

# Voting Wisely

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At 2:00 pm tomorrow, Thursday July 10, 2014, at the Julius Berger Engineering Lecture Theatre, you will be in a position to cast your vote. Once you do that, you must await the consequences of your action. Take this voting seriously because it is important to vote for continuity, development and growth. Don't settle for promissory notes that are long on excuses and short on original thinking. You need a dean that is compliant with the digital age. We need to surround our faculty with projects that will give us more income from engineering consulting, training and deliver value to society. **Vote wisely, Vote oafak.**

The Dean is, among other things, a representative of the Faculty. Who will you trust to champion the cause of this faculty? Who can put our case persuasively in this university and beyond? Ask yourself, who will look after your interest without needing to settle outside interests? You have given me two years already to be your dean. I thank you for that. The fact that our work is not completed is partly due to the disruptions that interfered with our progress. Yet, we learned good lessons! Despite the combustible nature of a national strike, we were able to navigate our way as a united faculty and we kept our heads while others were losing theirs! No factions in Engineering! Remember that! **Vote wisely, vote oafak.**

**Experience Counts!** I have been a Director in Federal Parastatals for 8 solid years. That was before a four year stint as an HOD. It is easy to see why I can be decisive in taking actions that will move us forward. When it comes to leading the faculty, who will not require on-the-job training? Experience counts; don't settle for less. Interruptions set us backwards! You need continuity, development and a steady hand! **Vote wisely, vote oafak!**

**The most critical issue facing young lecturers is that they get the training and the environment to be internationally competitive.** You need the confidence to excel. You need to be able to deliver confidently. You need the skills to grow to be the professor who can stand his ground. Who will you trust improve our environment so we can deliver? I have been trained in Unilag and at Alberta in Canada. My stint in Canada was as a post-graduate student and later as a Post-doctoral Fellow and researcher. When I talk about how things are properly done

in other places, I know what I am saying because I have been involved, and it shows! We have increased our establishment positions and we are able bring in more qualified people to drive our vision to be more competitive internationally!  
**Vote wisely, vote oafak.**

**The deanship is not a gift to be bestowed by sympathy! The deanship is a trust to be earned.** It is an opportunity to serve; to be given to who can make it work for the greatest benefit of the faculty. You need someone to make a sound case for the faculty and be fair to all. You need someone to give academic leadership. The fire, the passion for this place is in one person – more than another. I am not asking for your vote so to build my CV for another job! I am passionate for the challenge of this job and will continue with it single-mindedly. **Vote right! Vote wisely, Vote oafak!**



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July 9, 2014