

## **CITATION FOR PROF. PAULINA MAKINWA-ADEBUSOYE**

The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria  
Chief Olusegun Obasanjo ,

Mr. President, Sir,

I present Professor Paulina Makinwa-Adebusoye, Bachelor of Arts (*cum laude* in Geography) of Vassar College, Ploughkeepsie, New York, Master of Arts in Economics of New York University, Master of Science and Doctor of Science in Population Science, both from Harvard University. The first woman Fellow and President of the Social Science Council (now Academy) of Nigeria, an erudite scholar and trail-blazer in Population Science, Mrs. Makinwa-Adebusoye is a distinguished Professor of 21 years' standing in the field of Population Science.

Professor Makinwa-Adebusoye is a formidable presence in the Nigerian and international academic community in the Social Sciences. From her first appointment as Lecturer I in Geography at the University of Benin in 1975, she rose rapidly to become a Professor of Geography in 1982 in the field of Population. Her varied professional experience spans several research institutes including the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), the Food Security and Sustainable Development Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the Population Research Unit of the Nigerian Institute of Economic Research (NISER) in all of which she held leadership positions. Taking advantage of the opportunities afforded by these research institutes, Professor Makinwa-Adebusoye published extensively and became a frontliner in the field of Population Science.

Professor Makinwa-Adebusoye's contributions include incisive studies on population, with particular reference to migration, fertility, and reproductive behaviour. She has also been concerned with the economic condition of women and the urban poor. In numerous publications, particularJy *Adolescent Reproductive Behaviour in Nigeria: A study of five cities* (NISER 1991), *Internal Migration and Rural Development in Nigeria: Lessons from Benue State* (Heinema 1979), "Women's Control over ResolU'ces and Demand for Children: The Hausa and Yomba Cases" (1995)

and "Women's Position and Demographic Change in Sub-Saharan Africa: Introduction" (1995), Professor Makinwa-Adebusoye displays judicious use of data, rigorous and balanced analysis and a refreshing concern with public policy issues in health, social development, women's rights and the environment. Through her work, which is undoubtedly of outstanding merit, she has advanced our knowledge of the dynamics of the social demography of Nigeria and Africa and their implications for public policy and national development. It is not surprising, then, that her merit and contribution have gained international recognition. Evidence of this is the conferment on her of the 1999 Lam-eate award of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP).

History is being made today in the presentation of Professor Makinwa-Adebusoye for the award of the Nigerian National Order of Merit (NNOM). She is the first woman academic and the second person of her gender to win this prestigious award. It is entirely befitting that someone who has devoted much of her research to gender issues should also be in this enviable position.

Mr. President, Sir,

It is this academic Amazon, this guru of Population Studies, this internationally acclaimed scholar and researcher, this eminent social scientist that I respectfully request you to invest with the Nigerian National Order of Merit for the year 2003 in the category of Population Science in the Social Sciences.