the enduring strength of our institutions.

As we move forward with today's proceedings, I must pause to express my profound appreciation to the Local Organising Committee, under the capable leadership of our distinguished Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic). Their meticulous planning, tireless coordination, and exemplary dedication have culminated in this beautifully executed moment. Your collective commitment and

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attention to detail have ensured that this landmark event reflects the prestige and highest standards of Obafemi Awolowo University. I extend my deepest gratitude to you and your entire team for your outstanding service to this institution and for your unwavering commitment to this noble cause.

As we commence the proceedings of this landmark event, I invite each of us to reflect deeply on the timeless value of philanthropy. We have seen how a single act of generosity can ripple across generations - igniting minds, unlocking dormant potential, and propelling our nation toward greater heights. While we remain profoundly grateful to all who have supported our mission in the past, I warmly call upon other distinguished individuals, corporate entities, and our global alumni to emulate this noble example. By collaborating with 'Great Ife' through strategic partnerships, endowments, research collaborations, and mentorship programmes, we can build enduring legacies that uplift our people and secure a prosperous future for generations yet unborn.

In closing, as we celebrate this momentous launch, allow me a brief but joyful digression to our broader institutional horizon. This year is particularly historic for us, as it marks the 65th Anniversary of Obafemi Awolowo University in June, alongside our 50th Convocation ceremonies in December. These milestones are a profound testament to 'Great Ife's' remarkable journey of excellence and resilience. A central highlight of these celebrations will be the official launch of the ₦10 Billion Bola Ahmed Tinubu Centre for Intercultural Dialogue and Youth Empowerment. This landmark initiative is designed to foster national unity, youth development, and global engagement through cutting-edge research, dialogue, and innovation. As a legacy project, it stands to immortalise the exemplary leadership of President Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR. The University stands with open arms, ready to welcome partnerships, support, and collaborations from all quarters to ensure these celebrations are truly unforgettable and impactful. We look forward with great anticipation to welcoming the President, the Visitor, to this institution to personally commission this Centre during our Convocation in December. Please join us in these historic, epoch-making events.

Furthermore, I am delighted to extend a special invitation to all our distinguished guests and dignitaries to join us in September and October of this year, as Obafemi Awolowo University proudly hosts the West African Universities Games

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(WAUG). This prestigious tournament promises to be a vibrant showcase of youth talent, regional unity, and sporting excellence, bringing together the very best from across the sub-region to the heart of Great Ife.

May Almighty God continue to bless our matriarchs and patriarchs with prosperity, good health, wisdom, and the grace to leave even greater legacies for our dear nation.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

THE MICCOM MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT

The endowment being inaugurated today is more than a ceremonial gesture; it is a purposeful commitment to the future of engineering, innovation, and technological advancement in Nigeria. Established in honour of Late Engr. Michael Ayantunde Ponnle, FNSE, OON, OFR, and Late Engr. (Mrs.) Comfort Olufunke Ponnle, FNSE, the endowment seeks to immortalize their remarkable legacy while creating a lasting platform for the development of future generations of engineers.

Late Engr. and Engr. (Mrs.) Ponnle were pioneers in Nigeria's industrial and engineering landscape. As founders of Nigeria's first indigenous cable manufacturing enterprise, they demonstrated exceptional vision at a time when local manufacturing capacity was still emerging. Their work was driven by a deep belief that Nigeria possessed the intellectual capital and entrepreneurial capability required to build a strong industrial and technological base.

Throughout their lives, they championed the principles of innovation, self-reliance, technical excellence, and national development. Their contributions extended beyond the establishment of a successful manufacturing enterprise. They mentored young professionals, promoted indigenous engineering capacity, and invested in initiatives that strengthened Nigeria's technological ecosystem. For them, engineering was not simply a profession—it was a responsibility to contribute meaningfully to society and to future generations.

It is this enduring commitment to knowledge, innovation, and capacity development that inspired the establishment of the MicCom Memorial Endowment at Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) for Engineering Development in their honour.

Obafemi Awolowo University has long been recognised as one of Nigeria's leading institutions for engineering education and technological research. Over the decades, the university has produced many outstanding engineers who have contributed to Nigeria's



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development across industries such as power, manufacturing, telecommunications, oil and gas, and infrastructure. It is therefore fitting that this endowment finds its home within such a distinguished academic community.

It is also worth noting that this university produced two Engineers, one Medical Doctor, and one Pharmacist amongst the Ponnle Children.

This endowment is designed to serve several important purposes.

First, it seeks to encourage academic excellence and innovation among engineering students. By providing resources to support outstanding students, the endowment will nurture talented individuals with the potential to contribute meaningfully to technological advancement in Nigeria.

Second, the endowment aims to promote research and intellectual inquiry within the engineering disciplines. Technological progress depends on continuous learning, experimentation, and discovery. By supporting research initiatives, academic programs, and scholarly activities, the endowment will help strengthen Nigeria's capacity for engineering innovation.

Third, the endowment seeks to bridge the gap between academia and industry. One of the defining aspects of the Ponnles' legacy was their ability to translate engineering knowledge into practical industrial applications even beyond their death. Through this endowment, students and researchers will be encouraged to engage with real-world technological challenges, fostering a culture where theory and practice reinforce one another.

Fourth, the endowment aims to inspire leadership and professional responsibility among future engineers. The lives of Engr. and Engr. (Mrs.) Ponnle illustrate that technical competence must be accompanied by integrity, resilience, and a commitment to service. Through lectures, mentorship opportunities, and related initiatives, the endowment will help cultivate a generation of engineers who are not only technically proficient but also ethically grounded and socially responsible.

The long-term expectation of the endowment is that it will create a sustainable platform that continuously supports the growth of engineering talent. Endowments function through careful stewardship of resources, ensuring that the capital invested today continues to generate benefits for many years to come. Through responsible management and continued stakeholder support, the impact of this initiative will extend far beyond this present moment.

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Guests gathered here today are therefore participating in the beginning of a journey - one that seeks to honour the past while investing in the future. The endowment represents a collective commitment by family, colleagues, industry leaders, and the academic community to sustain the ideals that Engr. and Engr. (Mrs.) Ponnle embodied throughout their lives.

It is hoped that this initiative will inspire further collaboration between industry and academia, encourage additional philanthropic investments in education, and reinforce the importance of supporting institutions that nurture knowledge and innovation.

Ultimately, the true success of this endowment will not be measured solely by the funds it provides but by the lives it influences, the ideas it inspires, and the innovations it enables. Each student supported, each research project undertaken, and each technological breakthrough achieved will serve as a continuing testament to the Ponnles' vision and dedication.

Through this endowment, their legacy becomes a living force—empowering new generations of engineers to dream boldly, innovate responsibly, and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of Nigeria and the world.

We welcome all guests to share in this vision and to support the ongoing mission of nurturing excellence, innovation, and leadership in engineering for generations to come.

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CITATION

**ENGR. MICHAEL AYANTUNDE PONNLE, [FNSE, OFR] and
ENGR. (MRS.) COMFORT OLUFUNKE PONNLE, [FNSE]**

Today we gather not merely to mourn the passing of two extraordinary individuals, not merely to remember two remarkable individuals, but to celebrate the lives of a remarkable couple whose partnership helped shape a chapter in the story of engineering, innovation, and indigenous manufacturing in Nigeria.

Engr. Michael Ayantunde Ponnle and Engr. (Mrs.) Comfort Olufunke Ponnle were more than accomplished professionals; they were pioneers, nation-builders, mentors, and philanthropists whose lives demonstrated the transformative power of vision, perseverance, and shared purpose.

Their story is deeply woven into the evolution of Nigeria's technological and industrial development. It is one of intellectual curiosity, bold risk-taking, and unwavering partnership. At a time when local manufacturing capacity was limited and most engineering technologies were imported, the Ponnles dared to



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imagine a different future - one in which Nigerian engineers would not only design and install systems but would also manufacture, innovate, and lead industrial development from within the country.

Engr. Michael Ayantunde Ponnle's early life reflected the determination that would later define his career. From modest and humble beginnings, he pursued education with unwavering commitment, overcoming financial and structural challenges to study electrical engineering abroad. This exposure broadened his perspective and deepened his conviction that Nigeria could develop its own engineering capacity. Rather than remain abroad, he returned home with a sense of responsibility to contribute to national progress. His early career traversed teaching and public service before he took the courageous decision to enter private enterprise at a time when Nigeria's engineering and manufacturing sectors were largely dominated by foreign companies.

Yet the story of his achievements cannot be told without acknowledging his partner in both life and profession - Engr. (Mrs.) Comfort Olufunke Ponnle. She was herself a trained engineer, distinguished by discipline, technical insight, and a deep commitment to excellence. In a time when women in engineering were still rare, she stood as a testament to intellectual strength and professional competence. Her presence alongside her husband represented a pioneering model of a husband-and-wife engineering team, united not only in marriage but also in shared professional purpose. Their marriage was also a professional alliance built on shared vision, discipline, and belief in Nigeria's industrial potential.

Together, they built what would become one of Nigeria's first and most respected indigenous cable manufacturing companies, MicCom Cables and Wires. What began as a modest engineering contracting venture grew steadily into a manufacturing enterprise that would contribute significantly to Nigeria's electrical infrastructure and industrial ecosystem.

Establishing a manufacturing company in Nigeria during those early years required extraordinary courage. Infrastructure was limited, access to capital was difficult, and the industrial ecosystem was still developing. Yet the Ponnles persevered. Through careful planning, relentless work, and an uncompromising commitment to quality, they gradually acquired the equipment, expertise, and

operational capacity required to produce electrical cables locally. Beginning with limited resources, the couple imported early cable-making equipment and gradually built the capacity to produce electrical cables locally, a bold step toward technological independence in Nigeria's power and infrastructure sector.

This achievement was not merely commercial; it was national in significance. At a time when manufacturing technology and industrial capacity were largely foreign-controlled, the Ponnles demonstrated that indigenous engineering expertise could compete, innovate, and lead. Their enterprise not only produced critical electrical and industrial cables needed for Nigeria's growing infrastructure but also trained generations of technicians, engineers, and professionals who would contribute to the nation's industrial ecosystem. Through this work, they created employment opportunities, strengthened local technical knowledge, and expanded Nigeria's manufacturing capability.

By building local manufacturing capability, they helped reduce dependence on imported products while contributing to technology transfer and industrial skill development. Their factory became more than a production facility—it became a training ground where engineers, technicians, and artisans developed practical skills that strengthened Nigeria's engineering workforce. This influence and impact to the engineering community continues till today.

Their story also carries a deeper human lesson: that technological advancement is often born from courage and collaboration. While Engr. Ayantunde Ponnle led external engagement and business development, Engr. (Mrs.) Ponnle played a crucial technical and operational role in managing the production processes and factory operations, ensuring that quality and engineering discipline remained central to their enterprise. Their combined expertise allowed MicCom to evolve from contracting into full-scale manufacturing, creating a legacy that would influence Nigeria's cable manufacturing industry for decades.

As pioneers in indigenous manufacturing and champions of technological development, the Ponnles played a quiet yet profound role in shaping Nigeria's industrial landscape. Their work contributed to strengthening local manufacturing capacity, promoting engineering excellence, and demonstrating that Nigerian-led industrial enterprises could compete with global standards

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Their commitment to engineering excellence extended far beyond business operations. Both Engr. and Engr. (Mrs.) Ponnle were deeply involved in the professional engineering community. As members and fellows of professional engineering bodies both in Nigeria and internationally, they supported initiatives that promoted professional standards, technical competence, and ethical practice within the engineering profession.

They believed strongly that engineering was not simply a career but a vocation—one that carried a responsibility to society. For them, engineering represented the practical application of knowledge to solve human problems, improve infrastructure, and elevate national development. This belief guided their professional choices and shaped the culture of the organization they built.

Beyond business, the Ponnles embodied a philosophy of legacy and impact. They invested in education, community development, and the nurturing of future talent, understanding that the true measure of engineering is not only in machines and materials but in the people who carry knowledge forward.

Equally significant was their commitment to mentorship. Over the years, many young engineers and technical professionals found in them not just employers but mentors who invested time, guidance, and encouragement in developing the next generation of industry leaders. Their doors were often open to young professionals seeking advice, career direction, and exposure to the realities of industrial engineering.

Beyond their professional accomplishments, the Ponnles were widely known for their philanthropic gestures and commitment to community development. They believed strongly that success carried with it a responsibility to uplift others. Through quiet acts of generosity and structured giving, they supported educational initiatives, community projects, and individuals in need.

Education, in particular, held a special place in their hearts. They understood from personal experience the transformative power of knowledge and opportunity. As such, they frequently supported students and young professionals in their academic pursuits, helping many overcome financial barriers to education. Their philanthropic philosophy was simple but profound: investing in people creates lasting impact.

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Their generosity also extended to faith-based and community institutions, where they supported programs that promoted social welfare, moral development, and community cohesion. Whether through scholarships, donations, or mentorship, they consistently sought to improve the lives of those around them.

Despite the demands of running a growing industrial enterprise, the Ponnles remained grounded in humility and service. Their leadership style reflected integrity, discipline, and compassion. Employees, colleagues, and community members often spoke of their fairness, patience, and willingness to listen - qualities that strengthened both their professional relationships and personal legacy.

Their lives together stand as a powerful testament to partnership. They demonstrated that marriage could also be a platform for shared vision and collaborative achievement. Through mutual respect and complementary strengths, they created a legacy that neither could have achieved alone.

Today, as we reflect on their passing, we are reminded that the true measure of a life is not only in the achievements accumulated but in the impact created. The legacy of Engr. and Engr. (Mrs.) Ponnle lives on in the industries they helped build, the professionals they mentored, and the communities they supported.

It is therefore both fitting and deeply symbolic that their memory will be immortalized through an endowment at Obafemi Awolowo University, one of Nigeria's most prestigious centers of engineering education. This endowment represents far more than a memorial tribute; it is an investment in the future of technology and innovation in Nigeria.

Through this initiative, future generations of engineers will be supported, research will be strengthened, and innovation will be encouraged. The endowment will create opportunities for young minds to explore new ideas, develop new technologies, and contribute to national development—just as the Ponnles did throughout their lives.

In this sense, their passing becomes not an end but a continuation of their mission. By inspiring and empowering future engineers, the endowment ensures that their values of excellence, innovation, and service will continue to shape Nigeria's technological future.

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Thus, Engr. Michael Ayantunde Ponnle and Engr. (Mrs.) Comfort Olufunke Ponnle remain enduring figures in the history of engineering and manufacturing in Nigeria. They are not merely remembered, they are institutionalized in the future of technology in Nigeria. Their lives remind us that vision, courage, and partnership can build institutions, nurture talent, and transform societies.

Their legacy is not confined to the past; it is a living force that will continue to inspire generations. And through this endowment at Obafemi Awolowo University, their commitment to engineering, education, and technological progress will forever illuminate the path to a stronger, more innovative Nigeria.

May their souls continue to rest in perfect peace. Amen.



Libbi-Hya



OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY, ILE-IFE

Legacy of Excellence - Future of Impact

65th ANNIVERSARY

1961 - 2026



A Legacy of Quality SINCE 1978



WHY CHOOSE US



Proven quality & safety

Energy efficient, minimizing loss

Trusted for large-scale projects

Decades of experience & expertise

WE ARE THE KING OF POWER CABLE
...Because STANDARD cannot be compromised at this level