

**REMARKS BY PRESIDENT UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA AT
THE 2ND Dr. YUSUFU BALA USMAN 31ST MAY, 2008**

Our host the Governor of Kaduna State the Chairman of the occasion Hon. Ministers, Vice chancellor of A.B.U, the family of late Dr. Yusufu Bala Usman, representative of the guest speakers, distinguished ladies and gentlemen. Let me start by saying that I wasn't expecting to be called upon to make an address but the chairman of the occasion, however has called me to make a few remarks on this important occasion, Anything to do with late Dr. Yusufu Bala Usman, I consider it to be an important occasion.

I first came into contact with Dr. Yusufu Bala Usman when I came to Zaria, after leaving Government College Keffi, to start my Higher School Certificate studies in January 1970. So I came and met him, as a young man, with a fertile mind. At the time he was teaching history at Barewa College Zaria, and I became very close to him and very close to his family, and took him as my guardian, while I was here in Zaria, he guided me, advised me as a son and a younger brother, since then, I got to know him, and as I grew up and come to A.B.U., in 1973, I continued with this relationship, even though I was registered as a student in the Faculty of Science to study Chemistry. After completing my NYSC in 1976, I came to Zaria to teach at the Kaduna College of Arts and Science, and I had that opportunity to continue with the association with Dr. Yusufu Bala Usman and that was the period when I intensely interacted with him intellectually, when I got an insight into his ways, into his life, into his commitments, into his deals. Whenever I reflect on my association with Dr. Usman, I always thank God, to have had the opportunity of

having met such a great person who is ruthless, courageous and highly determined with zeal in the pursuit of knowledge and truth, and equally courageous, with passion, in the application of that knowledge, in the pursuit of truth and Justice. For me, the pursuit of truth and justice and the search for knowledge to pursue truth and justice sums up the life of Dr. Yusufu Bala Usman, He carried this out with such a drive, an inner energy, that throughout my worldly experience, I am yet to meet a man who is so passionately driven by his beliefs, so passionately driven by his conviction so passionately honest and sincere in the belief of his conviction and what he is doing. That element of sincerity and honesty and single mindedness in the pursuit not only of knowledge but in the application of knowledge to ensure the pursuit of truth and justice, is what marks Dr. Yusufu Bala Usman from every Nigerian. He stands head and shoulders above every Nigerian, as a great man, and that is the greatest legacy he has left.

He has influenced great minds; he had charted a course for many Nigerians to put them on the path of honesty, sincerity, patriotism, nationalism, the pursuit of knowledge, the pursuit of truth and the struggle against injustice. His ideas have always been brilliant, he approaches issues and examines questions from a very clear perspective He has a very clear understanding of the impact of the issue and the questions on humanity, on Justice, and truth,. When I got the news of the passing of Dr. Yusufu Bala Usman I felt a personal sense of loss, yet I and all of us here have to give gratitude to God Almighty for the life and times of Dr. Yusufu Bala Usman

because, he is one of those Nigerians and Africans who would never die.

What he stood for, what he spent his entire life for, no matter what and no matter how long it has taken will ultimately prevail, because truth must ultimately prevail over falsehood.

I am highly elated and gratified to note that CEDDERT is an institution established to carry out the legacy of this great man and great scholar. Through this Centre, I have no doubt the search for knowledge and truth will continue, the effort to apply this knowledge and truth to human development will also continue.

I recall Dr. Yusufu Bala Usman had the opportunity at one time to apply these ideals outside the walls of the University and the lecture halls, in the real world where there are opposing forces, when he served as the Secretary to Kaduna State Government under Governor Balarabe Musa. It was a chance to apply the principles and ideals in the real environment that reflects Nigeria, with forces opposed to truth, with forces opposed to Justice, and I think all of us were ultimately witnesses to the result of that experience but we would continue, ideas that are ideals never die, they will continue, once they are propagated. Like they have been propagated by Dr. Yusufu Bala Usman they will continue to grow with time they would continued to influence minds, they would continue to influence actions they will continue until gradually the forces of truth come to weigh and to defeat the forces of falsehood, this is a struggle that has been going on throughout the history of mankind, there will always be a struggle of opposing forces of truth and falsehood there will always be opposing force in the struggle for justice and against injustice and

there will always, in every generation, be people like Dr. Yusufu Bala Usman who will propagate ideas and ideals for truth and justice.

In his life time he fought injustice, whether it is the injustice of one nation imposing itself and exploiting a weaker nation, whether it is the injustice of one class imposing itself on another class and exploiting it, whether it is an individual, whose circumstances make to perceive himself to be strong enough to perpetrate injustice against an individual who is perceived as a weaker individual at every level and in every day of his arduous life, whether at home in his place of work, in theatres of national discourse, he has always used his ideas and the convictions he believed in to fight injustice. There will always be men like him in every generation and these are the men who ultimately shape the world, shape society.

Let me say that, I am here as a mark of honour and respect for the late Dr. Yusufu Bala Usman, and also to commit myself and identify with CEDDERT. I commit myself to be part of the development of this centre and I would do whatever is possible for me to ensure that. Having said that, I would want to congratulate the renowned Economist Prof. Sam Aluko for such a brilliant presentation even though, I happen to be one of those at the receiving end.

I want to say that, we face challenges, these challenges are real. It would take time and effort and commitment to address the challenges that we face.

I must admit that one of the things that Prof. Sam Aluko has said actually has been our undoing. The lack of national development plans. There is very little that can be achieved without national development plans and only when you have a well articulated

national development plans you commit resources even before they come. And that is also a way of controlling corruption.

I am not qualified to comment either on the lecture or on the issue of corruption, I would be qualified if we are talking about molecule bonding or spin quantum numbers.

I want to end this brief remark by reminding all of us that today's event clearly shows that people who dedicate their life work and fight for truth and justice, what they have done is clearly to plant a seed that would grow from one generation to another, and their idea and contributions will never die and they will remain alive to eternity and that is the mark up of our great men – that is the mark of having achieved the purpose of life, that is the mark of having lived a life of achievement and fulfillment.