

## **THE INAUGURATION OF THE RICHARD JOSEPH LEARNING CENTRE AT THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

The Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA) hosted the inauguration of the Richard Joseph Learning Centre on Friday, 7 February 2025, at the Institute's library. The event brought together prominent academics and intellectuals, including the benefactor, Professor Richard Joseph, the Director-General of the NIIA, Professor Eghosa Osaghae, and distinguished scholars such as Professor Bolaji Akinyemi, Professor Femi Otubanjo, and Professor Adele Jinadu. The ceremony celebrated the significant contributions of Professor Richard Joseph to African scholarship and his vision for preserving intellectual heritage.



In his opening remarks, Professor Eghosa Osaghae described the Learning Centre as a legacy project and a cornerstone of academic scholarship at the NIIA. He highlighted Professor Joseph's profound impact on African comparative politics and governance, citing his pioneering works on Sudan, Cameroon, and Nigeria. Professor Osaghae emphasized the

importance of the Centre in amplifying African voices in global debates and reiterated Africa's potential for greatness in the evolving world order. He acknowledged the donation of 77 cartons of books by Professor Joseph and commended his ongoing efforts to secure grants to sustain the project.

Professor Bolaji Akinyemi, in his remarks as Chairman, extended gratitude to Professor Joseph on behalf of African scholars and Pan-Africanists, recognizing the Learning Centre as a vital initiative for preserving African intellectual heritage. Associate Professor Godwin Ichimi, in his citation of Professor Joseph, highlighted his expertise in governance, conflict resolution, and his contributions to election missions in The Gambia and Ghana. He also noted Professor Joseph's affiliation with the Council of Foreign Relations.

Professor Richard Joseph, speaking at the inauguration, shared his vision for the Centre as a hub for collaborative learning and access to educational resources for young scholars. He introduced his framework for intellectual engagement, encapsulated in the ABCDE (Achievements, Books, Chronicles, Design, Education) and the 7Es (Educatio, Enterprise, Efficiency, Ethics, Equity, Environment). Professor Adele Jinadu described the initiative as a revival of the golden era of think-tank scholarship, emphasizing its potential to advance Africa's intellectual and developmental aspirations.



The inauguration of the Richard Joseph Learning Centre marked a historic milestone for the NIIA, signifying a renewed commitment to academic excellence and intellectual leadership. It underscored the collaborative efforts of the NIIA leadership and Professor Richard Joseph in building a lasting legacy for African scholarship.

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