

(i) **CITATION ON PROF. IDRIS MOHAMMED**

Prof. Idris Mohammed, retired Professor of Medicine with widely acknowledged expertise in Immunology and Rheumatology, graduated with the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MB, BS) degrees from the university of Ibadan in 1969, and earned the research degree of Doctor of Medicine (MD) from the same University in 1977. Professor Mohammed started his very promising and prolonged fruitful education journey from the Junior primary School, Gombe, his home town, Provincial Secondary School, Bauchi, Barewa College, Zaria, to the University.

He had his post-graduate education in the Department of Medicine, University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan, and the Department of Medicine, General Hospital, Nottingham in United Kingdom from where he acquired the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (MRRPI) and later the FRCP (U.K.). He also acquired expertise and competence in research at the Medical Research Council (U.K.), Rheumatism Research Unit in Taplow, and in the Bone and Joint Unit of the London Hospital Medical College. In this latter period, Dr. Idris Mohammed co-authored publications with his superior(s) in top peer-reviewed, journals in Immunology and Rheumatology.

On his return to Nigeria, Dr. Idris Mohammed applied his expertise to addressing the health problems prevalent in his environment. Thus, outside the wards and clinics, Dr. Idris Mohammed applied his immunological tool and skills along with epidemiological, prevention and control methods to experimentally address the challenges of the recurrent deadly epidemic of cerebrospinal meningitis (CSM) that

routinely ravaged North Eastern Nigeria. With the evidence that mass vaccination of the population with the bivalent A&C polysaccharide meningococcal vaccine could prevent and control the CSM epidemic, he successfully persuaded the relevant authorities in the area to adopt the approach despite WHO reservation initially. About 7.5 million people, were successfully vaccinated between 1978 and 2002. The results have shown that mass vaccination of a large population against CSM is a feasible, practicable and effective control measure of the epidemic, and the protection offered can last for up to 5 years. This evidence, helped to convince the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation of the USA to donate US \$70 million towards the development of a cheaper and more effective conjugate Meningococcal Group A Vaccine for West Africa". Regrettably, I have no information Mr. President Sir, that Nigeria is into production of this vaccine.

By 1984, Dr. Idris Mohammed had earned the Chair of Medicine at Ahmadu Bello University. He later transferred his services to the University of Maiduguri. Other results of his work include the development of the Laboratory for Immunology and Infectious Diseases at the University of Maiduguri. This became the World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Reference Centre for Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers – 1986-1994. Other epidemic diseases such as cholera, typhoid fever, malaria and HIV/AIDS\* have received professor Idris Mohammed's attention.

In addition to his career in academia that saw him to a well-deserved Chair in Medicine in Ahmadu Bello University in October, 1984 and later in the University of Maiduguri, where at various times, he was Provost, University of Maiduguri College of Health Sciences and Chief

Medical Director of its Associated Teaching Hospital, Prof. Idris Mohammed has been Chief Medical Officer, Chief Consultant Physician, as well as Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Bauchi State, positions that he quickly relinquished to return to his first commitment in Academia. He has been Chairman of several Presidential Committees and Bodies including the Chairmanship of National Programme on Immunisation (NPI), member of several pioneering efforts such as the National Expert Advisory Committee on AIDS (NEACA), member, Nigerian Medical Council, etc at different times. He is in addition, a Research Fellow, member of several Learned National and International Societies such as Fellow, the Royal Society of Medicine, London, Member, Nigerian Medical Association (once National Vice-President), Nigerian Society/Association of Immunology, Nephrology, Dietetic Association, Fellow, Royal Society of Medicine, London, (U.K), British Medical Association, and most recently (till 2007), Member, International Campaign to Revitalize Academic Medicine (ICRAM). He is the author/joint author of 91 publications and has attended over 100 Scientific Conferences. Currently, he is an Honorary Consultant Physician, Federal Medical Centre, Gombe, Dan Isan Gombe, and an Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON).

Mr. President, it is with a deep sense of loyalty that, on behalf of the Governing Board of the Nigerian National Merit Award (NNMA), I present Professor Idris Mohammed, to Mr. President to invest him with the 2007 Nigerian National Order of Merit (NNOM) in Medicine.