

**CITATION FOR
PROFESSOR AKPANOLUO IKPONG IKPONG ETTE**

The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
Chief Olusegun Obasanjo

Mr. President, Sir,

I present Professor Akpanoluo Ikpong Ikpong Ette, Doctor of Philosophy of the University of London, Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science, Fellow of the Science Association of Nigeria, Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Physics and a Professor of Physics of 30 years standing.

After his education at the famous Hope Waddell Training Institute Calabar, the University College, Ibadan, and the University of London, Professor Ette was appointed Lecturer in Physics at the University College, Ibadan, in 1959 and rose to the rank of Professor at the University of Ibadan in 1972, a position he held until his retirement from Ibadan in 1990. Thereafter, Professor Ette topped up his university service by working for a further period of five years as a contract Professor of Physics at Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso, 1990 - 1995.

During his period of service at Ibadan, Professor Ette pioneered research in Atmospheric Electricity and Aerosol Physics in Nigeria: He set up the first viable research team and laid a solid foundation for research in Atmospheric Electricity in Nigeria. One of his outstanding scientific achievements was the development of a standard three-electrode by-pass method for measuring point-discharge currents, which overcomes the relaxation effect of heterogeneous electrolytes in living trees. Many of the results obtained by Ette and his students have elicited positive commentaries from his peers, both nationally and internationally, being the first of their kind in a tropical area of high thunderstorm activity. His research and writings have helped to improve public understanding of the facts of such natural phenomena as lightning and thunder, thus dispelling the myths and fallacies and showing how to minimize hazards from these phenomena.

Professor Ette has contributed to national development also through his long and continuous service in teaching and writing of textbooks, which have advanced physics and science education, and the popularization and growth

of science in Nigeria. A widely published academic and scholar, Professor Ette's public contributions, outside the university system, include playing several roles within national and international scientific committees and organizations, culminating in his service as President of the Nigerian Academy of Science, 1991- 1993. Other public contributions include service as Member of the National Youth Service Corps Directorate (1975 - 1963), Member Projects Development Institute (PRODA) Governing Council (1980 -1983), Member of the Board of Science and Technology Fund (1991-1992), Member, Board of Trustees of National Science and Technology Fund, 1991, and Director, Port Harcourt Refinery (1992 - 1993).

Mr. President, Sir,

It is particularly for his pioneering role in the development of research in atmospheric physics, his contribution to science and scholarship through research, his distinguished contribution to physics and science education in Nigeria through long and continuous service in teaching and writing of textbooks, his contribution to the popularization and growth of science in Nigeria and his public enlightenment of Nigerians on the natural phenomena of lightning and thunder and protection against these, that I now invite you to confer on Professor Akpanoluo Ikpong Ikpong Ette, the Distinguished Order of the Nigerian National Merit Award, NNOM.