



Oluyole Branch Scores Double with Ife Akintunde Lecture



R-L: Past President, Engr. Ifedayo Akintunde, FNSE, FAEng, NSE President Engr. Adekunle Mokuolu, FNSE and Past President Engr. Olumuyiwa Ajibola, FNSE, FAEng

The occasion was the 2nd edition of the Engr. Ifedayo Akintunde Annual Engineering Lecture series, an initiative of the Oluyole Branch of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE). And its uniqueness derived from the quality of the Lecture and the added perk, the conferment of the Fellowship of the Society on the State Governor during the event.

As early as 9.30 am of July 3, 2019, the Main Hall of the International Conference Centre of the University of Ibadan was packed full as Engineers from Ibadan, Lagos, Ikeja, Victoria Island, Abeokuta, Ogbomosho and other adjoining NSE Branches thronged in to honour one of the revered Past Presidents of Society, Engr. Ifedayo Akintunde, FNSE, FAEng (NSE Past President, 1987 – 1988), who is also fondly called Baba.

In his Introductory Comments before the Lecture, Engr. Akintunde took the audience through memory lane; from the early days of Nigeria's Independence, the great expectations for growth and advancement and the eventual but unfortunate converse turn of events over the years. He drew

correlations between Nigeria and contemporary nations as India, Canada, Australia, Ghana, Brazil, Malaysia and India. He said: *"There was no reason why all should not be well with Nigeria. Her forests are lush. Her soil is manure itself. Her subsoil is home to both black and yellow gold... and the equation that formulated her weather could be accused of exhibiting divine favouritism"*.

On the Lecture and the Lecturer, Engr. Akintunde said: *"We have assumed that you know what is effective national development, and what can make it ineffective. Development of a country is effective when it is endogenic, that is, when the nationals know it, take part in its evolution; can built it, can maintain it and can replicate it. Outside this, it is technology dumping"*. He went on to re-emphasise the quality of delivery he expects from NSE Annual Lectures, that they must reflect the finest of academic culture, the purest of Nigerian essence and the loftiest refinements in the art of national development, He challenged Oluyole Branch to endeavor to bring to the forum, annually, leaders in their own fields of experience to address the gathering.

And the Guest Lecturer did not disappoint. He is Dr. Joseph Shevel, Founding President of Galilee International Management Institute, based in Israel. Dr. Shevel's lecture was titled, **"Economic Development Based on Israeli Experience: Lessons for Nigeria"**. It dwelled on the unique potentials that Nigeria possesses, especially with regards to land mass, and also highlighted the challenges of climate change, over-bloating population and rural-urban migration, as threats to the country's economic development. Dr. Shevel proposed the deployment of high-tech agriculture to move Nigeria back on the sustainable path of growth, giving specific examples from the success stories of Israel; a nation of only about 9 million people in population, a landmass of 20,000 Sq.KM (smaller than Oyo State which has landmass of 28,000 Sq.KM), located in the desert and the only country in the Middle East without Oil deposits. Today, Israel sufficiently grows food through drip irrigation and computerised greenhouses and even exports to neighboring countries. The second highpoint of the event was the successful conferment of the prestigious Fellowship grade of NSE on

the Executive Governor of Oyo State, Engr. Oluseyi Abiodun Makinde, FNSE, which happened during the Business Luncheon, Induction Ceremony and Award Night, at the evening session of the programme.

Earlier in the day, the President of NSE and Chairman of the occasion, Engr. Adekunle Mokuolu, FNSE, mobilized all the senior Engineers that attended the Lecture, including three Past Presidents of the Society – Engr. Ife Akintunde, FNSE, FAEng, Engr. Olumuyiwa Ajibola, FNSE, FAEng and Engr. Ademola Olorunfemi, FNSE, as well as other former and current National EXCO members, Branches and Divisions Chairmen, Fellows and other dignitaries – to pay a courtesy visit to the Governor in his office at Government House, Agodi, Ibadan. At the meeting, the President congratulated the Governor on his electoral victory and assured him that NSE will partner with his administration to bring

about accelerated development for the State. Engr. Mokuolu urged him to bring precision and accuracy – which his engineering training has endowed him with – to bear in his governance. He encouraged members of the State Executive who were present to work harmoniously with the Governor and on a lighter mood, he called on the Speaker of the State House of Assembly to allow speedy passage of all Executive Bills from the Governor, *without debate*, knowing that coming from an Engineer, everything in such Bill will be correct. Finally, he invited the Governor to the Dinner event where the Fellowship conferment ceremony would hold.

And the Governor made good his promise as he and his entourage walked into the venue of the Dinner event at about 7:30 pm. At the appropriate time, the President's procession marched in and proceedings for the Fellowship conferment

commenced. The President was assisted by the Chairman, NSE Board of Fellows, Engr. Felix Atume, FNSE, mni, who was represented by Engr. Abu Salami, FNSE, in robing the Governor. A National EXCO member, Engr. Charles Akintola, FNSE read the Governor's citation while Past President, Engr. O. A. Ajibola, FNSE, FAEng decorated the governor with his Fellowship medallion. The President finally did the conferment and presented the certificate scroll and plaque to the new Fellow.

In his acceptance speech, the Governor expressed profound appreciation to the President and the Council of NSE for the honour, which he described as much more valuable to him than any other he has received elsewhere. He pledged that the doors of the Government House will be open for wide consultations and that he will partner with NSE through the Branches in Oyo State.



NSE President and Chairman of the occasion, Engr. Adekunle Mokuolu, FNSE delivering his address



Left: The Honoree, Past President, Engr. Ifedayo Akintunde, FNSE, FAEng, delivering his introductory speech before the lecture; assisted by National EXCO member, Engr. Charles Akintola (Right)



Cross section of Guests at the event



R-L: Chairman of Oluyole Branch, Engr. Ademola Agoro, FNSE, Past President, Engr. Ademola Olorunfemi, FNSE, Guest Lecturer, Dr. Joseph Shevel, NSE President, Engr. Adekunle Mokuolu, FNSE and past NSE Vice President, Engr. Mrs. Margaret Oguntala, FNSE



R-L: NSE President Engr. Mokuolu, FNSE, Oyo State Governor, Engr. Oluseyi Makinde, FNSE and Oyo State Deputy Governor, Engr. Rauf Olaniyem, FNSE



Group photograph in the Council chambers of the Oyo State Government House



Meeting session with the Governor and key officers of his cabinet

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE CONFERMENT CEREMONY



NSE President making the fellowship conferment proclamation



Robing and decoration of the Conferee



Presentation of the Fellowship Certificate and Plaque



Conferee delivering his acceptance speech



Group photograph after the ceremony