

## **Dr. Tanure Ojaide to receive Nigeria's Highest Academic Honor**

Dr. Tanure Ojaide has been named the recipient of this year's Nigerian National Order of Merit (NNOM), in the Humanities category. President Muhammadu Buhari will preside over the investiture ceremony in Abuja, the country's capital, on December 1st.

Established through Act 53 of 1979, the Nigerian National Order of Merit is the highest academic honor in Africa's most populous country. The award is conferred annually on the most deserving scholar and intellectual who has made outstanding and ethical contributions to national and global attainments in one of these areas of scholarly endeavor: humanities, sciences, engineering, and medicine. The previous recipients of the award include Professor Wole Soyinka, playwright, poet, and the 1986 Nobel Laureate in Literature.

The Nigerian National Order of Merit award comes with a substantial cash prize, a medal and certificate of honor, and the right to use NNOM after the name of the recipient.

Dr. Ojaide is a graduate of the University of Ibadan and Syracuse University. Since joining the UNC Charlotte faculty rank in 1990, he has authored more than 30 books, and has won more than a dozen book prizes and accolades including the Commonwealth Poetry Prize, Cadbury Poetry Prize, and the Association of Nigerian Authors' Poetry Award. He received UNC Charlotte's First Citizens Bank Scholar Medal Award in 2005, and was named the Frank Porter Graham Professor of Africana Studies in 2006. Early this year, he received the African Literature Association's Fonlon-Nichols Award in recognition of his scholarly contributions to democratic ideals, humanistic values, and literary excellence in Africa.