

**EXTRACT FROM THE BOOKLET ON DISTINGUISHED WOMEN ON
THE PLATEAU GOLD AWARD 2007, MINISTRY OF WOMEN
AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, PLATEAU STATE IN
COLLABORATION WITH EPPIC FOUNDATION, JOS**

PROF. NAOMI N. JAMES-RUGU (NEE AUDU-TANWIA)

This eminent scholar, scientist, foremost academician, erudite, sage and amazon has perhaps the tallest and most intimidating pedigree touching on the likes of the legendary Ali Mazri, Margaret Thatcher or Golder Meir. Prof. (Mrs.) James-Rugu is without doubt among the most shining entity in her niche whose life has touched on countless youths in the institution of higher learning as well as adults and even children in all walks of life.

Born about 46 year ago Naomi carried the seed of greatness from birth and she started at a very early age to position herself for excellence. Young, dynamic, very studious and courageous Naomi of the famous Audu Tanwia family was at St. Theresa Primary School, Jos (1966 – 1972); St. Louis College (1973 – 1977) and the University of Jos (1977 – 1978) for her Preliminary Science Studies. In 1978, she commenced her undergraduate work which she concluded with honours in 1982. Within record of 8 short years, Naomi blazed through to Master degree and a Ph.D, a fit uncommon among even the most brilliant male folks.

Quite expectedly, she wasted no time in joining the Ivory tower, the University of Jos as a Lecturer. Many believed she was cut to be great from creation and with less than fourteen (14) years, Dr. Naomi N. James-Rugu through dint of hard work, courage humility and farsightedness catapulted herself to the peak of the academic profession and became a Professor.

Professor Naomi N. James-Rugu belongs to the first and tops for the genus that she is. Today, she ranks among first female indigene of Plateau State to obtain Professorship in Pure Sciences. She is one of the very few female Pure Scientist

in Plateau State; one of the first female Professors in the field of Science, the first female indigene of Bassa Local Government Council to bag a Ph.D. Also the First female Professor and the only person from Irigwe Chieftdom to have a Ph.D. She became the first female Deputy Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies, University of Jos in 1998 and had scored several firsts in many areas.

Mrs. James-Rugu is outgoing, amiable, generous and sterling qualities has endeared her not a little to her Community and in the Academic Institution. She belongs to. She has been honoured as the Most Motherly Lecturer, Most jovial female Lecturer; the Best Female Lecturer; the friendliest Lecturer by the students of the Department of Zoology, University of Jos.

Professor Naomi's education, exposure and experience cannot easily be encapsulated in this profile because they are far too big to be carried on a breakfast tray! She had been Secretary, Coordinator, Member, Participant in several dozens of Committees, Boards, Panels, Associations and Church Organizations too numerous to mention here. She is one of the few Nigerian Members of the Third World Organization for Women in Science. She is also a Member of the Entomological Society of Nigeria. She has over forty one (41) Publications. She also has Seminar Papers, Write ups and Articles to her credit. She has several research works duly concluded to her credit. Teaching and academic work aside, Professor Naomi has served the University Community in very many other capacities as an Administrator (Deputy Dean), Coordinator, Chairman of Committees, Student Adviser, Hostel Head e.t.c.

Indeed, this distinguished woman has demonstrated exceptional ability worthy of emulation both in the secular world among her kit and kin.

She looks forward in life to continue her act of giving and to sponsor Pastors to Bible Schools, help Church Agencies, the Youth and Women and to give to the Girl child towards a better destiny.