

SPEECH BY THE OUTGOING GLOBAL PRESIDENT OF DOHERTY MEMORIAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL OLD STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

by

DR. BIODUN AROKODARE FCA (1976)

The Grand Patron of Doherty Memorial Grammar School Old Students Association (DMGS-OSA), His Royal Majesty, Oba Joseph Adebayo Adewole, JP, OFR, Arojoye II, Ajero of Ijero Kingdom.

Our revered Patrons: General Simeon Kayode Oni (Rtd) (1965) and Distinguished Senator Fatimat Raji-Rasaki (1973).

The eminent members of the Board of Trustees of DMGS-OSA, ably chaired by Prof. Babatunde Ayodele Omotoso (1972).

The esteemed members of the Board of Trustees of our Doherty Old Students Association Endowment Trust, ably led by General Simeon Kayode Oni (Rtd)(1965).

Members of the Outgoing Executive Committee of DMGS-OSA.

Members of the Incoming Executive Committee of DMGS-OSA.

Members of the Consultative Forum of DMGS-OSA.

All Past Presidents of DMGS-OSA.

The leadership of all the Class Sets.

The entire proud Old Students and members of DMGS-OSA all over the world.

Ladies and gentlemen.

It is with a deep sense of gratitude to the Almighty God, who is the Beginning and the Ending of all things, that I address this crucial and record-breaking gathering tonight. On that fateful day, 7th of May 2023, the now outgoing Executive Committee (EXCO) was inaugurated into office to pilot the affairs of our Old Students Association for a constitutional period of two years.

Looking like just yesterday, we have now come to the climax of the two-year tenure. We are indebted to God for His mighty helps these past two years. Immediately after inauguration, one major task ahead of the EXCO was to

reawaken, reposition, and recalibrate the Association for greater effectiveness and productivity. Consequently, the following strategic steps were taken in quick succession:

STRATEGIC STEPS

1. Constitution of the Board of Trustees

Six distinguished and accomplished Old Students were appointed into the Board of Trustees of the Association. They are:

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|------------------------------------|--------|------------|
| i. Prof. Babatunde Ayodele Omotoso | (1972) | - Chairman |
| ii. Amb. Samuel Adelana Otuyelu | (1962) | |
| iii. Mr Moses Bamidele Fagbbeyiro | (1970) | |
| iv. Mrs Esther Oyebola Adebayo | (1972) | |
| v. Dr Florence Temilade Akinwumiju | (1974) | |
| vi. Mrs Modupe Olayemi Thomas | (1982) | |

2. Registration of DMGS-OSA with CAC

We proceeded to register the Association with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC). This gave our Association perfect legal status.

3. Opening of Operational Bank Accounts

Thereafter, the Association's bank accounts were opened in three major currencies (Naira, US dollar, and British pounds sterling) and domiciled with Access Bank in Ijero-Ekiti. This singular action also has a positive cascading effect on the various Class Sets as many were able to open their own bank accounts with the bank with much ease.

4. Appointment of Patrons

Patrons were then appointed for the Association with HRM Oba Joseph Adebayo Adewole, JP, OFR, the Ajero of Ijero Kingdom as our permanent Grand Patron. Also, Gen. Simeon Kayode Oni (Rtd) (1965) and Distinguished Sen. Fatimat Raji-Rasaki (1973) were both appointed as Patrons, thus fulfilling another constitutional requirement in the governance structure of our Association.

5. Design and Launch of Website

The Association's Website was designed and launched. It strategically became a veritable avenue for mobilizing members towards participating in the various activities lined up for the Anniversary week. Today, with our website dohertyijero.com.ng, DMGS-OSA now maintains a global presence and is a key medium of keeping the spirit of our alumni network alive, vibrant, and engaging. The new EXCO may want to build on this and make the website deliver on its promise by devising strategies that will make it more active and interactive.

6. Award to Best JSS3 and SSS3 Students

Old Students Association Awards for the best graduating JSS3 and SSS3 Students of Doherty were introduced. Awards of N50,000 each were given to the best JSS students in 2023 and 2024 sessions and N100,000 to the best SSS3 student in 2023. The 2024 SS3 Award is yet to be given.

7. Printing of Constitution Pamphlet

3,000 copies of our Constitution document were printed and distributed to Old Students through the Class Sets. We still have about 2,000 copies of the document available for future use.

8. Formation of the Consultative Forum

This outgoing EXCO also constituted the Consultative Forum, which serves the strategic purpose of bringing the governance of the Association closer to the members. It promotes greater inclusivity, broader democratic decision making and a means of fast and effective dissemination of information to every Old Student. The Consultative Forum is a convocation of the Executive Committee and three leaders from every Class/Set including the Class President, the General Secretary and Financial Secretary/Treasurer. They meet quarterly at interactive sessions for mutual update.

9. The Platinum Jubilee Anniversary

One of the monumental and memorable events of the past two years is the successful staging of the Platinum Jubilee Anniversary of our Alma Mater's Founders Day. It was nostalgic and historic. The weeklong event kickstarted with a courtesy visit to HRM Oba Joseph Adebayo Adewole JP, OFR, the Owa Ajero of Ijero Kingdom.

Highlights of the momentous celebration week were commissioning of Anniversary projects by the OSA which included renovation of the school Principal's Quarter,

demolition and rebuilding of the Vice Principal's Quarter and one other senior staff quarter. The SUBEB building was also reconstructed and refurbished. In addition, there was the anniversary lecture; awards of different categories to deserving Old Students, Staff and current Students of DMGS; Career Talk, Novelty Match, Cultural/ Drama activities, among others. Anniversary Jumat Service also held at the Ijero Central Mosque while a Thanksgiving Service was held at the Cathedral Church of Christ. The conception, publicity, and execution of the Anniversary activities brought our Association to an enviable limelight for which I thank all individuals, groups and Sets that made the hosting a very successful one.

10. The Doherty Old Students Association Endowment Trust Fund

The Doherty Old Students Association Endowment Trust Fund is a well thought out plan to invest in the name of the Association into the Money Markets – most importantly Government Bonds and Treasury Bills. These are secured investments that have guaranteed annual returns without any fear of losing the investment capital.

Therefore, the returns are going to be used to support the financing of the Associations carved out goals and objectives as enshrined in the scheme's Constitution. Eggheads among the Old Students that are certified and proven professionals are the ones to broker and manage the investments under the auspices of the Management Committee. This is one trans-generational scheme the impact of which will outlive many of us.

The Board of Trustees of the Endowment Trust

A five-member Board of Trustees who are proven Old Students have been appointed for this scheme. It is such that one Board member each were picked per decades of graduation year from 1960 – 1969; 1970 – 1979; 1980 – 1989; 1990 – 1999; 2000 – till date. They are:

- i. Gen. Simeon Kayode Oni (Rtd) (1965) representing 1960 – 1969
- ii. ACG Kayode Olusemire (Rtd) (1979) representing 1970 – 1979
- iii. Dr. Samuel Olusesan Ojo (1982) representing 1980 – 1989
- iv. Dr. Mrs Olufunke Iyabo Ajoje (1990) representing 1990 – 1999
- v. Mr Oluwasanmi Tope Oguntuase (2004) representing 2000 – till date

Article 5 of the Endowment Trust's Constitution reels out the duties of the Board of Trustee. The General Secretary of the Association is the Secretary of the ETF BOT.

The Endowment Trust Investment Base

As at 31st March, 2025, a sum of N105.54m have been invested in three different securities with a maturity period of between 180 days and 365 days and at market determined rates of return.

The Growth of the Investment Base of the Endowment Trust

The investment base of the Endowment Fund is expected to grow bigger and bigger and never to shrink. To achieve this, the new EXCO may wish to promote the following steps among others:

- i. The Executive Committee and the entire Association are expected to continuously raise and donate funds towards the expansion of the Endowment Trust Investment Capital Base, both internally and externally.
- ii. Old Students are implored to allot some percentage of their life earnings and estates to the benefit of the Doherty Old Students Association Endowment Trust Fund
- iii. One of the primary functions of the Board of Trustees of the Trust Fund is to raise funds for the Fund on a continuous basis

This Trust Fund has the tendency to grow and expand beyond the imagination of the present Old Students if properly managed, monitored, and utilized. May God help us so to do.

11. Independently Audited Financial Statements of DMGS-OSA and DMGS-ETF

Independent auditors have been appointed for both the Old Students Association and for the Endowment Trust Fund. Consequently, the financials of the OSA have been audited for the period up to 31st March, 2025 and approved by EXCO and that of the ETF done for two months ended same date and approved by the Board of Trustees of ETF. Going forward, for operational reasons, the accounting year end of the ETF shall be 31st December of each year.

The totality of the above achievements is that our Association can now run on well-established constitutional governance structures and clearly defined processes. This makes administration easier and much easier is the task of tackling exceptions

and correcting outliers. The combined effects of these initiatives include increased awareness of Association matters, increased number of new sign-on by Old Students, greater number of Class Sets became active in the Association, and increased sense of pride and dignity by Old Students, a sense of pride that is also cascading down to the current students in the school.

TRANSITIONING INTO A NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

What makes today's event crucial and record-breaking is that for the first time in the history of our Association, we are transitioning from one duly elected Executive Committee leadership to another duly elected leadership, through a seamless and rancour-free electoral process. This is no little feat for our beloved Association. On this note I want to congratulate our Electoral Committee for delivering a near perfect electoral process. This is without doubt another feather to the cap of our institutional legacies. We therefore congratulate the incoming EXCO that is receiving the baton of leadership today, ably led by Pastor Emmanuel Olusanya Olagunju (1977).

Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, we see a virile DMGS-OSA growing in leaps and bounds. It is such that in the comity of Old Students Associations in this jurisdiction, ours would continue to be a pacesetter and a trailblazer. I want to implore our incoming EXCO to please put in their best to take our Association steps ahead during their tenure.

Also, I would ask for the unbroken support of the Consultative Forum and the entire Old Students for our new EXCO in steering the ship of our Association to succeed in the tasks ahead.

OUR PARTING GIFTS

In commemoration of this occasion and in remembrance of the impact of DMGS on our lives, the following will be done by me and my wife, also a proud Old Student of Class 1979:

1. An artistic memento will be delivered to all Old Students who attended the 70th Founders Day Anniversary through the various Class leaders.
2. A scholarship worth N250,000 per annum for each of the best West African Senior School Certificate Examination graduating male and female student

during their higher education. The modalities will be worked out with the EXCO.

3. At the end of each year and upon completion of the annual audit of the ETF account, ornamental Plaques shall be awarded to the following people under the auspices of the EXCO:
 - a. The highest Old Student donor to the ETF in the outgoing year
 - b. The highest Class Set donor to the ETF in the outgoing year
 - c. The highest external donor to the ETF in the outgoing year
 - d. The Old Student who sponsored the highest external donor in (c) above.

FINAL WORDS

On behalf of the outgoing Executive Committee (*7th May 2023 to 7th May 2025*), I want to use this medium to appreciate everyone for the support you gave to us. Specifically, big thanks go to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Prof Ayo Omotoso (1972) for his singular and selfless effort in midwifing the current dispensation in our Association; sincere appreciation to all the old students, Class Sets and external donors who contributed generously to our 70th Founders Day Anniversary and our Endowment Fund; and we are grateful to everyone who worked with us tirelessly and enabled us to succeed in laying a solid foundation for our OSA during the last two years of being at the helms of affairs of the Association.

To our Grand Patron the Owa Ajero of Ijero Kingdom, His Royal Majesty Oba Joseph Adebayo Adewole, JP, OFR, the entire DMGS-OSA collective say a big thank you to you and the Ijero community for not only giving birth to the DMGS project in 1955 but for also being the peaceful and friendly host community for the past 70 years and still counting. Kabiyesi, may your reign be long and peaceful.

To all Old Students of DMGS both at home and in the diaspora, we say a big thank you for your support, your contributions to our performance, and for your trust in us. Thank you. Thank you. And thank you for the privilege given to us to serve.

To assist the incoming EXCO, a compendium has been put together incorporating the lessons learnt from our 70th Anniversary celebrations, the strategies to employ in making new Class Sets to be more active in national matters of the Association, and a comprehensive collection of the donations made to our school by all the Class Sets from 2000 till date. As we hand over to our new leaders today, we promise to

give our unwavering support to the new Executive Committee and continually serve the Association as we aim for greater heights together. May God help us all and help our school.

Long Live Doherty Memorial Grammar School Old Students Association!

Long Live Doherty Memorial Grammar School, Ijero-Ekiti!

Long live Ijero Kingdom!

Long Live Ekiti State!

Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!

Michael Abiodun Arokodare, PhD, FCA (1976)

Outgoing Global President, DMGS-OSA

Wednesday May 7th, 2025