

## Eko Foundation lauds Fagbohun's appointment as LASU VC ....disagrees with Ambode on LSETF boss

A group of eminent Lagos State indigenes under the aegis of Eko Foundation has commended Governor Akinwunmi Ambode for appointing Prof Lanre Fagbohun as the Vice Chancellor of the Lagos State University (LASU).

The group, however, described the appointment of Mrs Ifueko Omoigui-Okaru, “a non indigene of Lagos State, as the Head of the Board of Trustees (BOT) of the N25 billion Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) as wrong, condemnable and is hereby condemned”.

Eko Foundation in a statement signed by its President Prof. Imran Oluwole Smith (SAN) and Secretary Barrister Kunle Uthman said, “LSETF was conceived to address youth unemployment and promote wealth creation through Entrepreneurial Development in the State. Since there are many indigenes eminently qualified to head the BOT of LSETF, we implore the Governor of Lagos State to reappraise this choice and appoint instead, an indigene of this State as Head of the BOT of LSETF.

While commending the appointment of Fagbohun as the VC of LASU, which the group said was in tandem with its letter to Governor Ambode to see reasons why a qualified Lagos indigene should be appointed to head the state-owned institution, they also lauded the process that produced the new VC.

According to the group, “The announcement of Prof. Fagbohun is therefore gratifying and we urge His Excellency to give Lagos State indigenes the opportunity to serve and play important roles in the civil and public services of the State and resist the temptation, from whatever quarters, to fill such vacancies with non indigenes.

“As a Foundation, our quest to ensure that the indigenes of Lagos State occupy key positions in the civil and public services of the State is an agenda that we are determined to pursue vigorously, during the tenure and lifespan of the present administration in the State and beyond.

And in pursuit of this agenda, the Foundation expressed their displeasure at the appointment of non-indigene as the Chief of Staff to the Governor. “We urge Mr Akinwunmi Ambode to look inwards and appoint a very competent indigene as Chief-Of-Staff to the Governor, to replace the incumbent, who hails from Ekiti State.

“It is unfair, unjust and wrong that an indigene of Ekiti State is the present occupant of that Office. In practical terms, that Office is analogous to that of a de facto Governor, because all communications are sifted by the Chief-Of-Staff who also determines the Governor's Schedule and persons who would have access to the First Citizen of the State and, indeed, the State House. It is wrong that a non indigene would be the "Clearing House" of accessibility to our Governor.

While appreciating the contributions of non-indigenes and foreigners to the development of Lagos State, the group however stated that “We anticipate a pro-active government in the State, that will restore the dignity of our people and right the wrongs of the former administrations in the State, in line with the relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Federal Character Commission Act and the Federal Character principles, which constitute the bedrock of our Democracy and our co-existence as a people within the Federation.