

## **CITATION OF PROF. VINCENT CHUKWUEMEKA IKE**

**Professor Vincent Chukwuemeka Ike was born at Ndikelionwu, Anambra State, in 1931. A product of Government College, Umuabia, he attended the University College, Ibadan, where he obtained the B.A. degree of London University in 1955. He later obtained the M.A. degree of Stanford University, California in 1967, and Fellowship of the Nigerian Institute of Management (F.N.I.M) in 1987.**

**Prof. Ike is best known nationally for his significant contribution to the development of University Administration having served creditably as an Assistant Registrar, University College, Ibadan (1957 – 1960), Pioneer Deputy Registrar (1960 - 1963) and Registrar, University of Nigeria, Nsukka (1963 - 1967). He was also Registrar and Chief Executive of the Regional Examination body, the West African Examinations Council (WAEC) from 1971 to 1979. His rich experiences are chronicled in the book “University of Nigeria, Nsukka, 1960-1965: An experience in Higher Education”.**

**As a self-motivated intellectual, Prof. Vincent Chukwuemeka Ike is a novelist of distinction. He has published, authored or co-authored 24 books, including fictions such as “Toad for Supper” (1965); “The Naked Gods” (1970); “The Potter’s Wheel” (1973); “Sunset at Dawn” (1976); and “Toad for Ever” (2007).**

**As a novelist, Professor Ike’s writings show three noteworthy traits:**

- (i) a distinctive reputation for creating characters and situations that evoke, in the reader, the necessity to love and promote inter-ethnic harmony as well as peaceful co-existence between races;**
- (ii) the necessity for Nigerians with the control of state power to imbibe the principles of moral integrity and intellectual probity in running the affairs of the nation;**
- (iii) ability to manipulate the form and content of the genre without allowing his concerns of life to degenerate into propaganda.**

**Professor Ike is one of the champions of book development in Nigeria. He has the singular**

**honour of initiating the Nigerian Book Foundation that led to the development of the African Writers Series. He is the current President of the Foundation.**

**Professor Chukwuemeka Ike's rich and varied career has attracted several honours and distinctions. These include:**

- (i) Award for Excellence, Nigerian Book Fair Trust (Eastern Zone, 2007);**
- (ii) Most Distinguished Alumnus Award, University of Ibadan Alumni Association (2000);**
- (iii) Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) Honoris Causa, University of Nigeria, Nsukka (1998); and**
- (iv) Officer of the Federal Republic (CFR), 2001. Besides, he has served his fatherland in other important capacities such as**  
**✚ Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, Anambra State**

**University of Science and  
Technology, Uli;**

**✚ Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the  
Governing Council, University of  
Benin; and**

**✚ Director, University Press Plc,  
Ibadan, among others.**

**Mr. President, I have the honour of presenting  
to you a distinguished novelist, scholar, humanist  
and patriot, an accomplished University  
Administrator, an Educator with profound concern  
for literacy and the promotion of the power of the  
written word, Professor Vincent Chukwuemeka Ike  
for the award of the Nigerian National Order of  
Merit for the year 2008 in Humanities.**