

**CITATION ON  
PROFESSOR VINCENT OLUSEGUN SOWEMIMO OLUNLOYO  
FOR THE NIGERIA NATIONAL MERIT AWARD 1998.**

Professor Vincent Olusegun Sowemimo Olunloyo was born on the 22nd July, 1943, in Lagos to the late Horatio Vincent Sowemimo, a civil servant, and his wife Florence Oluremi Popoola. Horatio died some five years later at which time young Olusegun moved to Kano to live with his maternal grand parents. He had his elementary education in Holy Trinity School, Kano (1948 to 1954), and at St. Paul's School Gbogun in Osun State between 1955 and 1956. Olunloyo was at Igbobi College, Lagos, between 1957 and 1963 where he obtained his West African School Certificate and the Higher School Certificate.

From 1964 to 1972, Professor Olunloyo was a student at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, where he graduated with BSc in Mechanical Engineering in 1967 and Ph.D in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics in 1972. Professor Olunloyo's major field of specialization is Fluid Mechanics while his other areas of interest include Thermal Engineering and Mathematics.

Professor Olunloyo showed evidence of academic scholarship early while at University. He was an ASPAU Fellow at Cornell University (1964 – 1967). He gained Research Assistantship of the same University (1968 – 1970), and was awarded a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Theoretical and Applied Mathematics at his Alma Mater between January and June, 1972.

**Professor Olunloyo began his University teaching career in Cornell University as Teaching Assistant (1967 – 1968) and Research Assistant (1970 – 1972). He was Assistant Professor at the Graduate School of Aerospace Engineering also at Cornell University (1972 – 1973).**

**On his return to Nigeria in 1973, he joined the University of Lagos where he has spent most of his teaching life. He became Professor of Engineering Analysis at the University of Lagos in 1979.**

**Professor Olunloyo served in various academic, managerial and professional positions. He was Foundation Dean, Faculty of Engineering, University of Ilorin 1978 – 1980 and Dean, Faculty of Engineering, University of Lagos 1981 – 1983. He has served as Consultant on various projects and to several Organisations both nationally and internationally.**

**At the professional level, Professor Olunloyo is a Fellow of the Nigerian Society of Engineers and has served on many other professional bodies. He was a member of the Executive Council of the Nigerian Society of Engineers, Editor of the Nigerian Engineer (Technical Journal of NSE) in 1978 and President of the Nigerian Association of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, 1976 – 1978.**

**At the national level, he served as Board Member on the Council of Registered Engineers of Nigeria (COREN) 1982 – 1984, Member of the Federal Government**

**Panel on Science and Technology in 1984, and Chairman of the National Iron Ore Mining Corporation, Itakpe, 1991 – 1992.**

**Professor Olunloyo is a Fellow of the New York Academy of Sciences; Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science and Foundation, Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Engineering.**

**Professor Olunloyo has made significant contributions in Aerospace, Environmental Fluid Mechanics and materials processing. In Aerospace, Olunloyo tackled the problem of ascertaining and ordering the relative magnitude and effects, of flow characteristics such as skin friction and the pressure distribution over wings at supersonic speed and blunt bodies at hypersonic speed. This put to rest a lot of controversy that had retarded progress in this field prior to his work and contributed in no small way to the subsequent design and construction of aircrafts.**

**In the area of environmental science, Olunloyo was concerned with the problem of global warming and in particular modeled the motion of the Alpine Glaciers under thermal warming. The results of the analysis indicated the type of stresses and forces that could be unleashed under such a situation and alerted the scientific community of the order of global catastrophe that would result. As attestation to the quality of his work these contributions to knowledge and scholarship were published mostly in international journals of the highest esteem such as the Proceedings of the Royal Society of London.**

**Professor Olunloyo originated the Nigerian Water Data Bank Project for tackling the problem of water shortage in the country. The Project included planning, analysis and management of the nation's water resources and lasted for about 10 years leading eventually to the establishment of the National Institute of Water Resources in Kaduna.**

**The work on the Nigerian Water Data Bank is a major contribution that has national significance in tackling problems of drought and water shortage.**

**Olunloyo's training and experience made him a versatile scientist who has made contributions in various areas of knowledge, and is perhaps the only engineer to be registered by COREN under three different specialties, namely: Mechanical Engineer, Software Engineer and Systems Engineer.**

**Professor Olunloyo is an inspiring teacher who has touched the lives of many students.**

**It is on the basis of these impressive achievements, that the Governing Board of the Nigerian National Merit Award is pleased to present to Your Excellency, Head of State, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Professor Vincent Olusegun Sowemimo Olunloyo, an outstanding scientist and inspiring teacher, as deserving of this highest national honour for academic and intellectual distinction, the Nigerian National Order of Merit.**