

OPENING SPEECH

By Chief Shina Luwoye, Founder, Shina Luwoye Foundation

Protocols,

Your Royal Majesty, Oba Michael Adedotun Aremu Gbadebo, CFR, Okukenu IV, the Alake, and Paramount Ruler of Egbaland, The Balogun of Egbaland, Osi-Ega, and other distinguished High Chiefs, my brothers, sisters; members of the Foundation's Board and staff; proud parents; and the bright young awardees, I warmly welcome you to the 2025/26 Bursary Award Ceremony of the Shina Luwoye Foundation, held today in honour of our Baba and Mama, Kabiyesi, Okukenu IV, and his wife, to mark his 20th Coronation Anniversary.

I am deeply grateful to Baba and Kabiyesi, whose encouragement since our meeting in 2008 has had a lasting impact. His words inspired me to return home and apply my expertise in the oil industry to drive positive change that will ultimately benefiting our communities.

Furthermore, when Baba honoured my wife and I with the title of Asiwaju Mayegun of Egba I told him that I would be ready to carry out the iwuye ceremony when I must have employed at least a hundred people in Egbaland. To the glory of God, Ecogas has over a hundred direct and indirect employees as at today. Thank you, our King, for unleashing that vigour to make my dream a testament. May your reign be long, Alake of Egba.

We gather today to celebrate a milestone in the pursuit of excellence and empowerment. As I founded this Foundation in 2024, my vision was to ensure that financial limitations do not hinder any child's potential. Education is a fundamental right, a key to unlocking opportunities. As Professor Wole Soyinka once said, "The greatest threat to Nigerian society is the wanton destruction of our human and natural resources, and the abandonment of our youth to the whims and caprices of a callous world."

Our mission is clear: break financial barriers, empower individuals and communities, and create sustainable impact through education, elderly welfare, and community development. We have supported over 50 students with over ₦8 million in this 2025/26 exercise.

To our awardees, congratulations! You have worked hard and distinguished yourselves. This award is a testament to your perseverance and excellence. I would like to explain that the bursary award was initially supposed to be a 3-year rolling scholarship for undergraduate students with no less than 3.5GPA in the first year. However, we decided to prioritize students with good academic performance and sound attitude and citizenship, especially those lacking necessary support due to unfortunate circumstances, including socially misplaced individuals.

You have been carefully selected after a thorough pre-qualification exercise carried out by our consultant, TEASCO Transformation Consultants. I thank them for their expertise and for redefining our purpose.

Our partners, Ecogas LPG Plants, deserve special mention for their commitment to community development. We appreciate their contribution to our mission and look forward to continued collaboration.]

Our objectives are threefold:

1. Education and Scholarships: providing full tuition coverage, stipends, mentorship, and career guidance to deserving students across Nigeria.
2. Elderly Welfare: honouring our elders through dedicated recreational facilities, health and wellness programmes, and dignified care services.
3. Community and Sport: fostering community development through sports infrastructure, recreational facilities, and community centres.

We've undertaken several meaningful projects, including the cart house project at the Abeokuta Golf Club and the electrification and access road project in Oloke Community. Planning is underway for recreational centres, health and wellness programmes, and social activities aimed at senior citizens and the communities we serve.

As we celebrate His Majesty's 20th Coronation Anniversary, we honor tradition and progress. The future is ours to shape, and we're proud to be part of it. As Professor Soyinka said, "A people who deny their elders the reverence due to them, deny themselves the future."

To our awardees, I charge you: make good use of this award. Build strong character coupled with academic qualifications. Excel in life, and when you do, please continue to kindle this candle light of kindness to help the future generation after you. Remember, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others" - Mahatma Gandhi.

God Bless:

Shina Luwoye Foundation

His Royal Majesty; The Alake of Egbaland , and Egbaland.

Ogun State

Nigeria

Thank you all.

Thank you all.

Chief & Chief Mrs. Shina Luwoye FCA
Founders – Shina Luwoye Foundation