

On the occasion of awarding Mr. Mohammed-Ali Fadlallah LERC acknowledgment Award

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**Speech by**

**Reverend Father Walid Moussa**

**President of NDU**

Excellency Ambassador of Nigeria to Lebanon Mr. Hameed Opeloyeru, respected members of the Lebanese Nigerian Friendship Association (LENIFRA), honored guests, NDU Deans, Chairpersons, Directors, staff, and friends.

I am delighted to be with you this afternoon to celebrate one of Lebanon's notable emigrants, Mr. Mohammed-Ali Fadlallah.

Almost every year, the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) of Notre Dame University-Louaizé recognizes one or more individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Lebanese migration communities. Two awards have been given so far; the first was given to Mr. Roberto Khatlab, a Brazilian-Lebanese, for his authorship of many valuable studies on the Lebanese emigration to Brazil. The second went to Mr. Victor Sahade, a Lebanese-Australian, for his devotion and services to the Lebanese Community in Australia.

Today's award is presented to the Honorable Mohammed-Ali Fadlallah. Due to his success as a businessman and because he was highly respected by the Lebanese, as well as the consular community of Kano, Nigeria, Mr. Fadlallah was appointed Honorary Consul for North Nigeria on May 27, 1987.

Mr. Fadlallah was born in Jouwaya in south Lebanon in the first part of 1930. He migrated to Nigeria at a young age and has been there for over 50 years. He is married and has two boys and two girls.

Lebanese emigrants are known for their drive, as well as for their ability to adapt to the environment of their host countries. Lebanese who migrated to Nigeria were no different.

For the last 22 years, Mr. Fadlallah served the Lebanese community in Kano with much dedication and affection. For this reason we are acknowledging his services today.

Our University is clearly committed to continuing its support to the Lebanese Emigration Research Center; however, NDU cannot accomplish this enormous task alone. NDU reaches out to successful emigrants like yourselves to become partners in building a Museum on Lebanese migration, in increasing the research infrastructure of the LERC, in publishing studies on Lebanese migration, and in honoring Lebanese emigrants. This partnership is not only an investment in the LERC, but also a symbol of your and our commitment to Lebanese everywhere and to their aspirations.

I congratulate our award recipient Mr. Fadlallah for his services. I hope that many will follow in his footsteps and be inspired by his example.

I look forward very optimistically to working with you to accomplish our objectives with LERC and its museum.

Thank you.