

**TEXT OF SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR, SIR CHIEF  
[DR.] MOLADE OKOYA-THOMAS FCNA, MFR, OFR, KSS AT THE OPENING  
CEREMONY OF THE HUSSAM OKOYA-THOMAS INDOOR SPORTS HALL DONATED  
BY THE CHANCELLOR TO THE UNIVERSITY ON THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY,  
2009, 9.00AM**

**Venue: LAGOS STATE UNIVERSITY SPORTS STADIUM, OJO**

- Your Excellency, Barrister Babatunde Raji **FASHOLA**, SAN, the Executive Governor of Lagos State AND VISITOR to Lagos State University, AND Her Excellency, Mrs. Abimbola FASHOLA;
- His Excellency, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed TINUBU; the Immediate past Governor of Lagos State; AND Her Excellency, Chairman, New Era Foundation, Chief Mrs. Oluremi **TINUBU**;
- Her Excellency, The Deputy Governor of Lagos State, AND Hon. Commissioner for Education, Mrs. Sarah Adebisi **SOSAN**;
- Members of the State Executive Council [here present];
- His Royal Majesty Oba Rilwan **AKIOLU**, the Oba of Lagos;
- The Pro-Chancellor & Chairman Governing Council, Lagos State University, Mr. Akin **KEKERE-EKUN [OFR]**;
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps
- Captains of Industry
- The **Vice-Chancellor** of Lagos State University, Professor Lateef Akanni **HUSSAIN**; AND **Other Principal Officers** of Lagos State University.
- Gentlemen of the Press
- Distinguished Ladies AND Gentlemen
- Greatest LASUITES

**I thank God the Almighty for making this day possible for me, to fulfill my promise to donate a Sports Hall to Lagos State University.**

I thank also the Governor of Lagos State, His Excellency, Barrister Babatunde Raji FASHOLA SAN, **for accepting to commission this project**. We also welcome along with him, his wife, Her Excellency Mrs. Abimbola FASHOLA.

I am also delighted to welcome the immediate past Lagos State Governor, His Excellency Asiwaju Bola Ahmed TINUBU, AND his wife, Her Excellency, Chief. Mrs. Oluremi TINUBU.

I am pleased to welcome all the dignitaries, here present which includes the Pro-Chancellor AND Chairman, Governing Council, Mr. Akin KEKERE-EKUN, OFR AND other eminent Members of Council, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lateef Akanni HUSSAIN AND all officers AND staff of Lagos State University. My Friends from the Industries, members of the diplomatic corps, my wife AND ALL other members of my family, here present.

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Following my installation in February, 2007, as Chancellor, Lagos State University, I visited the University, on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2007. During my visit, a project which would

serve the University Community, was identified. I then **on the spot**, promised by the Grace of God to build an Indoor Sports Hall, to be fully funded by me.

I recall with pleasant memories, that on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of June of every year, when I was a school boy, my beloved father hosts children from various areas of Lagos, to a mini sport session in front of our house at Olowogbowo, in Lagos. At the end of the mini sports fiesta, which was to mark my birthday, my father will distribute gifts to winners of various sporting competitions.

Furthermore, my father spent a lot of money, to equip me with various sports kits, which included two [2] standard Table Tennis Tables. This was how I got my inspiration AND developed interest in Sports. I represented my school in athletics, where in 1955 I was a member of Baptist Academy Lagos quartet, which shattered all the Nigerian 4 x 200 yards men relay.

My father it was, that encouraged me to develop interests in sports. What he did for me in life, can never be compensated, by whatever I am able to do, to thank him for all his parental care AND love.

God is willing, it is also my intention to build a Mosque in honour of my beloved father, Late Chief Hussam OKOYA-THOMAS, before I pass away myself.

Before concluding this short address, I wish to recognize the Managing Director of the contracting Firm FOLBEN Nigeria Limited, Chief R.F. OLOWOOKERE, who handled the construction of this beautiful edifice from foundation to completion, for a job well done.

I also wish to acknowledge, the moral support of the Governing Council, AND Management of Lagos State University in respect of this project.

Your Excellency the Governor of Lagos State,  
Your Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies AND Gentlemen,

It is now my pleasure AND singular honour, to donate this Indoor Sports Hall, which we name **Hussam OKOYA-THOMAS Indoor Sports Hall**, Lagos State University, in honour AND to the memory of late Chief Hussam OKOYA-THOMAS, my beloved father.

We wish the facility will be used by students AND staff of Lagos State University, AND also that it will be made available for use of students in Secondary Schools within Lagos State, according to the conditionalities to be stipulated by the University.

Thank you for your attention.

Thank you ALL AND God bless.

**Sir Chief [Dr.] Molade OKOYA-THOMA, FCNA, MFR, OFR, KSS**  
Chancellor  
Lagos State University

**Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2009**