



Lecturer: Prof. Abiodun Alao

Show: Inaugural Lecture – Africa: A Voice to Be Heard, Not A Problem to Be Solved

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Brief Note:

Welcome to another episode of ALC Radio. Today, we bring you a landmark moment—Professor Abiodun Alao’s inaugural lecture at King’s College London. It was a night of reflection, history, and an uncompromising call for Africa’s rightful place in global discourse.

Titled *"Africa: A Voice to Be Heard, Not a Problem to Be Solved"*, this lecture is more than an academic exercise; it is a resounding declaration. Professor Alao, a scholar of African Studies and a leading voice in security and governance, reminds us that Africa is not merely an object of international intervention or an unsolvable puzzle—it is a force shaping its destiny.

His journey itself is a testament to this. Born and raised in Nigeria, he pursued his passion for African history and international relations, eventually earning a PhD at King’s. His scholarship has spanned conflicts, natural resource governance, and leadership—his writings shaping how Africa is understood across academia and policy circles. From advising the UN during Sierra Leone’s civil war to assessing threats in post-genocide Rwanda, his work has been at the heart of Africa’s security debates.

In this lecture, Professor Alao challenges entrenched stereotypes—those that paint Africa as a continent defined by war, famine, and instability. He acknowledges the weight of colonial legacies but refuses to let them be the singular narrative. Instead, he highlights Africa’s economic resurgence, resource wealth, young and vibrant population, and growing global influence.

This is not just a story of the past—it is a call to action. If Africa’s voice is to be heard, it must shape its narratives, strengthen its institutions, and set its terms in global partnerships.

Stay with us as we take you inside this powerful and thought-provoking inaugural lecture by Professor Abiodun Alao.

Transcript

00:00:00 Prof. Frans Berkhout

OK, ladies and gentlemen.

00:00:05 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Welcome here to King's College. My name is Frans Berkhout. I'm the Dean of the Faculty of Social Science and public Policy here at King's College. I'm really delighted that you're all here this evening.

00:00:20 Prof. Frans Berkhout

For abiodu allows.

00:00:22 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Inaugural address.

00:00:24 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Africa, A voice to be heard. Not a problem to be solved, and I'm sure we're all looking forward to greatly to to that address.

00:00:34 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Before we start.

00:00:36 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Some information about the event.

00:00:40 Prof. Frans Berkhout

So this will be given by. Well, as I've said by Professor Alao. He's professor of African Studies here at King's in the Africa Leadership Centre.

00:00:51 Prof. Frans Berkhout

The vote of thanks will be given by Professor James Mayall, who's emeritus Professor of International relations at the University of Cambridge, and this will be followed by a wine reception at chapters, which is in this building and I'll I'll tell you where that is at the end of the event.

00:01:09 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Quickly for your information, and this event is being recorded.

00:01:15 Prof. Frans Berkhout

An audio recording will be made available on the website the King's website next.

00:01:22 Prof. Frans Berkhout

During next week, the wine reception as, as I've said, is is upstairs and and will lead you there after the event. The nearest toilets are to the left and the right as you go out.

00:01:35 Prof. Frans Berkhout

And if for any reason we need to evacuate, then we need to go out in that direction.

00:01:40 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Into the courtyard into the quad, where will be led to a place of safety. We hope that doesn't happen, of course.

00:01:50 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Our next inaugural lecture here at King's. It will be given by Professor Jennifer Rubin, who is deputy director and director of Analysis and Professor of Public policy in the Policy Institute here at King's, and that will be.

00:02:05 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Entitled from bridging to field Building progress on 25 years of Policy Research, so we very much welcome you here on the 24th of May in this place. At the same time.

00:02:20 Prof. Frans Berkhout

So if I can invite Abiodun and professor male onto the stage.

00:02:41 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Well, as I say, it's a real pleasure to have you here to use his own words. Professor Abiodun was born, raised and kicked around in Nigeria.

00:02:56 Prof. Frans Berkhout

This illustrious son of Nigeria's had a long, a lifelong passion for all things.

00:03:04 Prof. Frans Berkhout

And this stems in part from his love and the study of African history.

00:03:09 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Which he started at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria and after that he proceeded to the University of Ilaya Fair, where he did a master's degree in international relations with a mark of distinction. I have to say we have we we share a.

00:03:26 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Similarity there because as a child I was, I was brought up in Ibadan so.

00:03:30 Prof. Frans Berkhout

It's great. It's all.

00:03:34 Prof. Frans Berkhout

There's, you see, there's a Nigerian takeover happening.

00:03:40 Prof. Frans Berkhout

After the Master's degree in Ife and it was his pursuit of excellence that that led to a Ford Foundation scholarship to study for a PhD here in war studies at King's College.

00:03:55 Prof. Frans Berkhout

When King's opened its door to this restless African, it unleashed a rare sort of scholar and personality. Calm, even demure, on the outside, while writing a dozen essays on the inside.

00:04:10 Prof. Frans Berkhout

A restless man.

00:04:12 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Indeed, Abiodun's restlessness is easily detected in the frequency of his walks along the corridors of the Strand's campus and in the number of trips made by foot between King's the LSE and soars.

00:04:28 Prof. Frans Berkhout

In in any week now there are. There are very famous philosophers, of course, who thought while walking.

00:04:35 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Nietzsche and Wittgenstein and Kant and so on. So you're in very good company there.

00:04:41 Prof. Frans Berkhout

It's in these moments that he dreams up his ideas for the next research project or visit to another African country. A pencil is an essential part of his dress. He occasionally stops during his walks to jot down.

00:04:57 Prof. Frans Berkhout

What his next research idea, or the title of a new article?

00:04:59 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Book his career took off from South African perspective with a PhD thesis here on the War of Liberation in Zimbabwe.

00:05:11 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Since then, he has spread his tentacles across the entire continent. Indeed, Professor Alao is one of the very few scholars who's written a book on each on every region of sub-Saharan Africa.

00:05:27 Prof. Frans Berkhout

All his books have been published by prestigious publishing houses, usually university presses.

00:05:35 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Professor Alao has written on several themes and on each he has left his mark. For example, his original thinking about the role of natural resources in the lives of Africans and in the politics of their relations, at a time when few looked at natural resources.

00:05:53 Prof. Frans Berkhout

As a conflict or governance issue in 1999 earned him grants and awards from 2 prestigious funding organisations.

00:06:01 Prof. Frans Berkhout

The MacArthur Foundation and the Ford Foundation, one of the results of this apart from 2 modules in the curriculum at King's College, is his Seminole Book, the Tragedy of Endowment, Natural resources and conflict in Africa.

00:06:16 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Professor Alao has a way with words and his ability to coin beautiful phrases and craft titles is widely recognised among his peers. Listen to some of the titles of his articles and books.

00:06:31 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Diamonds are forever, but so also are controversies.

00:06:37 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Another one, the metaphor metamorphosis of the unorthodox.

00:06:42 Prof. Frans Berkhout

And finally, the burden off collective goodwill Professor Abiodun allow has also played major roles in the in bringing peace and stability to the African continent. Shortly after the Rwandan genocide, he was one of the four.

00:06:59 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Who went into that country to draw up a comprehensive threat assessment for the country? He also co-authored the national Security Strategy framework for Liberia after that country's bitter civil war.

00:07:11 Prof. Frans Berkhout

The African Union called on him to assist in the writing of the concept note for the common defence and security policy.

00:07:19 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Before the African continent, while the United Nations invited him to serve on the academic committee that advised the office of the United Nations Secretary General during the Civil War in Sierra Leone.

00:07:31 Prof. Frans Berkhout

I'll be all Doom has traversed the African continent from Cape Cape Town to Cairo.

00:07:39 Prof. Frans Berkhout

He blends in with local communities in all these countries with great ease. Whether one is talking of Kigali in Rwanda.

00:07:49 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Bujumbura in Burundi or Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, a professor Alao knows the shops of local tailors, shoemakers. He's a very natty dresser. Barbers and and restaurants market women, I believe, greet him.

00:08:05 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Joy at every reunion out for.

00:08:08 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Obviously a good customer there is also a joke with everyone and all consider him to be one of their own with some of them even giving him local names. We call him Charles, of course.

00:08:22 Prof. Frans Berkhout

This ability to mix with people across the board has its own advantages and at least on one occasion it may have saved his life. During his trip to an African country undergoing civil crisis, someone drew a gun on him and demanded all his possessions.

00:08:38 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Professor allow said he was 99% sure that there was number bullet in the gun, but he was also smart enough to realise that the 1% uncertainty may be the difference between life and death. He calmly engaged this young man.

00:08:53 Prof. Frans Berkhout

And took a conversation with him in the course of their discussion, it was discovered that they were both fanatical supporters of Arsenal Football Club.

00:09:04 Prof. Frans Berkhout

In that we also share a similar.

00:09:10 Prof. Frans Berkhout

I'm discovering also the discussion then shifted to which player Arsene Wenger should sell or buy, or whether indeed Arsene Wenger should resign his post immediately paved in. In the end, the young he gave the young person the equivalent of 10 lbs.

00:09:25 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Which by that time was a gift rather than something obtained under intimidation.

00:09:31 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Professor Lau's deep interest for Africa has now been extended.

00:09:34 Prof. Frans Berkhout

His children.

00:09:37 Prof. Frans Berkhout

His first child is studying politics and African Studies at SOAS, while the second aspires to study international relations. I believe either here at King's College it would be great, or perhaps the place over the roads, which shall be nameless.

00:09:52 Prof. Frans Berkhout

This solicitor wife has now come to realise that she has lost out completely where career choices for the children are concerned. Professor Alao has served as an important connector.

00:10:06 Prof. Frans Berkhout

African students and academics in the UK and the respect they all have for him, has earned him the title of elder's elder statesman amongst his African colleagues, professor, allow is a kind teacher, a great mentor and electrifying an intellect and a genuine.

00:10:24 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Time tested friend who's been a joy to know and to work with.

00:10:44 Prof. Abiodun Alao

I thank you very much indeed, Frans, for that. For a moment I couldn't even recognise myself in that introduction.

00:10:52 Prof. Abiodun Alao

And let me also add my voice to that of Frans in welcoming her to King's letter London and to thank you for taking time out of your various busy schedules to attend this lecture. I.

00:11:04 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Appreciate it.

00:11:06 Prof. Abiodun Alao

As you all know, the Nobel lecturers allocations for acknowledging intellectual deaths and so committee first recognise for people who knew when it all began.

00:11:19 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Professor Salary's Friedman, who was the head of Boston, his department when I came in as a student and thank you very much for the Solaris Goodman.

OO:11:30 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Doctor Barry Parsky, who was my supervisor when I started my PhD and he saw me through the entire PhD. Thank you very much. I've not seen by it as much as she would since he retired from the college. But thank you very much for coming.

OO:11:44 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Then I must mention Professor James Mayer, who was one of those who examined my my PhD.

OO:11:51 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Remain a very good friend.

OO:11:54 Prof. Abiodun Alao

When was adec? And since they moved to become the first sarpati Shay professor of International Relations at Cambridge.

OO:12:01 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Thank you very much.

OO:12:03 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Professor, Mayor and finally I want to recognise the presence of Professor Kitaga, the vice principal, former Vice Principal International at King's College. It was his most respected senior colleague and a very good friend.

OO:12:19 Prof. Abiodun Alao

I know I'm incredibly busy. You all are and I want to thank you once again for coming.

OO:12:25 Prof. Abiodun Alao

I believe in many ways you can consider this inaugural lecture to be one of the reforms of the investment in me. Thank you.

OO:12:34 Prof. Abiodun Alao

That's a big job for me to welcome my wife, Arun Kay. And I also really delightful children. When you put that on algebra interests me, I think it's the first time we've ever watched me.

OO:12:43 Prof. Abiodun Alao

A lecture.

OO:12:46 Prof. Abiodun Alao

You can debate it later without any think. I'm delighted or not.

OO:12:50 Prof. Abiodun Alao

But I.

OO:12:51 Prof. Abiodun Alao

You all understand if I recognise those who specifically travelled across continents to attend this? My sister for me, who came in from Sacramento in California yesterday, my younger brother Shalo, who came in from Nigeria.

OO:13:08 Prof. Abiodun Alao

And my sister and my brother-in-law G day, Father Day and his fancy loreanna who came in from Australia yesterday. Thank you very much indeed.

OO:13:17 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Again, I want to thank two of my family's closest friends and their parents, and represented there by Doctor Angela Kadeni and Ilaji Babali. I really I don't know what I've done to deserve friends like you, but whatever it was, I did it.

OO:13:32 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Thank you very much. Again, I want to recognise the presence of my friend and colleague Doctor Gordon Burunga, who came in from Kenya yesterday and is going tomorrow. We came up with this God. We thank you very much. Thank you very much indeed.

OO:13:47 Prof. Abiodun Alao

And again, I want to thank my school mates Jemaine Dannygi and Rodrigue, who came in from Nigeria to represent the to represent the federal government collected on all student association. Many thanks.

00:14:00 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Finally, I want to mention.

00:14:03 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Colleagues who organise all these events from behind the scene, you, Runa and her colleagues, I really appreciate this. Thank you.

00:14:10 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Now, before I start sounding like someone making an Academy Award acceptance speech.

00:14:16 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Let me move to the business of the day.

00:14:20 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Ladies and gentlemen.

00:14:23 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Inaugural lectures focusing on Africa and not common currencies in British universities.

00:14:29 Prof. Abiodun Alao

It won't be delivered on Africa by an African. All the more so making this perhaps the first to be delivered here at King's College London.

00:14:40 Prof. Abiodun Alao

But I stand before you deceive me to represent a very long and successful connection.

00:14:45 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Not many people may know this, but King's College London has a very strong and unique relationship with the African continent as far back as 1858, when the college was students at.

00:15:00 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Two creosote of Nigerian descent, James Alton and William Davis, graduated as medical doctors from this college.

00:15:08 Prof. Abiodun Alao

One of these three people, James Arting, was an exceptionally remarkable student, so much so that the principle of King's College London in 1858, which are joked, wrote a special testimony on the thug of Remember 1858, in which he commended the Young African for winning the College Prize for surgery and for collecting five additional certificates.

00:15:29 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Nation in different branches of medical education.

00:15:34 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Apart from putting and Davis, two other Nigerians, Nathaniel King and Obadiah Johnson also graduated as educate doctors from King's College London in 1874 and 1884 respectively.

00:15:48 Prof. Abiodun Alao

This college indeed played a unique role in training the first set of medical doctors of West Africa.

00:15:55 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Training 4 of the 8 panels of the medical progression in the region between 1858 and 1895.

00:16:01 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Although equality has still been on, no record has yet been found of any British university graduating an African from the continent before King Scarlett, London did 158 years ago.

00:16:16 Prof. Abiodun Alao

It made us be the case that when the first university in the United Kingdom to produce an African.

00:16:23 Prof. Abiodun Alao

While this unique extension should allow us the modesty of self, congratulations, it also imposes its own responsibility, as it now beholds us to give our connection with African continent with the publicity.

00:16:38 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Other universities with less remarkable attachment to the continent are already doing this.

00:16:44 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Now, more than 150 years after this great Blazers and stand before you this evening to inaugurate a child of African Studies.

00:16:52 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Yeah, at King's Alexander.

00:16:55 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Among trajectory to this position has been quite recently incidental.

00:17:00 Prof. Abiodun Alao

I came as a doctoral student in 1987 and thanks to the kindness of the head of World Studies Department professor data, salaries Friedman, I was offered the opportunity to join the staff of the department.

00:17:13 Prof. Abiodun Alao

In a way, destiny seems to have decreed that I and another colleague and friend, because of your donation, will be among those to personify African Studies in this college, at least in the fields of politics and security studies.

00:17:31 Prof. Abiodun Alao

For the moment to the sudden second journey and.

00:17:35 Prof. Abiodun Alao

We have tried to consolidate our coop, to consolidate African Studies in these two fields of study.

00:17:41 Prof. Abiodun Alao

If considerable success has attended our efforts in this direction, and I hope that thus this is due mainly to the crop of genuinely wonderful students and colleagues that have worked with us.

00:17:53 Prof. Abiodun Alao

On my own part, I've tried as much as possible to ensure that the relationship between between me and my students.

00:18:01 Prof. Abiodun Alao

I've been mutually beneficial.

00:18:04 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Sometimes they convinced me.

00:18:07 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Few times I convinced them most of the time, though, we all remain unconvinced.

00:18:15 Prof. Abiodun Alao

But the haunting obsession in every case is our determination to put Africa in the correct perspective to those who really want to know the truth about the continent.

00:18:26 Prof. Abiodun Alao

It is just appropriate against this background, ladies and gentlemen, that this inaugural lecture is used more as an occasion to correctly situate the place of Africa in global perspective and in doing this correct some intricate stereotypes about the continent.

00:18:43 Prof. Abiodun Alao

But just before I go into the topic of.

00:18:45 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Lecture.

00:18:46 Prof. Abiodun Alao

I need to make a statement about the professorial chair that I occupy that of African Studies. I believe that any board of which chair with that title must always confess to a measure of dividends in order.

00:19:00 Prof. Abiodun Alao

And such a person cannot unlock other professorial chair holder, consider himself or herself as a custodian of the esoteric.

00:19:09 Prof. Abiodun Alao

This is because it is difficult to call one step and experts on the continent of the continent, with 54 countries, more than 1 billion people and several thousands of languages, without looking like the GPS seller of the questionable intellectual products.

00:19:25 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Indeed, Africa is always an ongoing project and I can only hope that the confirmation of Xiaomi will further enable me to study the continent more and in the process be in a position to bring more awareness to what?

00:19:40 Prof. Abiodun Alao

The lecture engaging Africa continent and me, so that regions of the world.

00:19:47 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Moving now to the subject of my lecture.

00:19:50 Prof. Abiodun Alao

The position I want to put forward in this letter is. Isn't it predictable from the title?

00:19:55 Prof. Abiodun Alao

When I understand that the objective of the Nagra lecture is for the inaugurating professor to showcase his contribution to the discipline, I want to weave my around a team that has contemporary relevance and one which underlines what I've tried to do.

00:20:12 Prof. Abiodun Alao

In my career, the objective is to tell my audience that Africa is getting out of the pit-able condition that underlies negative stereotypes to it.

00:20:22 Prof. Abiodun Alao

I also want to argue that the future of the continent is bright, even if there are quite a number of things that people have to do in order to get to.

00:20:30 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Promised land.

00:20:32 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Indeed, Africa means different into different people.

00:20:36 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Nothing brings this reality on to me more than the adverse welcoming visitors to democratic international airports in Nairobi, Kenya. The advancement.

00:20:48 Prof. Abiodun Alao

They call it Africa. We call it oh.

00:20:53 Prof. Abiodun Alao

But it goes without saying that Africa is always had a receiving hand of the Baptist institutes that have been reflected in several academic and political announcements.

00:21:02 Prof. Abiodun Alao

This negative views have been underlined by issues like civil wars, farming, high level of poverty, the pressure of the Youth board and several others.

00:21:14 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Against this background, scores of places have been employed to describe the continent, including it being labelled as the dark of hopeless continent.

00:21:24 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Indeed, a question many are often asked most of the time, rhetorically, is how do we solve the African problem.

00:21:34 Prof. Abiodun Alao

In the various assets provided to this question, one sometimes find one set aboard by the extent of negative use of Africa.

00:21:43 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Frustrated by the Reductance to appreciate the peculiarities of the continent.

00:21:49 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Irritated by the simplicity presentation of Africans views.

00:21:53 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Disappointed by some African scholars, implicit endorsement of these negative assertions.

00:22:00

Outraged.

00:22:01 Prof. Abiodun Alao

By the lack of recognition of some of the positive changes taking place on the continent.

00:22:06 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Dissatisfied by the double standard with which judgments are part of Africa and above all, be paused by the increasing gun challenge responses by some Africans to Afro pessimism as stereotypical depictions of the continent of their birth.

00:22:23 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Bradley, I want to do a number of things.

00:22:25 Prof. Abiodun Alao

This lecture first.

00:22:28 Prof. Abiodun Alao

I want to identify why what I consider responsible for the negatives, negative stereotypes that existed about Africa.

00:22:37 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Second, I want to explain how things are turning around and how the continent is now becoming a voice to be heard rather than a problem to solve.

00:22:46 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Said I want to interrogate how the world is responding to the neighbours of Africa.

00:22:52 Prof. Abiodun Alao

4th I want to identify some of the issues that can stunt Africans gradually emergence. And finally I want to situate my place and that of principle, London in the rise of Africa's voice. Now Africa became a problem to be solved.

00:23:10 Prof. Abiodun Alao

I'm Friday, Marissa to 1st understand the reasons for the negative stereotypes about Africa and I came to a number of conclusions.

00:23:18 Prof. Abiodun Alao

First, I concluded that colonialism was without doubt a game changer.

00:23:25 Prof. Abiodun Alao

In discussing the impact of colonialism, I recognise that some people are now trying to downgrade the importance of this historical occurrence in explaining Africa's problem.

00:23:35 Prof. Abiodun Alao

More than half a century after polarisation, these people argue that Africa should advance stronger disease to explain its predicament. After all, they argue, Africans were not the only people that experienced colonialism and that other victims of colonial rule are now making giant strikes.

00:23:54 Prof. Abiodun Alao

In short, by talking about colonialism after more than half a century of independence, these people think that Africa is merely making a three course meal.

00:24:06 Prof. Abiodun Alao

I disagree with this position.

00:24:09 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Yes, I considered Africans who are not the only people that are.

00:24:13 Prof. Abiodun Alao

So.

00:24:14 Prof. Abiodun Alao

So are the people in Asia and Latin America. Both Africans were the only people that had their own colonial experience, preceded by three centuries of slavery.

00:24:24 Prof. Abiodun Alao

So that was the case of bubble warming in quick succession.

00:24:29 Prof. Abiodun Alao

What are the consequences of colonialism? Are just too diverse? Let me draw your attention to one of its consequences that is often overlooked.

00:24:37 Prof. Abiodun Alao

This is its impact on state permission in Africa.

00:24:41 Prof. Abiodun Alao

The first will bring it together of people that have very little in common to form nation state as severe consequences.

00:24:49 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Imagine trying to possibly create a united Europe where the French, the German and the English will all have to live together and elect a single president. This is what colonialism imposed on Africa and it was on this that the people have to involve nation states.

00:25:08 Prof. Abiodun Alao

I'm sure some of you will see the inevitability of instability in the scenario painted above.

00:25:14 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Indeed, we all know that cementing the group harmony among ethnic units that come together to form nation states is a long and tedious process.

00:25:24 Prof. Abiodun Alao

It is Scots and English as still negotiating and discussing the times of the association after more than 300 years of living together, nothing different should be expected of the houses and unifying in Nigeria after those 50 years.

00:25:39 Prof. Abiodun Alao

A second reason why the traffic light always seems to change to red when it's applicant was the timing of the continent entrance into the international system.

00:25:49 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Imagine just about the time the Cold War.

00:25:51 Prof. Abiodun Alao

At its.

00:25:52 Prof. Abiodun Alao

African countries got wired into an international system. They took no part in creating, and one that was not designed to recognise them.

00:26:02 Prof. Abiodun Alao

But I've been inducted CARDINALISM and XML influences. What would be ridiculously dishonest not to concede that there were a number of self-inflicted wounds that brought Africa down.

00:26:14 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Yeah, I could consider good planes at the doorsteps of Africa and elites. These elites need a political, academic, or even religious, while responsible for some of the most colour tax against their population.

00:26:27 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Democratising the looting of treasury rather than consolidating political democracy.

00:26:34 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Institutionalising brutality. Instead of making the population secure and in touching nepotism instead of establishing structures around which sustainable development of the continent could be established, indeed.

00:26:49 Prof. Abiodun Alao

It is clear, beyond any shadow of doubt, that man from independence, Africa has had the tragedy of leadership and this and this perhaps steps to explain why the continent came to be perceived as a problem to be solved.

00:27:04 Prof. Abiodun Alao

But far more than all the courses identified above, negative stereotypes about Africa were intrinsic because of the inability of Africans themselves to influence narratives about the continent.

00:27:18 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Indeed, Africa's negative reputation is based not on the magnitude of the challenges it was facing, but more because it was not in a position to shape narratives that go into global thinking about the continent.

00:27:33 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Anyone who determines the direction?

00:27:35 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Of the knowledge that you consume dictate everything that relates to your existence, the age dump.

00:27:41 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Saying that, if you place the papers, the 30 tune cannot be more appropriate than in the way external narratives dominate. Thinking policy and perception about Africa.

00:27:54 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Even the politics of knowledge production was for a long time not in favour of the functioning. For example, right from kindergarten, African children were taught to the popular nursery rhyme A is for Apple, when in reality most of the children had never seen Apple.

00:28:12 Prof. Abiodun Alao

African countries.

00:28:18 Prof. Abiodun Alao

They then form up to associate the alphabet a with the image of a product produced elsewhere, thus beginning the process whereby the knowledge they are consuming is externally conceived.

00:28:30 Prof. Abiodun Alao

As secondary school students, I remember, we studied the geography of North America when we were not encouraged to read the capital city or capital countries. Apart from our own.

00:28:41 Prof. Abiodun Alao

In many universities, the experts of Napoleon Bonaparte was first on the truth of history. Undergraduate students that are not exposed to the activities of deadly chematic who deadly Maumour rebellion in Kenya, in short.

00:28:56 Prof. Abiodun Alao

All through their history, Africans were gallantly mimicking narratives whose origin and intense they did not fully comprehend. All these were to have consequences that all contributed to the inconsequential recognition that is often given.

00:29:13 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Now the rights of Africa.

00:29:17 Prof. Abiodun Alao

In the last one or two decades, however, things have been changing, and now with what I just said, the change began after Africa started challenging foreign narratives about the continent. As will be shown later, just sincerely and other colleagues here at this College London have made modest contributions in this regard.

00:29:38 Prof. Abiodun Alao

But the original leadership of this emergent African voice came from policy practitioners and academics. For example, they are deeply economic Commission for Africa, forcefully challenged the World Bank and the IMF argument over the introduction of structural adjustments.

00:29:58 Prof. Abiodun Alao

And came up with credible evidence based and authentic research to suggest alternative to the policy.

00:30:05 Prof. Abiodun Alao

A number of African late research groups, like pedestrian in Senegal during universities like Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and Amadi Bedouin in Nigeria to champion the arrival of African legs narrative.

00:30:19 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Now let me preface my discussion about African slice with a class statement of facts.

00:30:27 Prof. Abiodun Alao

When I say that Africa is now a voice to be asked, I do not mean that the continent is no longer facing major challenges, that we keep it in global watch list before anyone reminds me I'm aware of the problem in Burundi.

00:30:42 Prof. Abiodun Alao

In South Sudan, in Central African Republic.

00:30:47 Prof. Abiodun Alao

In the Democratic Republic of Congo.

00:30:49 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Yes, I know that this countries are the intensive CAD unit of peace and stability hospital.

00:30:56 Prof. Abiodun Alao

And publicans of Gokulabe Nigeria, the activities of Al Shabab in Somalia and the role of Al Qaeda in Islamic Maghrib.

00:31:06 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Without doubt, these are problems that still face the continent, but they are not in any way significantly different from what is happening in many other continents that have not been so negatively sterilised.

00:31:18 Prof. Abiodun Alao

I wish to reflect in this lecture the number of key areas where Africa's voice is getting audible.

00:31:25 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Forces the continent natural resource endowment.

00:31:29 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Indeed, more than we think the world depends on Africa in a number of strategic ways, the continent has about 30% of world's no reserve of mineral resources, about 10% of its oil, 8% of its gas.

00:31:44 Prof. Abiodun Alao

The largest coal Burt Diamond latinum and uranium uranium reserves.

00:31:50 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Africa is the home to the second largest tropical forest. It has many of the world's greatest rivers, including river now, which is the longest in the.

00:32:00 Prof. Abiodun Alao

What live in East Africa, for example, has attracted global interest and attention.

00:32:08 Prof. Abiodun Alao

The global impact of.

00:32:10 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Are remarkable, and the world and the world knows this. For example, the US Vice President Joe Biden noted recently that the annual importation of 50 billion worth of goods from Africa.

00:32:24 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Is keeping at least 250,000 Americans unemployment.

00:32:28 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Also, the Republic of Vijay which is the?

00:32:32 Prof. Abiodun Alao

'So fourth largest producer of gelina supplies up to 10% of electricity to France.

00:32:39 Prof. Abiodun Alao

The Gulf of Guinea has now become strategic in global high politics. The examples I again can be multiplied several times over.

00:32:47 Prof. Abiodun Alao

And I think context is the changing attitude to the management of these resources.

00:32:52 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Once in the past, African natural resources were massively exploited without the people being able to question their leaders. Now leaders are held accountable.

00:33:04 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Again, one foreign multinational companies and previously been built in the continent, resources with impunity. Local population are now asking questions.

00:33:15 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Although as you will be pointed out later in this lecture, there are still a number of challenges in the politics of natural resource management.

00:33:21 Prof. Abiodun Alao

In Africa, however, remarkable progress has been made in this direction.

00:33:28 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Possibly because of this I mean other.

00:33:30 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Factors the economic situation in Africa is also changing of the 15th fastest growing economies in the world, 10 are from the African continent.

00:33:41 Prof. Abiodun Alao

More than 1/3 of the population are climbed to the middle class.

00:33:46 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Still on the economy more than ever before, the figures are now beginning to harder for the continent. According to the figures released by the United Nations, Africa's average good of 5% is faster than the global average.

00:34:00 Prof. Abiodun Alao

With growth, with eight of the world's 10 most performing countries coming from the continent.

00:34:07 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Indeed, things have never been this good for the African continent. From \$600 billion in 2000, Africa's GDP increased 3 folds to 2.3 trillion in 2013.

00:34:22 Prof. Abiodun Alao

When it is considered that it took China 12 years to go with GDP per capita and 117 years are in the same field, all wages are countries. Africa's three fold transition in 12 years is a not worthy achievement.

00:34:38 Prof. Abiodun Alao

The continent again boasts of the youngest population in the world, and by 2040 it looks set to have the world's largest labour force, thus having an opportunity to be transformed into global economic powerhouse.

00:34:52 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Social, economic and infrastructure development are also improving significantly, so Webber rates of infants have improved to about 36% in the last two decades, even though it still remains one of the world's poorest.

00:35:08 Prof. Abiodun Alao

It has been an improvement over what it was before.

00:35:12 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Over the last two decades, Africa has also made unprecedented progress in the development of education.

00:35:19 Prof. Abiodun Alao

60 million more children in sub-Saharan Africa are enrolled in.

00:35:23 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Schools today.

00:35:25 Prof. Abiodun Alao

With net enrollment rising from 52% in 1990 to 77% in 2011.

00:35:32 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Enrollment in secondary education has more than doubled from 20.8 million to 46.3 million during the same period.

00:35:43 Prof. Abiodun Alao

In the area of the establishment of democratic rule, Africa's voice is also increasing and becoming more credible.

00:35:51 Prof. Abiodun Alao

It would defeat autocratic leaders in the continent are now realising that their days are numbered and that the numbers are few indeed.

00:36:00 Prof. Abiodun Alao

With very few exception, all the countries in the continent are undergoing democratic transition. So successful elections have been organised in many African countries, with the incumbent government, in some cases losing to the opposition.

00:36:15 Prof. Abiodun Alao

These are developments completely unprecedable a couple of decades ago. Of course, there are still a number of seat titles and 3rd time seekers, but things are significantly getting better. The continent has moved from an era when equipment retain power by avoiding elections.

00:36:35 Prof. Abiodun Alao

To one year elections and mandatory part of democratic process, however compromised.

00:36:41 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Although the Democratic Republic of Congo and Intergo.

00:36:46 Prof. Abiodun Alao

In the cases of Joseph Kabila and for Eyadéma

00:36:52 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Gradients of these parties is not without precedence in other parts of the.

00:36:56 Prof. Abiodun Alao

For example, Chile map of Mandanike became the Prime Minister of Ceylon President of Sri Lanka after the assassination of her husband.

00:37:05 Prof. Abiodun Alao

While not too long ago, Raul Castro succeeded his brother Fidel as the Cuban leader. Consequently, a uniqueness picture cannot be painted of Africa in the parties of family members succeeding one another in office.

00:37:21 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Even this aside for a while, it seems certain that the greatest asset of Africa is its population, especially the youth.

00:37:31 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Presently, more than 60% of the continent's population is under 35 years. This youths are resilient and resourceful, while in the past they are always considered themselves as the neglected majority in an job social circle.

00:37:47 Prof. Abiodun Alao

African youths are now coming out forcefully to be the voice of the country.

00:37:52 Prof. Abiodun Alao

For example, from nothing youth in Nigeria developed in Hollywood film industry, making it the second largest in the world after India's Bollywood and Matthew. They did this without government interference.

00:38:06 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Young musicians across the continent are matching the European and American consequences in sports, African youths are making their mark even in foreign leagues, with one of them winning the African.

00:38:21 Prof. Abiodun Alao

European and what's brother of the year awards all at once?

00:38:26 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Just last year, Nigerians under 17 team won the FIFA World Cup for the 5th time 1/5 unprecedented in the history of the competition.

00:38:39 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Yes.

00:38:40 Prof. Abiodun Alao

There are some youths engaging fraudulent activities, especially Internet scams.

00:38:45 Prof. Abiodun Alao

And the actions should be condemned. But I also believe that it takes a combination of intense greed and unimaginable foolishness before their beauty. But on the whole, saying that significant positive changes are going on in Africa.

00:39:01 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Is definitely not a displaced utterance.

00:39:06 Prof. Abiodun Alao

How the world is taking the new possible voice of Africa.

00:39:13 Prof. Abiodun Alao

The anticipated success of Africa has naturally resorted in the emergence of a plethora of external Afro enthusiasts who want to adapt the success the success of Africa to their own.

00:39:28 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Already good traditional global powers and emerging ones with assistance of the academics are busy defining long term strategies for engaging the continent.

00:39:40 Prof. Abiodun Alao

They don't strategy of warming up to African countries or rapidly buying their resources is an unfolding pattern.

00:39:48 Prof. Abiodun Alao

The patient Africa book from traditional and emerging powers now seem to be first in Africa to make a choice between bad and awful.

00:39:59 Prof. Abiodun Alao

The good Department of China cannot escape attention here.

00:40:02 Prof. Abiodun Alao

And the contest amidification of this relationship is perhaps close watching.

00:40:07 Prof. Abiodun Alao

As we all know, the most common 3 letter word in the world today are made in China.

00:40:15 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Hopefully this will not be near future be replaced by another three letter word this time around by China.

00:40:23 Prof. Abiodun Alao

If this is to happen, Africa needs resources should not be on top of the list of Chinese acquisitions.

00:40:30 Prof. Abiodun Alao

So how can Africa retain, consolidate and advance?

00:40:35 Prof. Abiodun Alao

This now gives me to the next question how can African ensure that its voice continues to be heard?

00:40:41 Prof. Abiodun Alao

1st, the company needs to recognise that its institutions are weak.

00:40:48 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Indeed, while my objective in this elector is to dismiss with the fury of our New Testament prophets, the whole notion of hypocrisyism let me openly admit that I believe that the African continent is suffering from.

00:41:06 Prof. Abiodun Alao

This time around, however, I'm not talking of hates. As in a disease, but aids an acronym that stands for acute institutional deficiency syndrome.

OO:41:19 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Now, very few institutions across the continent along which credible structures can be built.

OO:41:26 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Institutions on the continent are either completely weak or selectively efficient. The implications of this can be seen in everything. Consequently, the first step that should be taken to ensure is to ensure that the institutions.

OO:41:41 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Are strong and credible.

OO:41:43 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Also for the African boys to be had the mortgaging of his resources has to stop.

OO:41:50 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Across the continent, foreign companies, foreign countries and multinational corporations are acquiring huge expanse of land under arrangements whose awkwardness is visible to the blank.

OO:42:02 Prof. Abiodun Alao

As we all know, life is undoubtedly the most important natural resource in Africa.

OO:42:09 Prof. Abiodun Alao

It's important to transcend economics into a better social situa and political significance, among other things, land is considered as a place of birth.

OO:42:20 Prof. Abiodun Alao

The place where the assessors are laid to rest, where the creator has designated to be passed down to successive generation and the final resting place to every child born on its surface. Consequently, every society in Africa sees land as a natural resource that is held in trust for future generations.

OO:42:40 Prof. Abiodun Alao

And the sacredness of this trust should be Parliament in the minds of this negotiating the future of Africa's land.

00:42:47 Prof. Abiodun Alao

As I always tell my students in Africa, people don't fight over diamonds or gold, not even over her. Rather, they fight over the land accommodating these resources.

00:43:01 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Indeed, they might recite into the into conflicts over natural resources in Africa. I have not come across any case where resources like diamond, gold or oil are cost conflicts.

00:43:15 Prof. Abiodun Alao

The publicity these resources have had in the security capillas is mainly because of their connections to the prolongation of conflicts, not reasons for their courses.

00:43:27 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Therefore, this in South Africa's land as well ramifications.

00:43:32 Prof. Abiodun Alao

In the colours world, we are multinational corporations and company baggage, with the most minimal conscience. African leaders should realise the popular saying that in life you don't get what you deserve. Rather you get what you negotiate.

00:43:49 Prof. Abiodun Alao

An application the applicant did that she always negotiate, right?

00:43:54 Prof. Abiodun Alao

This now gives me to the discussion on the opus of Bachelor resources in the politics of African Voice, a subject around which I've made a Buddhist contribution to literature.

00:44:06 Prof. Abiodun Alao

No doubt Africa is a continent which in natural resources but poor in governance.

00:44:12 Prof. Abiodun Alao

It is this property in governance that explains many conflicts over natural resources in Africa.

OO:44:19 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Interestingly, my research has shown that there is no direct correlation between natural resources and conflicts beyond structures, processes, and actors associated with the management and control of these resources, for example.

OO:44:34 Prof. Abiodun Alao

One of Diamond is at the centre of country conflict in Syria. The same resource has been responsible for Botswana's phenomenal economic growth.

OO:44:43 Prof. Abiodun Alao

The goal that has turned Democratic Republic of Congo into chaos is the same that is enabling South Africa under all the way to the bank.

OO:44:51 Prof. Abiodun Alao

In short, the impact of natural resources on security calculus is mainly functions of the laws and practise, since guiding the exploitation and management of these resources and know the circumstances of their meal, fiscal presence.

OO:45:07 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Africa does need to get the management right.

OO:45:12 Prof. Abiodun Alao

I will be remiss if I do not talk about.

OO:45:15 Prof. Abiodun Alao

A stigma that seems to have become somewhat synonymous with Africa.

OO:45:19 Prof. Abiodun Alao

But before I do this, let me make 2 passing comments first. Although Africa is a very major, corruption is a very major problem in Africa. It is not a monopoly of the continent.

OO:45:33 Prof. Abiodun Alao

The only defence in the politics of terminology that has been used to describe the situation in other parts of the.

00:45:40 Prof. Abiodun Alao

For example, what is called corruption in Africa is presented as sleaze in another.

00:45:48 Prof. Abiodun Alao

I want to describe in Africa as bribery is repackaged as.

00:45:53 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Cash for question in another context.

00:45:57 Prof. Abiodun Alao

2nd is the fact that foreign countries and businesses have obstacles contributed to the problem of corruption in Africa.

00:46:04 Prof. Abiodun Alao

For example, not many people would know that until recently, paying bribes to foreign public officials was legally permitted. In fact, businessmen and women that are bride falling public officials could claim tax reliefs for such disbursements.

00:46:21 Prof. Abiodun Alao

It was only during the times of clashes, as the Minister for Overseas Development that this practise was stopped. But Putin aside, the issue of terminology and.

00:46:30 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Impact of foreign industry it must be publicly admitted that corruption is a very major problem in Africa, and one that can undermine the effectiveness of Africa's voice. The continent should, as a matter of urgency.

00:46:46 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Build institutions and structures to cope corruption.

00:46:49 Prof. Abiodun Alao

And stop wastage.

00:46:52 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Also, the company needs to be more receptive to modern ideas. This position has been put more strongly by senior colleague Olivier.

00:47:02 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Indeed, there is a need to replicate cultural parties that are antithetical to development.

00:47:09 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Questions and inquiries should be encouraged.

00:47:12 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Orthodoxies should be challenged.

00:47:15 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Unhealthy conversions should be rejected.

00:47:18 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Useful dissensions should be encouraged. Critical thinking should be prioritised and innovative and path breaking ideas, especially in youth.

00:47:29 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Especially you.

00:47:34 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Should be commended. In short, Africa needs to change. Of course. I know it is difficult to embrace change as it is often said. The only person who likes change is a wet baby.

00:47:50 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Both African and Africa should understand that change must come and certain good practises will just have to go.

00:47:58 Prof. Abiodun Alao

How do you know that cultural practises to avoid?

00:48:01 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Things that can advance the continent is directly unreasonable.

00:48:06 Prof. Abiodun Alao

What's a boho Africa should take over the process of containing controlling its own narratives, dogmatic acceptance of narrative from outside is not only banal and devoid of vertical thinking, but actually wrong and potentially very harmful.

00:48:24 Prof. Abiodun Alao

African universities should stop assuming that excellence is domiciled outside the continent. Indigenous erudition has to be encouraged, and teaching and research have to be seriously revamped.

00:48:35 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Run.

00:48:37 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Also, African intellectuals in the diaspora must engage in constant conversation with the continent.

00:48:44 Prof. Abiodun Alao

As long as Africa relies on others, we can't experience more catalogue of words should be expected. As a popular proverb, African proverb says, until the Nons tell their tales, the story of the haunt, we always glorify the hunter.

00:49:02 Prof. Abiodun Alao

What I've done is I've defined the African voice.

00:49:06 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Since the nominal lecture is largely about an ineffectuating professor, some of you will expect me to say something about I got here and what I as an individual have done in the course of my career to amplify the African voice.

00:49:21 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Let me do this in few words. After Doctorating world studies where theses on Zimbabwe supervised by the Baskings, I remain committed to Southern Africa publishing my first book on the region.

00:49:33 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Geographically, my book then began with clockwise move force to West Africa, then East Africa, and then the entire continent, thematically across published a book on dissidence and rebellion.

00:49:47 Prof. Abiodun Alao

And then switch to civil wars, then peace, peace, peace in and later turn to security sector reform, then anti colonial agitation and later to the politics of natural resource management in 2013, however.

00:50:03 Prof. Abiodun Alao

I return to Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe.

00:50:04 Prof. Abiodun Alao

About two decades where the McGill, Queens University, based in Canada, published my book on about Garden.

00:50:11 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Currently I'm looking at religious radicalization and political violence in Africa, especially the activities of gokar. I'm in Nigeria, Al Shabab in Somalia, and al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghrib.

00:50:26 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Very closely with practitioners in virtually all international organisations working.

00:50:34 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Interacting with policy practitioners at a very top level of many of these organisations has showed me that there's a gap between the academic and the practitioner in any field, and this gap can be huge. While the academic is thinking to a conclusion the practitioner is thinking to a decision.

00:50:54 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Again, when the academic is deciding what to think, the practitioner deciding.

00:51:00 Prof. Abiodun Alao

What to do? All these involve different mental processes, but interaction between both sides can be mutually beneficial, and Africa indeed needs more of this.

However, far more than my research and policy work, I see my seats in the many students that I have taught.

00:51:19 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Both here at this College London and other African universities were taught the people whose disease have supervised and examined and those who for one reason or the other, look up to me.

00:51:31 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Leadership and direction.

00:51:33 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is my desire to keep innovating myself in the hands and mind of.

00:51:39 Prof. Abiodun Alao

People long after today.

00:51:42 Prof. Abiodun Alao

What has King's carried London done and is doing to give Africa voice during graduates? A close one may ask what has King's College London done to amplify the African voice? This is a legitimate question for a university that has been producing an African graduate since 1858.

00:52:02 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Nearly 18 years before Oxford University, whose own first African first Christian code matriculated in 1876 and 17 years before Cambridge, we are so far we have placed its Africa so African, first to Georg Nico, who matriculated in 1875.

00:52:22 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Well, I can say without any shadow of doubt that King'sthorpe London is making significant impact on our activities at big levels where we have had our self global reputation for which we are indeed very proud.

00:52:37 Prof. Abiodun Alao

We established the African Leadership Centre with the surname of addressing the leadership issue facing the continent and to give voice to the marginalised segment of the continent's population.

00:52:48 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Our first programme was on the African Women's Security Fellowship, which was conceived to enhance the capacity of African women in discussions of peace and security. Women fellows were brought to King's College London, where they were trained on specially designed programme.

00:53:05 Prof. Abiodun Alao

After week, they were attached to African Regional Organisation for six months.

00:53:10 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Most of our fellows have done exceptionally well with one of them currently serving as Deputy Foreign Minister of an African country, Deputy Foreign Minister of an African country one another has risen to the position of deputy director and one of Africa's foremost international organisation.

00:53:27 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Well, so you can see we have students in our places.

00:53:31 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Against the background of our success with the Women Fellowship, we established another fellowship programme this time around, leading to the award of postgraduate master's degree. The objective here is to assist in providing young veterans for Africa universities.

00:53:46 Prof. Abiodun Alao

And thus contribute to the building of the next generation of African scholars and allies and analyst, who will in turn shape Africa's narrative.

00:53:53 Prof. Abiodun Alao

So far in 10 years, the African Leadership Centre has got a little over 100 young Africans to King'ston on our fellowship programmes and they have all returned to

Africa where they're they are contributing their quarter to the development of the continent of the.

00:54:12 Prof. Abiodun Alao

World while at the same time flying the King's College London flag, I, as always in a couple of months time in due to the precise they will be having the anomaly junior high in London.

00:54:23 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Celebrating 10 years of the federation.

00:54:26 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Apart from my fellowship programmes, the AL Cs physically engaged on the continent.

00:54:34 Prof. Abiodun Alao

1st we have built the gap between diaspora and African population and African scholars with the deep support of the cadets. We are negotiating joint degrees programmes with universities across the continent. We have also been involved in policy population.

00:54:49 Prof. Abiodun Alao

At the highest level in organisations like the United Nations, the African Union and various region Economic Community.

00:54:56 Prof. Abiodun Alao

And I've sent my veranda of understanding with many of these organisations.

00:55:01 Prof. Abiodun Alao

We also quietly engaging senior level practitioners by asking them to come and share their experience of the international engagement there at King's College.

00:55:11 Prof. Abiodun Alao

And finally, we are working on an arrangement where the tired African President will be coming to Peace College London to participate in our African leadership.

00:55:21 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Programmes all these are part of our effort, our own efforts to show that Africa is now realising its importance in a world that are preferred, treated as being insignificant.

00:55:35 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Conclusion. Now, in concluding this lecture that in a brief me as Professor of African Studies at London, let me say that I recognise that the burden on me and others have to champion the study of Africa that I discovered, is quite enormous.

00:55:51 Prof. Abiodun Alao

The colon has placed a huge responsibility on us as it has mandated us to allow the Don of a new era of African Studies at the college.

00:56:00 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Reflecting on the pace of this College College London.

00:56:03 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Which was not a best, traditionally known for its Saudi Africa inauguration of a professor of African Studies, is a testimony to the commitment of the College in writing new scripts about Africa.

00:56:17 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Thus putting thus putting aside for a moment the content of this lecture and focusing primarily on the expectation that we collect on our own determination to see this fulfilled, I think a way I can hand this inaugural lecture is to borrow a leaf. From what I consider to be the first inaugural lecture ever to be delivered.

00:56:36 Prof. Abiodun Alao

This was the one delivered by Jesus Christ.

00:56:39 Prof. Abiodun Alao

When, just at the beginning of his assignment, he went to the synagogue in Nazareth and read from the Book of Proverbs Isaiah, saying the spirit of the Lord is upon me, because there's anointed me to pick gospel to the poor.

00:56:52 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Has sent me to hear the broken hearted.

00:56:55 Prof. Abiodun Alao

To pick deliverance to the captain and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty. Then that agree in the same way. I believe the spirit of this collected dunder is upon us, because it has anointed us to preach a strong message to the world.

00:57:11 Prof. Abiodun Alao

To contribute to the healing of broken views about Africa.

00:57:15 Prof. Abiodun Alao

To put deliverance to those health captive in elements, belief about the continent and in the process assisting the recovery of goods side to those who see nothing but tragedies about Africa.

00:57:27 Prof. Abiodun Alao

This is a mandate that we.

00:57:28 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Taken very seriously.

00:57:30 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Going back to the focus of this lecture, let me conclude by saying that in a world that critical, the sluggish and demolishes the weak. Africa should not only be a continent in the early but a continent. Hurry for a purpose.

00:57:45 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Henceforth, when all the continents of the world come together to discuss development.

00:57:50 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Never again should Africa look like the legitimate child in a family reunion because far more than being a problem to be solved, the continent is indeed.

00:58:03 Prof. Abiodun Alao

Now a void to be had, I thank you all for your patience and your patience in listening to me.

00:58:09

Yeah.

00:58:36 Speaker 3

Ladies and gentlemen.

00:58:39 Speaker 3

I was touched more than I can say when Aberdon asked me to deliver.

00:58:48 Speaker 3

This vote of thanks.

00:58:51 Speaker 3

For its inspiring.

00:58:53 Speaker 3

And as always with everything that he does, exceedingly thoughtful.

00:58:59 Speaker 3

Inaugural lecture that we've just heard. Having heard it, I feel even more touched, but also deeply privileged at.

00:59:12 Speaker 3

Being asked to do this.

00:59:17 Speaker 3

I've known him. I.

00:59:22 Speaker 3

I put down more or less since he arrived, but is actually before he arrived to become a PhD student for Lawrence Friedman and with Barry.

00:59:34 Speaker 3

Very. I first met him.

00:59:41 Speaker 3

At E FA.

00:59:45 Speaker 3

Where, which is of course not only the place where the world starts.

00:59:58 Speaker 3

But is the place where the first Department of International Relations on the African continent was established by GDR Luco.

01:00:10 Speaker 3

Who was in fact my second research student?

01:00:16 Speaker 3

Which makes me feel very proud, but also quite incredibly ancient, and I have to apologise to that.

01:00:25 Speaker 3

But apart from J day and the department in Ilay.

01:00:33 Speaker 3

There were, of course, several of the younger staff members there, including Sherla, Ojo, Amadou cease, and from the history department, Shirley, all of whom.

01:00:49 Speaker 3

Had worked with me in the place that shall remain nameless.

01:00:54 Speaker 3

Just across the.

01:00:59 Speaker 3

The school across the road in the Alderwych did not exist.

01:01:06 Speaker 3

When, as we have learnt this evening.

01:01:10 Speaker 3

Casey L's Long association with Africa began.

01:01:15 Speaker 3

But I think Abioden would probably agree that until he and thumny.

01:01:23 Speaker 3

Arrived to apply the principles of good husbandry to this ancient seed bed.

01:01:31 Speaker 3

And of course, events in the outside world simultaneously conspired to force Africa up the international agenda.

01:01:43 Speaker 3

It had largely lain fallow.

01:01:46 Speaker 3

It was in these circumstances.

01:01:50 Speaker 3

Graduate School.

01:01:53 Speaker 3

And the graduate course on African politics.

01:01:58 Speaker 3

That I taught with Keith Pant.

01:02:00 Speaker 3

Brick in the government department for over 30 years and which produced this cast of characters who are just mentioned. It was in these circumstances.

01:02:15 Speaker 3

That I think.

01:02:17 Speaker 3

We.

01:02:17 Speaker 3

We.

01:02:19 Speaker 3

Played a role in sort of holding the line until Abioden and Fumley came along and look at the consequences.

01:02:29 Speaker 3

Ladies and gentlemen, in this room tonight.

01:02:35 Speaker 3

So it's a terrific achievement and I think we.

01:02:41 Speaker 3

For them and for the study of contemporary Africa and for King's College. And they're all to be congratulated for seizing the baton. So.

01:02:53 Speaker 3

Firmly and decisively.

01:02:56 Speaker 3

I'm sure we've all learned.

01:02:59 Speaker 3

Much from ABI Aden's remarkable lecture this evening.

01:03:05 Speaker 3

I certainly.

01:03:08 Speaker 3

But before I ask you, and believe me, I'm not going to rabbit on.

01:03:12 Speaker 3

Very quick before I ask you to join me in expressing our thanks in the usual way. Perhaps I could just pick up two points.

01:03:25 Speaker 3

Which?

01:03:27 Speaker 3

Are both embedded I think.

01:03:30 Speaker 3

In, or at least implied by his title.

01:03:36 Speaker 3

The first is that we live.

01:03:39 Speaker 3

In a single world.

01:03:42 Speaker 3

Not one that is neatly divided.

01:03:45 Speaker 3

Into those.

01:03:49 Speaker 3

Who create the problems and those who know how to solve them.

01:03:55 Speaker 3

The people who think they know how to solve them almost invariably don't.

01:04:01 Speaker 3

And if they listened more to the voice of the people whose problems they think they're solving, they might do a bit great deal better.

01:04:13 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Uh.

01:04:16 Speaker 3

Most African problems and we, he told us about.

01:04:23 Speaker 3

Two weeks after Panama are rather, appropriately, about corruption, most African problems are our problems as well.

01:04:34 Speaker 3

And in throwing light on them and learning how to think about them, it requires both humility and the recognition that knowledge and experience are both two way streets.

01:04:48 Speaker 3

The second observation follows from this.

01:04:53 Speaker 3

We need not in the rather fashionable psycho Babble the problem problematise the.

01:05:02 Speaker 3

What we do need to do is to listen to each other.

01:05:08 Speaker 3

As I listened tonight to abioden, I was reminded of an event that I've always counted as the beginning of my political education.

01:05:21 Speaker 3

I was a young and I hope not arrogant, but certainly immensely ignorant.

01:05:29 Speaker 3

National service officer.

01:05:32 Speaker 3

In Nigeria.

01:05:35 Speaker 3

My teacher.

01:05:38 Speaker 3

Was a young Hauser boy of about my own age, and I was, I think, 19 at the time straight out of school.

01:05:51 Speaker 3

We had been, I wasn't serving. I was on holiday, we'd been up to the edge of the Sahara.

01:06:00 Speaker 3

Selling cigarettes 4 for a penny. They were very toxic. They were so toxic.

01:06:08 Speaker 3

They were so toxic that they'd been withdrawn and the United African Company was trying to rebrand them and get them across.

01:06:17 Speaker 3

And on the way back.

01:06:20 Speaker 3

From this trip, I sat for 300 miles across Latin. None of you have experienced this because you're all children of the resource rich Nigeria, but it's 300 miles of latter eyed Rd.

01:06:32 Speaker 3

I tell.

01:06:38 Speaker 3

In the back of a pickup truck, you need very strong springs and we sat this as a ladder myself and he spoke. And again, of course, it never occurred to me this is the arrogance of youth. Never.

01:06:54 Speaker 3

Me that he could speak such good English and I couldn't speak a word of hours.

01:07:01 Speaker 3

But fortunately that was the case and we were able to talk and we talked all the way back when we weren't having our ribs back and shatter down by.

01:07:12 Speaker 3

OK.

01:07:13 Speaker 3

And because I was a solid block, you know, armchair lefty at the time, I said armchu, don't you really.

01:07:24 Speaker 3

Feel that it's a shame that Nigeria's want to wait another three or four years, whatever 3 or 4 years before.

01:07:35 Speaker 3

Independence. When the Gold Coast up there, you know smaller country, more insignificant country is about to become independent.

01:07:44 Speaker 3

And my friend looked at me with withering contempt, I remember.

01:07:51 Speaker 3

Even now, I mean kindly content but withering, he said. Do you know what you're saying?

01:07:59 Speaker 3

What you'll say is that we should.

01:08:04 Speaker 3

Move.

01:08:06 Speaker 3

To independence before educating our people and what will happen, what will happen is the ebos will take all our jobs.

01:08:16 Speaker 3

Now I'm not making ethnic or because I say it's the beginning of my political education.

01:08:24 Speaker 3

Because the moral of the story is, of course, that things and this was I learnt this very much from listening to abiogenesis. Things are not always on the surface. You can't ignore the surface.

01:08:39 Speaker 3

But you have to look underneath the surface 10 years. This was in 1956.

01:08:49 Speaker 3

Just over 10 years later, the country.

01:08:53 Speaker 3

Long time.

01:08:57 Speaker 3

Left the army, but my own battalion with his battalion of the Nigerian Richmond, ran a mark in the streets of Kano.

01:09:08 Speaker 3

And started the exodus back to what became the AFRA and triggered the Civil War. Now that was I was there two moral of the story to me is not any that you would need to look under the surface.

01:09:26 Speaker 3

But that if I can be biblical and return to.

01:09:32 Speaker 3

The sins of the fathers have visited on the children to the third and 4th generation.

01:09:39 Speaker 3

Because.

01:09:42 Speaker 3

The difficulty with the sins.

01:09:45 Speaker 3

Is that it wasn't self-conscious. You could say that indirect rule. You could say that indirect rule was actually amongst colonial policies. One of the more sensitive.

01:09:57 Speaker 3

And at.

01:09:58 Speaker 3

As it were, acknowledged, local tradition and local culture.

01:10:05 Speaker 3

But of course, if you applied it in the place.

01:10:09 Speaker 3

Where people.

01:10:12 Speaker 3

The rulers got on very well with you, but didn't want to it.

01:10:15 Speaker 3

Educate people. Then the jobs that the colonial St needed were all taken by the people who were educated.

01:10:25 Speaker 3

And they were. Since, you know, brightness is not distributed geographically, but it goes up. It was resented and it had consequences.

01:10:38 Speaker 3

And they were fairly terrible consequences.

01:10:42 Speaker 3

And that's I think one of the things that I take from this that we cannot afford.

01:10:49 Speaker 3

To think of Africa.

01:10:52 Speaker 3

As exceptional, of course, Africa is exceptional, everyone is exceptional. But.

01:10:58 Speaker 3

It's also got all its own commentary problems as and as, as we have our own problems, we do think innocently they have all sorts of intended, but also all sorts of unintended consequences.

01:11:12 Speaker 3

And that's the role of education and I am extremely grateful and proud to see, to feel that I've been a kind of paid a little part in holding the game together.

01:11:28 Speaker 3

Until the African Studies programme here, with its two professors at Kcl, could get going in the sported way that we've heard about tonight and I'd like to ask you all to once again.

01:11:43 Speaker 3

Express what I know is heartbreaking.

01:12:05 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Right. Thank you very much indeed for that really interesting and warm and and thought provoking lecture and also for the thanks.

01:12:14 Prof. Frans Berkhout

Now, one of the things Professor Lau talked about a lot is the need for new narratives about Africa. The best way, of course, to tell stories is with a glass of wine in the hand. So that's what we should go and do right away.

01:12:31 Prof. Frans Berkhout

We will lead you. We're going to be directly above here for a drink and to celebrate this great lecture. Thank you very much indeed.