



**OSUN STATE
UNIVERSITY**

OSOGBO, NIGERIA

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10th

**CONVOCATION
SPEECHES**

18TH, 20TH & 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2021

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**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY
THE CHANCELLOR OF OSUN STATE UNIVERSITY
APOSTLE (DR) FOLORUNSO ALAKIJA
AT THE TENTH CONVOCATION CEREMONIES FOR THE
CONFERMENT OF FIRST, POSTGRADUATE AND
HONORARY DEGREES
ON TUESDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER 2021**

PROTOCOLS

- The Governor of the State of Osun and Visitor to Osun State University, His Excellency, Mr. Adegboyega Oyetola and his Cabinet members here present
- The Rt. Hon. Speaker, Osun State House of Assembly and other Honourable Members here present
- The Chief Judge and other Judges here present
- Former Visitors to the University
- Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Mallam Yusuf Ali, SAN and other esteemed Council members
- The Vice-Chancellor, Osun State University, Professor Labode Popoola and Principal Officers
- His Imperial Majesty, the Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, Ojaja II
- His Royal Majesty, Ataoja of Osogbo, Oba Jimoh Oyetunji, Larooye II and all our distinguished Royal Fathers
- The Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission, Professor Abubakar Rasheed

- The Registrar, Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board, Professor Is-haq Oloyede
- The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro
- All former Pro-Chancellors and former members of UNIOSUN Governing Council
- Convocation Guest Lecturer, Professor Olanrewaju A. Fagbohun, SAN Foundation Day Lecturer, Mr. Ousman Toure,
- All Visiting Vice-Chancellors and former Vice-Chancellors,
- Principal Officers of other Universities,
- Members of Senate,
- Members of the Congregation,
- Chairman and Members of Advancement Board,
- Chairman and Members of Parents Forum,
- President of Alumni Association and Executive members,
- Leadership of Osun State University Students Union,
- Our Graduands and their family members,
- Gentlemen of the Press,
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my pleasure to welcome all our eminent guests to the grand finale of the tenth solemn convocation ceremony of this citadel of learning.

I am grateful to God who made it possible for us to be having convocation on a hybrid basis. For reasons beyond my control, I am one of those who fall into the category of those who are joining this convocation virtually.

On behalf of the University, I sincerely welcome His Excellency, the Governor of the State of Osun, Mr. Adegboyega Oyetola, who is also the Visitor to our wonderful university, Osun State University. I appreciate the Visitor, who in his wisdom and by the statutory power conferred on him, graciously approved my reappointment as Chancellor, for another five-year tenure.

Your Excellency, I count this a rare privilege and another clarion call for a better service. I promise you and the good people of this State that I and my family will not relent in our service to humanity through the University.

However, I charge our Kabiyesi's, honorary awardees, members in the National and House of Assemblies, development associations, affluent indigenes of this State to influence their sons and daughters to join hands in developing this promising citadel of learning.

It is indeed a time to sow for a sustainable future.

I congratulate Mr. Governor and the good people of the State of Osun on the 30th anniversary of the creation of the State.

In less than three years, Your Excellency's administration has achieved so much in terms of development strides, good strategies and policies on education, health, infrastructure, women and youth empowerment. The government is building on legacies and has given the State a new lease of life. The University will continue to complement the efforts of the government in bringing all-round development to the State.

During the past week, about fifteen projects dotted across all the

campuses were officially opened by His Excellency, as part of the programmes lined up for the 10th convocation ceremonies. This is highly commendable and must be sustained.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

I thank the Visitor for his goodwill message and the approval of the series of activities by the University to commemorate my 70th birthday celebration.

My heartfelt appreciation goes to the Governing Council, Management, Staff, Students and Alumni of the University for the unforgettable, 3-day line-up of activities in commemoration of my 70th birthday.

The series of activities included:

- A public lecture
- Cultural Exhibition
- Documentary
- Praise and Worship event
- Book Production & Presentation
- Tree planting event
- A visit to the motherless babies' home in my honour
- And fashion show

I was so amazed by what I witnessed and read in the newspapers. It was indeed a lavish celebration that has left indelible memories in me forever.

To everyone that participated, I pray from the depth of my heart that God will give you double honour in Jesus' name.

UNIOSUN-MOFATH

I am glad to report that despite the Covid-19 lockdown last year which slightly affected the completion of the construction work at the UNIOSUN-Modupe and Folorunso Alakija Teaching Hospital, work has now reached the finishing stage.

Fittings are being installed and the equipment will soon be arriving. By God's grace, before this time next year, the facility would have been officially opened for use.

MORE CELEBRATIONS

Today's event is a joyous one as we celebrate the completion of the academic pursuit of our graduands. It is also the celebration of a 21st century higher institution that adheres to a stable academic calendar and strictly engages in training the best for tomorrow.

I felicitate with our graduands; I also celebrate our proprietor, Council, staff, parents and other stakeholders.

It has been a pleasure working with the present crop of Council members under the leadership of Mallam Yusuf Ali, SAN and the Management ably led by Professor Labode Popoola. I pray that all our efforts shall not be in vain in Jesus' name.

The University has not only provided graduands with qualitative education that prepares them for life, but it has also provided them with entrepreneurial skills that will make them excel among their peers.

Our institution's impact now reaches far beyond the landscape of the State of Osun, Nigeria and Africa.

Many of our graduands who passed out some years back are doing well in all the continents of the world. I am indeed delighted and proud of these feats.

I have no doubt that this 10th set will also excel. I congratulate you all

on your well-deserved degrees and diplomas. As you go into the world, I pray that God will make a way for you where there seems to be no way. You will all excel and make us proud in your endeavours in Jesus' name.

I celebrate our Honorary Degree awardees for the recognition of their discreet but profound contributions to humanity. Our University is noted for awarding honorary degrees on merit and to very deserving persons. Yours is by no means different.

My hearty congratulations to Alhaji Kamoru Yusuf, Mr. Murthada Adeyemi Adeniji and our father and patriot par excellence, General Ipoola Alani Akinrinade.

Today, I bid farewell to a worthy and illustrious administrator in the person of Professor Labode Popoola. This convocation ceremony is the last that he will be attending in his official capacity as the 3rd substantive Vice-Chancellor of this institution.

They say, every beginning has an end and every end has a new beginning. How time flies from when we first met four years ago on your assumption of office as the Vice-Chancellor! However, it is not how far, but how well.

Ladies and gentlemen, join me in celebrating Professor Labode Popoola, a renowned academician, barrier breaker, a man with a strong will, courageous officer, creative thinker, team builder and a reformer that has taken the University of Osun from the level he met it to the laudable stage it is now. You are an embodiment of good governance and a humble spirit.

There is no gainsaying the fact that UNIOSUN has witnessed tremendous infrastructural and academic development during your tenure. It is filled with rebuilding, re-engineering and reformation of strategies for the development and system sustainability of the university.

Professor Labode Popoola has introduced some policies instrumental to the numerous developments recorded in the University since he

came on board. Amongst which are training of members of staff, mentoring, prompt payment of salaries, prompt promotion, recognition of excellence, hard work and prompt service delivery. He has brought transparency to play with his zero-tolerance to corruption.

We will certainly miss you, Professor Popoola. May life reward you abundantly and may God make your life to be more colourful.

May God also guide the Council and the Visitor aright in the appointment of the next Vice-Chancellor, as we need to build on the legacies already on ground.

Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for listening.

God bless Osun State University!

God bless the State of Osun!

And God bless our dear country, Nigeria!

**SPEECH OF THE PRO-CHANCELLOR AND CHAIRMAN,
GOVERNING COUNCIL, YUSUF ALI SAN FCIArb, AT THE
10TH CONVOCATION CEREMONIES OF OSUN STATE
UNIVERSITY HELD BETWEEN SATURDAY, 18
SEPTEMBER AND TUESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER, 2021**

END OF A CHAPTER

INTRODUCTION

We owe Allah (SWT) our **Creator**, the **Enabler**, for the grace of sparing our lives to be part of this year's convocation ceremonies. This 10th convocation ceremony is very unique, special and significant in more ways than one. It marks a milestone, being the 10th convocation ceremonies and importantly, it makes the last convocation that will be superintended by **Prof. Labo Popoola**, as the Vice Chancellor of this University. Indeed, this is his valedictory convocation ceremony as Vice Chancellor, as his 5 year non-renewable tenure will come to an end on the **4th of November, 2021**. On behalf of the Visitor, the Chancellor, Council, Management and Students, I congratulate **Professor, Labo Popoola**, for his achievements in this great University in the last five years.

FELICITATION

I wish to congratulate our graduands, their parents/guardians and well wishers, for making successes out of your academic sojourn in this University.

Let me be quick to add that the attainment of degrees, as you have richly earned, is not an end in itself, but a means towards other ends. As you are aware, success is a challenge to harder work. The days, when we used to see the possession of a university certificate as a

meal ticket, are gone forever in our country. You should see the attainment as a pedestal to harvest entrepreneurial skills that you can deploy profitably, rather than to continue to chase after elusive white collar jobs.

In the same vein, I congratulate the three eminent Nigerians that will be awarded the honorary degree **honoris causa** of our university at this ceremony. **Gen. Alani Akinrinade** is a senior citizen who rose to the highest peak of his military career. He was a soldiers' soldier. **Dr. Kamoru Yusuf** is the Chairman of Kam Group of Companies, unarguably the largest producer of steel products in the North Central part of our Country and highest employer of labour in the area. **Alhaji Murthada Adeniyi** is one of the largest commodities traders in our country and the only black man on the Council of the Federation of Cocoa Commerce (FCC).

OUR SURVIVAL

The pandemic that unfolded like a thunderbolt in the early part of 2020 is still very much with us and the disruption of the way things used to be done are now leaving indelible marks on the face of our societies and the way we get things done.

The disruption caused by the pandemic is still affecting the academic calendars of tertiary institutions globally; however Osun State University was able to conclude its calendar for the 2019/2020 academic session, through the adoption of virtual teaching, learning, and assessment, which was further aided by the recently introduced Learning Management System (LMS).

The Council and Management of the University have made giant strides over the past one year in ensuring that the mission and vision of the Institution are realized.

We are aware that funding has always been a challenge in administering higher institutions, especially those that are state-

owned, however, at Osun State University, we have been able to rise above this challenge to carry out infrastructural advancement and human capacity building, all from the proceeds of Internally Generated Revenue, TETFund Support and philanthropy from well-meaning citizens and friends of the University.

To ensure that our students are in the best hands, especially the newly matriculated students, the Council approved the construction of a 104 capacity residential building across the six campuses of the University to ensure that newly admitted students settle into the University system seamlessly, and to reduce the risk of their falling under negative influences. All the halls of residence have been completed and put to use.

Given the prevalence of sexual harassment in our tertiary institutions, the Council also approved the training of Staff and Students on the prevention of sexual harassment which was chaired by a member of Council, Professor Abiodun Alao. This was done to educate staff and students to make the University environment free of all forms of harassments or any other unprofessional conduct. We have a sexual harassment handbook that has been made available to staff and students.

As I alluded to earlier, the tenure of our current Vice-Chancellor, Professor Labode Popoola would come to an end in a few months and we have already set plans in motion for the appointment of the next Vice-Chancellor in accordance with the provisions of our Establishment Laws. The only commitment the Governing Council under my watch has, is to enthrone excellence through a fair and firm process, comparable to best practices anywhere in the world. We assure all stakeholders that we have no personal interests to serve other than the best for our university.

To our graduands that have interest in entrepreneurship, the University has set aside a pool of funds from where you can apply for interest free N200,000 alumni loan, introduced last year by this

administration. This money can help you start-up a craft on a small scale and expand over time.

I charge you to be good ambassadors of the University and positively contribute to the advancement of the society. All eyes will be on you as graduates of Osun State University, therefore I implore you to make the University proud. Never forget your Alma Mater.

I will like to use this opportunity to acknowledge some of our benefactors: **Apostle (Dr.) Folorunso Alakija**, the Chancellor of Osun State University and her family; **Late Mrs. Frederica Abimbola Omololu-Mulele**, an educationist, lawyer and philanthropist; one of the members of our Governing Council, **Prince Tunde Ponnle**; among others, **for** being strong pillars of support to the University. It is in view of this, that I want to call on other good spirited individuals to emulate the philanthropic gestures of these great minds, by sowing seeds and partnering with the University to attain greater heights. We implore you to **sow legacies, sow endowment, and sow into the lives of our students.**

Finally, I will like to thank and appreciate the Visitor to the University, the Governor of the State, Mr. Gboyega Oyetola, for the confidence he has in the Council, to handle the affairs of the University with a free hand. Other State Governors have a lot to learn from your Excellency in keeping to the age old Yoruba adage that says ***“Ti a ba fi agbo fun Egunngun a gbodo jowo okun re”***.

I thank you all for your attention.

YUSUFALI SANFCI*Arb*

**ADDRESS OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR,
PROFESSOR LABODE POPOOLA AT THE
10TH CONVOCATION CEREMONIES FOR THE
CONFERMENT OF DIPLOMAS, FIRST, POSTGRADUATE
AND HONORARY DEGREES AND PRIZES OF OSUN
STATE UNIVERSITY, NIGERIA
BETWEEN SATURDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER
AND TUESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2021**

- The Governor of the State of Osun, and the Visitor to the University, His Excellency, Mr. Gboyega Oyetola
- The Deputy Governor of the State of Osun, His Excellency Mr. Benedict Alabi
- The Speaker, State House of Assembly, Rt. Honourable Timothy Owwoye
- The Chief Judge of the State, Rt. Hon. Justice Adepele Ojo
- The Chancellor of our University, Apostle Dr. (Mrs.) Folorunso Alakija
- Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN
- Esteemed Members of our Governing Council
- Distinguished Professor Olanrewaju Adigun Fagbohun, our Convocation Lecturer
- Mr Ousman Touray, our Foundation Day Speaker
- His Imperial Majesty, the Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, Ojaja II
- His Royal Majesty, Ataoja of Osogbo, Oba Jimoh Oyetunji Olanipekun, Larooye II

- His Royal Majesty, Oba (Dr.) Gabriel Aromolaran II, CFR, LLD Hons, the Owa Obokun Adimula of Ijesaland
- Your Royal Majesties here present
- The Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission, (NUC) Professor Abubakar A. Rasheed
- The Registrar of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board, (JAMB) Professor Is'haq Oloyede
- The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Professor Elias Bogoro
- Head of Service of the State of Osun, Dr. Festus Olowogboyega Oyebade
- Visiting Pro-Chancellors and Chairmen of Councils of other Universities
- Visiting Vice-Chancellors
- Visiting Chief Executive Officers of Research Institutes, especially, DG NIMR
- Visiting Rectors of Polytechnics and visiting Provosts of Colleges of Education and other higher institutions
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic, Research, Innovation and Partnerships)
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Development)
- Registrar
- Bursar
- University Librarian
- Visiting Registrars, Bursars, University Librarians and other visiting Principal Officers
- Members of Senate
- Heads of Security Agencies present

- Provosts, Deans, Heads of Department and Directors
- Members of Congregation
- President, UNIOSUN Alumni Association and the Executive
- President, Osun State University Students' Union and the executives
- Cherished Students
- Members of the University Community and our host communities
- Our Cherished Graduands, their parents, guardians and well wishers
- Gentlemen of the Press
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Acknowledgments

I will like to express my gratitude to God Almighty for sparing our lives from last year till now, despite the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic which could have prevented us from conducting our 9th convocation ceremony; however, UNIOSUN, being an institution capable of adapting to unexpected situations, found a way round it. With our state-of-the-art ICT unit, we were able to conduct a virtual convocation ceremony for our 2019/2020 graduands, and in the process, becoming the first publicly funded University in Nigeria to successfully conduct an online convocation ceremony. Of course, it is also no longer news that we conducted the first ever online Matriculation in the country and I bet, in Sub-Saharan Africa.

It is therefore, with great pride and joy that I welcome you all to Osun State University, and the 10th Convocation Ceremonies for the conferment of diplomas, first, postgraduate and honorary degrees.

It feels good to be able to experience hybrid convocation ceremonies, following the virtual ceremonies of the year 2020. Through the

resolute efforts of the Federal government, Government of Osun, the Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC), and other bodies and organisations who fought the pandemic, we have been able to drastically reduce the spread of the virus. It is however, not yet Uhuru; we all need to keep and stay safe.

In a few weeks from now, I would be rounding off my tenure as Vice-Chancellor of this esteemed citadel of learning. I consider it an honour and privilege to have been able to complete a clean sweep of five convocations in five years despite the odds stacked against our achieving this feat, especially during the pandemic in 2020.

I welcome the Visitor to our University and the Governor of the State of Osun, Mr. Adegboyega Oyetola, and his Deputy, Mr. Benedict Alabi. On behalf of the UNIOSUN community, I commend you for your astute leadership in steering the ship of the State of Osun out of the dire situation brought on us all by the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic in the year 2020. We are also proud of the several ongoing initiatives and projects which when accomplished, will enhance and sustain the growth and development trajectory of our beloved State.

On behalf of the UNIOSUN community, I welcome our ever supportive and development-oriented Chancellor and mother, Apostle (Dr.) Folorunso Alakija, our anchor in the stormy waters of higher education project in our clime. Let me refresh our memories that on November 22nd, 2018, Mama and her family laid the foundation of a world-class, and ultra-modern Teaching Hospital for Osun State University. Hopefully, before the closure of the year, we shall all assemble for the grand opening of the UNIOSUN-Modupe and Folorunso Alakija Teaching Hospital (UNIOSUN-MOFATH), built not only for the Medical Training and Research in our University, but also to cater for the health needs of the citizenry and humanity in general. Madam Chancellor Ma, I want to assure you that you are loved by every stakeholder in the UNIOSUN community; and that your efforts, energy, commitment, and benevolence are greatly appreciated by all and sundry. We are eternally grateful, and we count

ourselves lucky to have you in our corner, Ma.

I want to use this medium to express my heartfelt gratitude to our Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council; the energetic, enigmatic and inspiring Mallam Yusuf OlaOlu Ali, SAN, for his astute leadership. Sir, your efforts towards the uplifting of the University are recognized and appreciated by every stakeholder, friend, and well-wishers of the institution. The Governing Council, under your decent leadership, is the type that any Vice-Chancellor would wish for.

I would also like to use this medium to acknowledge my colleagues, both academic and non-teaching staff whose unrelenting efforts have contributed immensely towards harnessing the potentials of today's graduands. The University is grateful to you for your dedication and resilience. Your efforts are well recognized and greatly appreciated. I feel very proud to be associated with you all in this business of positively shaping lives.

To the parents, guardians, families, and friends of our graduands, I say congratulations for being a part of, and experiencing this commendable feat. It is not an easy task to become a higher institution graduate, especially one from this great citadel of learning. We recognize and appreciate your direct and indirect contributions in making this day a reality in the lives of your children and wards.

Projecting the University's Convocations: Past, Present and the Future

This is the 10th convocation of this institution since the first one in 2011. I am very proud and glad to say that in my five years as Vice-Chancellor of this University, we have been able to successfully observe five convocation ceremonies. I consider this a rare privilege, particularly because each year, except in 2019, we had raging storms, which the Almighty God divinely stilled.

It would be recalled that in March 2020, the NUC ordered the closure

of higher institutions around the country, owing to the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic. The University quickly adapted by adopting the virtual methods of teaching/learning, assessment and evaluation, which ultimately led us to having our first virtual Matriculation and Convocation ceremonies ever. Immediately after the ease of the lockdown by the Federal Government, the University updated all its activities to run in a hybrid mode, hence the reason for making this 10th Convocation ceremonies hybrid. We have thus incorporated the virtual approach into our system, and are also ensuring that we continue to upgrade our *modus operandi*, in line with the realities and exigencies of the new normal.

We are aware that some students of this graduating set have already been called up for their National Youth Service. Asking such students to travel back for the purpose of attending the convocation ceremony would be rather tedious; therefore, we made plans to send their convocation kits via courier delivery services to their respective addresses at no direct cost to them. This move not only ensured that they were not alienated from the convocation ceremonies, but also saved them the stress and risk of traveling down. At this juncture, I will like us to kindly rise to observe some silent moment in memory of our students who lost their lives on their way to the NYSC orientation camp in Kaduna. May their souls find peace with their Creator, and may their families and all of us be consoled.

To maintain a practice of what has become the height of University convocations around the world, Osun State University will be awarding *Honorary* Doctorates of this University to three respectable and accomplished citizens of this country.

The awardees were carefully selected in line with the Keffi Declaration of the Association of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (AVCNU), after due consideration and approval of the Joint Senate/Council Committee report on Honorary Degree Awards at the meeting of Senate which held on Tuesday, 17th August, 2021.

Madam Chancellor, the recipients of these Honorary Degrees are Alhaji (Dr.) Kamoru Ibitoye YUSUF, the CEO of Kam Holdings Nigeria Limited; Alhaji Murthada Adeniji ADEYEMI, the CEO Starlink Global & Ideal Limited; and General Alani Ipoola AKINRINADE, CFR, GCON, a retired Military General, a war time hero and statesman. On behalf of the entire UNIOSUN community, I hereby express our appreciation for your acceptance of the honour being bestowed on you all today.

Building a World Class University

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to inform you that Osun State University which started its academic activities on the 21st September, 2007 clocks fourteen this year. Our position in the ranking of higher institutions in Nigeria improves yearly. From a rank of 37 at the beginning of this administration, UNIOSUN is now ranked number 29 in Nigeria. For a University approaching the middle of its second decade of existence, we have accomplished quite a lot. We have added to, and improved upon our undergraduate and postgraduate academic programmes, expanded and repositioned our infrastructure to compete with those found in leading Universities. We are currently issuing two certificates to our graduates: Certificate of selected choice of acquired entrepreneurship skills, and the certificate of the academic programme pursued in the University. Through our joint effort over the past five years of this administration, we have been able to consolidate on the efforts of our founding fathers and predecessors to usher Osun State University into an era of academic and administrative consistency. We are confident of achieving even greater feats in the nearest future.

Academic Growth and Development

The Visitor, and our cherished guests, the era of stale curricula is

already behind us. Any higher institution that fails to evolve runs the risk of being left behind. At UNIOSUN, we are known for being agents of positive change. We recognize the role that higher education plays in poverty alleviation, hence our zeal for academic growth and development.

Over the years, we have continued to examine our courses, improved upon our curricula, and initiated new programmes to further expand and enhance our academic landscape. Our undergraduate programmes have increased exponentially in number, as we now boast of sixty-six (66) of them, spanning the fields of Agriculture, Education, Engineering and Technology, Health Sciences, Humanities and Culture and Management, Law, Sciences, and the Social Sciences. The total number of our postgraduate programmes rose from forty-five (45) to eighty-six (86), which include the postgraduate diplomas (PGDs), Masters (academic and professional), as well as doctorates.

I am glad that all our programmes have been duly accredited by the NUC. These programmes include professional courses such as Accounting, Law, Engineering, Urban and Regional Planning, Nursing, amongst others which have further been accredited by their respective professional bodies. It is also worthy of restating, that our MBBS programme was fully resuscitated in 2018. With the UNIOSUN-Modupe and Folorunso Alakija Teaching Hospital (UNIOSUN-MOFATH) nearing completion, it is safe to say that our medical programme would become the torchbearer of medical education, Research and breakthroughs in this part of the world soon.

Continuous Access to Higher Education

Through the joint effort of the Management and the Governing Council, we have been able to adopt and implement a Learning Management System (LMS) for instant assessment and continuous engagement of students.

The University also created opportunities for scholarships, financial support, and opportunities to earn stipends while schooling. Our Centre for Open, Distant and e-Learning (CODEL) is ready and raring to go, upon approval from the NUC. This means that very soon, UNIOSUN would be able to provide opportunities to individuals to obtain degrees without going through the conventional admission mode, and from any location in the world through our Distance Learning Programme.

Through the support of notable figures, individuals, staff, and corporate organizations, we have been able to provide financial support to students of our institution who have financial challenges. I want to thank Professor Amos Popoola for initiating the Staff Volunteers Scholarship Scheme for the University's indigent but diligent students. Much appreciation also goes out to members of staff who have been contributors to this scheme. I pray that God in his infinite mercies would continue to enlarge your coasts and take care of your own children just as you have been making this sacrifice to positively impact the lives of other people's children.

In spite of the escalating costs of providing excellent higher education services, especially, one with stable academic calendars, we have maintained a stable fee structure since 2017. We have not increased our tuition fees since 2017 just to ensure that aspiring students pick UNIOSUN as their preferred choice of University.

The 10th Convocation

Like the previous convocation ceremonies, we would be awarding first degrees, postgraduate diplomas, postgraduate masters and honorary doctoral degrees in the fields of Agriculture, Education, Engineering and Technology, Science, Health Sciences, Humanities and Culture, Management and Social Sciences, and Law. Tables 1 and 2 present the breakdown of the first and postgraduate degrees and Diplomas, as well as the classes of the degrees.

Table 1: Classes of First Degrees by Faculty

Faculty	First Class Honours	Second Class Honours (Upper Division)	Second Class Honours (Lower Division)	Third Class Honours	Pass	Total
Agricultural Production & Management	2	30	52	5	-	89
Basic and Applied Sciences	3	55	118	85	6	267
Basic Medical Sciences	1	44	132	54	2	233
Education	1	56	116	33	-	206
Engineering	4	24	43	19	2	92
Environmental Sciences	-	6	20	3	-	29
Humanities	1	75	150	22	-	248
Law	4	23	10	3	-	40
Management Sciences	12	152	174	42	-	380
Renewable Natural Resources Management	-	14	18	-	-	32
Social Sciences	7	65	104	23	-	199
Grand Total	35	544	937	289	10	1815

Table 2: Breakdown of Postgraduate Degrees and Diplomas (PGD)

Faculty/Centre	Postgraduate Diploma	Academic Masters	Professional Masters	Total
GASDI	0	21	4	25
Faculty of Basic and Applied Sciences	0	38	0	38
Faculty of Education	5	0	0	5
Faculty of Engineering	9	9	0	18
Faculty of Environmental Sciences	2	0	0	2
Faculty of Humanities	0	5	0	5
Faculty of Management	5	99	8	112
Total	21	172	12	205

The Visitor, Ladies and gentlemen, the total graduate output of the University for the 2019/2020 Academic Session is Two Thousand and Twenty (2,020), which is made up of One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifteen (1,815) first degree graduands, and Two Hundred and five (205) postgraduate degree and Diploma graduands. Table 1 summarizes the first degree graduands according to their faculties and classes of degrees, while Table 2 provides statistics of higher degrees and Diplomas.

We have thirty-five (35) in the First Class, representing 1.93% of the total number of graduands, Five Hundred and Forty Four (544) in the Second Class (Upper Division), representing 29.97% of the total number of graduands, Nine Hundred and Thirty-Seven (937) in the Second Class (Lower Division), representing 51.63% of the total number of graduands, Two Hundred and Eighty-Nine (289) in the Third Class, representing 15.92% of the total number of graduands, while Ten (10) made Pass representing 0.55% of the total number of graduands. The Postgraduate graduands are: One Hundred and Seventy-Two (172) Academic Masters, twelve (12) Professional Masters, and Twenty-One (21) Postgraduate Diplomas from different

programmes spread across the Faculties and the Global Affairs and Sustainable Development Institute (GASDI) of the University. Since our first convocation in 2011, the University has surpassed the 13,000 mark. At present, we have successfully graduated a total of 13, 856 students, which is a commendable achievement for a University in the middle of its second decade of its existence.

The Visitor, Sir, ladies and gentlemen, this year's convocation produced one overall best graduating student, a female. I hereby present from the Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, and the Department of Economics, Ajayi-Smith Semilore Ifedolapo, with Matriculation Number ECN/2017/0046. Her overall CGPA is 4.84. Accept my hearty congratulations on achieving this feat.

Capacity Building

The University recognizes the need to improve the overall efficiency of staff and students, hence the need for continuous upgrading and improvement of their capacities. It would be recalled that in October, 2020, this administration partnered with Digital Bridge Institute (DBI) to train over one hundred teaching and non-teaching staff of the University on advanced computer techniques, in order to enable them function optimally. In March of this year, we organized a training programme for staff and students of the University with a focus on sexual harassment prevention techniques that can be employed to avoid this societal menace (i.e. sexual harassment), and steps to take when sexually harassed.

Furthermore, in July this year, the University hosted the Partnership for Pedagogical Leadership in Africa (PedaL), to train over two hundred teaching and non-teaching staff of the University for the enhancement of their capacities, confidence, values and attitudes in order to adapt to innovative pedagogy online, and also in blended mode.

We have organized series of trainings, seminars, and workshops for

our staff and students targeted at improving their overall output. Between August 7 and September 4, 2021, our Entrepreneurship Centre organized a five-week entrepreneurship training programme for students of the University, with the vision to equip them with vocational skills that could become primary and secondary means of income generation to them. In conjunction with Opolo Global Innovation Limited, we also organized a 5-day workshop for selected students across all the colleges of the University to train them on Artificial Intelligence (AI). Related to this is our initiative and the establishment of UNIOSUN Digital Innovation and Business Hub (DIBUSH).

Through the Internal Learned Conference Programme, and support from the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), we have been able to support the training of several members of staff at various local and international capacity building programmes at a total cost of Two Hundred and Forty-One Million, Five Hundred and Forty-Four Thousand, Nine Hundred and Sixty-Seven Naira, Ninety Kobo (N241,544,967.90). Staff members who have benefitted from this support include those pursuing doctoral training in Universities in Europe, America, Asia, as well as in Nigeria. The Governing Council has also approved five percent of our Annual IGR for dedication to research, while incentives have also been approved, effective from the current session, for scholarly publications in High Impact outlets.

Staff Welfare

This University prioritizes the welfare of staff. Over the past five years, we have made combined efforts to ensure that the welfare of our staff is neither compromised nor sabotaged.

Despite the negative impact of COVID-19 which ravaged the world last year, we continued to pay full salaries of staff on the 25th of every month. Between the last convocation and now, two (2) Associate Professors were promoted to the rank of full Professors, several Senior Lecturers to the rank of Associate Professors, as well as

several teaching and non-teaching staff members to higher cadres.

The University set up the staff health fund with a capital base of N10 million. The interest on investment is expended on the health needs of staff and their dependants. We also introduced the automobile and housing loan schemes for members of staff, repayable at single digit interest rates of 4% and 6% respectively.

In 2018, we introduced a 50% rebate programme for the tuition fees of biological children of staff members. This scheme supports the education of the children of staff members. This year, the beneficiaries of this initiative rose to 91 from the 67 reported last year.

Also, the screening of One Hundred and Thirty (130) male and female members of staff above 40 years of age for cancer (Prostate and Breast cancers, for males and females respectively) at the UNIOSUN-MicCom Cancer Foundation Centre took place. We have partnered with the Ministry of Health in conjunction with the Local Government Vaccination Officers to ensure that all staff and students of the University are vaccinated for the purpose of curbing the COVID-19 menace. I would therefore like to plead with everyone to take the vaccine, and thereby take responsibility for preventing this deadly scourge from spreading further. COVID 19 is real!!!

Students' Welfare

For the first time in the history of this University, this administration mid-wifed the very first Central Students' Union body to address the yearnings of students. The process followed a systematic leadership training programme over a period of three years to prepare these young ones for leadership. In May this year, the University management purchased a Toyota Sienna Space bus, and handed it over to the Executive of the Students' Union, for ease of operation of the Union. I want to use this medium to appreciate the executives of Osun State University Students' Union (OSUSU). In less than a year of its existence, the Union has been able to positively impact the lives

of the students it represents through series of trainings, workshops, debates and quiz competitions, as well as sensitization programmes organized on topical issues, including the dangers of cultism, sexual harassment, and drug abuse. It has tactfully intervened on several occasions to protect the image and interest of the University.

Similarly, the Students Union of the Faculty of Basic and Applied Sciences on Tuesday, 6th of April donated an 861 square foot shed furnished with 12 pieces of metallic chairs and 1,500 pieces of mini jotters to the College of Science, Engineering and Technology of the University for the use of staff and students of the College during their leisure hours. Students of Public Health also donated a brand-new photocopying machine to their Department. These are all reflective of lessons in leadership availed our students from time to time.

We have been arming our students with entrepreneurial skills, which can be deployed for their sustenance after graduating. The Entrepreneurship Centre, under the watch of Dr. Florence Yusuf, has done a lot to enhance the entrepreneurial talents hidden in many of our students.

To ensure that our graduates who maintain keen interest in entrepreneurship get the opportunity to start-up SMEs, we came up with an Alumni start-up loan scheme of ₦200,000.00 to be given to Alumni of this Institution who have bankable proposals. This loan, repayable over a period of five years is at an interest rate of just 1%. Last year, 20 Alumni benefited from this initiative, and presently, we have 21 applications being considered.

To ensure the safety of our freshers as well as encourage them to imbibe the University culture, the University built a one-storey, 104-bed capacity hostel accommodation facility across all our six campuses of the University. These hostels are overseen by competent and experienced Hall Wardens. It is worthy of mention that each of the six structures was constructed from our Internal Generated Revenue (IGR).

Recognitions, Breakthroughs and Achievements

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the University continues to set milestones through the conduct of its activities. The constitution hitherto drafted by past Student leaders for the operations of the students Union Executive and members was reviewed and adopted in a joint meeting of Management and Student Leaders. Management believes that the best minds in the University should be in Students Union leadership, therefore, having a good Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) was established as a criterion to qualify for contesting any position. This criterion evolved a potential first-class 400 level student of Electrical Electronic Engineering, Muideen Olanrewaju with a CGPA of 4.6 as the pioneer President of Osun State University Students' Union. The Executive was unveiled on 17 December, 2020. He is currently in the final year of his programme.

We may also recall that in June, 2020, the University unveiled her homemade sanitizing cubicles. In January of this year, we installed our mechanized sanitizing cubicles on all campuses of the University to further ensure that the COVID 19 pandemic is kept under control. This has proved to be a significant step.

Earlier this year, the NUC approved nine academic programmes for the University at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Among the approved programmes is B.Sc. in Radiography and Radiation Science, making Osun State University the first State University in South-Western Nigeria to run the programme.

Our SIWES class from the Faculty of Engineering has proved itself to be solutions providers. As part of the Students Work Experience Project (SWEP) under the SIWES programme, the students coupled and installed twenty-six (26) units of solar-powered street light for the use of the University at a minimal cost. These are being replicated on our other campuses. This laudable project reduced the cost of grid and fossil energy use in the University.

Our Matriculation Tree Planting Campaign which started in 2018 during which each matriculant must plant a tree seedling continued

this session with the planting of over 4000 seedlings of different tree species across our six campuses. This campaign is gradually greening up all our campuses.

Also, the five-year tenure of our Chancellor, Apostle (Dr.) Mrs. Folorunso Alakija was renewed on the 9th of March, 2021 by the Executive Governor of the State and Visitor to the University, Mr. Adegboyega Oyetola. The renewal of her tenure is welcomed by every stakeholder of the institution, as it affords her the opportunity to continue with her enviable exploits in advancing University education here and beyond.

On Wednesday, 31st of March, 2021, we unveiled the Atmospheric and Space Weather Research Facility on the main campus of the University. The facility was bequeathed to the University by the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA).

It will be recalled that the first two sets of Nursing Science students of the University set a standard by passing all the qualifying examinations for professional Nurses at the first attempt. The third set of our Nursing students have followed the trail of their seniors by recording 100% success in the May, 2021 Basic Nursing examinations, even when the Council recorded 30% failure in the examinations nationwide.

In the second quarter of this year, the University signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Max Impact Global Ventures Limited for the construction of a One Thousand Five Hundred (1,500) capacity students' hostel complex on our main campus. This would supplement our 104-capacity hostel on the campus, and aid our quest to make the University fully residential for students. The foundation laying is part of this year's Convocation Ceremonies.

The University also donated relief materials to Widows and Orphanages across the State of Osun as part of the activities organized by the Council and Management to celebrate our Mother and Chancellor, Apostle (Dr.) Folorunso Alakija in a three-day event to mark her 70th birthday in July 2021. As part of the event, we had the

privilege of hosting Amina Mohammed, the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations as the speaker at the Public Lecture in honour of our Chancellor, along with an array of eminent discussants including Dr. Dere Awosika, Mrs Ibukun Awosika, Pastor Ituah Ighodalo, Mrs Siju Iluyomade, Professor Bukola Oyawoye and Dr Olowogboyega Oyeade.

Our Parents Forum under the leadership of Justice Jide Falola met in August to rub minds with the Council and Management of the University. As usual the meeting took far-reaching decisions in order to further enhance the progress of the University.

The University organized and held a three-day annual retreat for the Principal Officers, Provosts, Deans, Directors, and Heads of Department at Ada. The retreat was aimed at preparing unit leaders for effective management of emerging issues in University administration.

As part of the 30th anniversary celebrations of our State, our Pro-chancellor, Mallam Yusuf Ali, SAN and a member of our Council, Prince Tunde Ponnle are being individually honoured by the State with the Osun Merit Award, in recognition of their distinguished contributions in their various fields of practice and community service. Similarly, our Chancellor, Apostle (Dr) Folorunso Alakija is being honoured by the State with a Legacy Award, in recognition of her contributions to Social and Economic Development of the State. We congratulate them.

Linkages and Partnerships

Osun State University has continued to explore partnerships and collaborations from across the world. This is because of our belief that it is only through such partnerships and collaborations that the University can project itself within emerging global systems of higher education. Besides, such collaborations and partnerships provide opportunities for our staff and students to work with the best

of their peers and to gain access to complementary resources, equipment, and knowledge.

Conscious of the above facts, the University sought the membership of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU). The ACU has over 500 member institutions in 50 countries across the commonwealth, with membership spreading across Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, North, and Central America, Oceania and the Pacific, as well as the South American regions of the world. I am glad to report that UNIOSUN is now a member of this reputable global body. The benefits of being a member of this body include the opportunity for staff and students to access grants, scholarships, fellowships as well as other international collaborations and partnerships, while enjoying all rights accorded members. We have also joined the Association of West African Universities (AWAU), while actively retaining and engaging our other partners such as Association of African Universities (AAU), West African Research and Innovation Management Association (WARIMA), the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN), among others.

The University reviewed and renewed the Memorandum of Understanding signed with The University of The Gambia four years ago, which will enable staff and students to continue to participate in exchange programmes, and consequently enrich the quality of teaching and learning of both institutions.

Between January and August, 2021, one of our top academics in the Department of Zoology, Professor Monsuru Adeleke won a grant from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in collaboration with Sights Savers (Nigeria and UK), Global fund/National Malaria Elimination Programme/NMR for onchocerciasis and Malaria vectors respectively.

We now have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Nigerian Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) to establish a framework for coordination and cooperation that will facilitate the

conduct of cooperative activities in areas of mutual interest. For the purpose of the MOU, NIMR shall avail the staff and students of Osun State University with access to Laboratories and Facilities; internship programme; and award of fellowship. Similarly, Osun State University shall make available to the Institute and its research Staff: Adjunct Lectureship Positions, Promotion of deserving NIMR Research Fellows up to Professorial cadre of the University; and joint MSc and PhD degree programmes in areas identified by both institutions.

Benefactions/Appreciation

On behalf of the Governing Council, Senate, Advancement Board, staff and students, I will like to express my appreciation to the following benefactors who made financial and material donations to Osun State University over the last one year.

First, our greatest appreciation goes to God Almighty, the greatest Benefactor and our Creator, who in his infinite mercies has granted us a peaceful year since our last convocation, He is forever worthy of our appreciation. We believe that, with him, peace has come to stay in this University. Also, I thank the people and government of the State of Osun for giving us a University and allowing us to run it as a University should be run.

Ours is a lucky and blessed University, as throughout the year, we have had uninterrupted teaching and learning activities despite all odds. We shall never stop appreciating our Chancellor, Apostle (Dr.) Folorunso Alakija, her husband, Mr. Modupe Alakija and their wonderful family. I would also like to appreciate Interventions from the Federal Government through TETFund and the NEEDS Assessment Programme. We also received gifts of books and other materials from various donor organisations and individuals.

The Ifetedo Community through her Monarch, HRM Oba Akinola Akinrera, the Olubosin of Ifetedo sustained her support to the

University. Apart from the bequeathal of additional 20 acres of land for the further development of our College Law Campus, a state-of-the-art school building containing 12 furnished classrooms, laboratories, staff offices, a giant generating set, computer systems among others was handed over to the University this year. That structure will house the proposed UNIOSUN-International College of Science (UNIOSUN-ICoS) which is currently undergoing registration with the State Ministry of Education.

We appreciate the good gestures of the Prince Tunde Ponnle's Scholarship Scheme for Indigent but Diligent Students, Awards and Prizes by various bodies such as MicCom, Otunba Grace Titi Laoye-Ponnle, Layi & Toyin Fatona and TPL Remi Makinde. The UNIOSUN Staff Volunteer Scheme, L.A. Salami Foundation, Osun Development Forum Texas, Cherubim & Seraphim Church, Segun Aina Foundation, MTN Foundation, The Late Emmanuel Idowu & Maria Ajike Areogun Scholarship Foundation and the Great People's Foundation for the scholarships granted to our students. We appreciate the additional support to the Candido Da Rocha Trust Fund by the Trustees of the Omololu-Mulele Foundation. We are equally grateful for the institution of memorial activities in remembrance of the pioneer Provost of the College of Health Sciences, Late Prof Taiwo Adewole which was funded by his family to the tune of ₦9,250,000. We appreciate all our host communities, particularly, their Monarch for the ambience that they have provided us to operate smoothly. We cannot but continue to thank our indefatigable and selfless Pro-chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council, Mallam Yusuf OlaOlu Ali, SAN for his continued contributions and donations to the University and in particular, the Law Library.

To our Graduands, our best wishes

Once again, I congratulate all the graduands, their parents/guardians, families and well-wishers. You have persevered, and your presence at this convocation ceremony is a demonstration of your progress,

though silently achieved through toiling and burning of the proverbial midnight candle. Graduation is an important turning point for all students. Although many of you view it as an ending to your school lives and experiences, it is rather the beginning of putting into practice the knowledge acquired all through the years which you have devoted to studying at UNIOSUN. The entrepreneurial training you have received has put you at an advantage. Our country, Nigeria, and indeed the world await and beckon to you. I urge you to find your purpose and niche in life. Resolve to play a role in shaping our world. A better world will not come through mere wishing and complaining, but by collective actions of individuals who are driven by the passion of making the world a better place for all. Be one of them!

A sustainable and peaceful world devoid of injustice and inequity is the sum of all of our dreams and aspirations. Become creators and co-creators in the world you wish to see. Seize the moment, take advantage of the countless opportunities available to you, be diligent, be honest, love Nigeria, be prayerful and all shall be well with you. As we send you forth today, go out there to excel and conquer. There are no short cuts to success. Forget not your Alma Mater, and always be good ambassadors of UNIOSUN and your families. Ousman Touray, our Foundation Day Speaker is a living testimony of the limitless possibilities in Africa. The solution to our country's and continent's challenges is not to '*japa*'.

I wish you multiple blessings, and the very best of luck, as you travel toward a brilliant and sustainable future. Don't forget this charge – **The Result of Perseverance is Progress. No short cuts, but diligence and God's blessings are the best means to achieving success.**

I am glad to inform our graduands that your certificates are ready for collection. Please see the appropriate registry staff.

This being my last convocation as the Vice-Chancellor of this promising University, I cannot but appreciate the Almighty Allah for life, for His goodness and for being my forte. '*Ara san, iji ja, sugbon*

k'o gbe wa lo'. Alhamdulillah. I will forever be dedicated to the progress of this University. I appreciate the incredible team we have succeeded in building. It behoves on you to carry on. We promised we could, we did. The rebuilding process is attained, now is the time for system sustainability. I have had the good fortune to be guided by a pro-development and astute Governing Council. I cannot thank you enough. I have had the privilege of working with two great visitors who understand the true meaning of a University. I deeply appreciate them.

Thank you all for your attention.

Labode POPOOLA, PhD, FFAN

Vice-chancellor

SPEECH BY THE GOVERNOR OF OSUN AND VISITOR TO OSUN STATE UNIVERSITY, MR. ADEGBOYEGA OYETOLA, AT THE 10TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF THE UNIVERSITY HELD BETWEEN SATURDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER AND TUESDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2021

PROTOCOLS:

It gives me great pleasure to be physically present at the 10th convocation ceremony in my capacity as the Visitor to this prestigious University.

I welcome everyone present here today both physically and virtually to share in the joy of turning out graduates who have been found worthy in character and learning and in the culture of the university to impact the world.

Today's hybrid Convocation speaks to the capacity of the university to respond to and make the best out of untoward situation.

When the world was at a loss regarding how to handle statutory academic events during the Corona virus pandemic that locked down the world last year, UNIOSUN showed leadership by hosting the first virtual convocation in the country.

Today, the University has also made the best of the prevailing situation by hosting hybrid convocation (physical and virtual) and by returning to her conventional three-day convocation model. I commend the University leadership for this ingenuity.

Contemporary higher Institutions around the world have made virtual teaching, learning, assessment, matriculation, and convocation a mainstay in their curricula. I am happy that our University is renowned for the tradition of keeping up with emerging academic trends and is not left behind in this contemporary development.

I salute the creativity and innovation exhibited by the Management

and Council of the University. This ingenuity gives hope that this University is fulfilling the vision of excellence handed down by its founding fathers. I urge the leadership to continue to seek new ways to innovate and provide solutions to the State and the nation's challenges in line with its mandate.

Convocation is a major highlight of the university calendar. It is the first indication that a university is living up to its mandate. I therefore felicitate the Council, Management, Senate, esteemed Guests, Staff, Students, parents and friends of this great citadel of learning for the successful hosting of its 10th Convocation and for attaining this height since creation.

I also heartily congratulate today's graduands on the successful completion of this all-important journey in their lives.

Permit me to also thank their parents and guardians for their commitments and sacrifices and for donating these young persons as a galaxy of stars that will impact their world. I congratulate the parents, guardians, families and friends of the graduands on this major achievement of their wards and for coming to share in the joy of today.

On behalf of the Government of Osun, the Management of this Institution and the good people of this State, I express my deep gratitude to the incumbent Chancellor of this University, Apostle (Dr.) Mrs. Folorunso Alakija for recently donating a sum of ₦250,000,000 towards the long-completed Folorunso Alakija Boulevard, in addition to the world-class Teaching Hospital Complex, Apostle Alakija earlier donated to the University.

The Alakija Legacy is service to posterity and humanity, and the story will be told to generations to come. It is a lesson to all that Chancellery and allied positions in tertiary institutions are for service to humanity.

I express sincere appreciation to the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council and his incredible team for their commitment and excellent service delivery that have steered the University to

become a model.

On behalf of the University Community, I thank the University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Labode Popoola, whose tenure will come to an end in a few weeks for his efforts over the last five years in transforming the University and setting it on an upward trajectory since assuming office in 2016. I wish Mr. Vice-Chancellor more record-breaking achievements in his future endeavours.

My dear graduands, as you bask in the euphoria of graduation today, let me remind you that graduation offers you the key to employ the character, analytical skills and competencies that your university has imbued you with to partake in the task of positively impacting your life and the larger society.

The UNIOSUN brand and the Omoluabi ethos have been blended and carefully ingrained in you to compete in the knowledge and technology-driven world and to be solutions to the ubiquitous web of unemployment, economic downturn, violence and misery.

In particular, I urge you to unleash the entrepreneurial skills on the world by looking inward and being self-reliant. You must join the corps of young entrepreneurs who are revolutionising the world economy by owning enterprises and creating jobs.

Throughout your stay as students of this Institution, you have been accorded the rare opportunity of graduating with two certificates: a certificate for your course of study and a certificate for your chosen vocation of study.

The management of this institution has also made available to the University Alumni bankable proposals, a sizable loan with 1% interest rate payable over a period of five years. This loan could go a long way in helping you start up your business. It can make all the difference in your life.

I urge you to take advantage of this initiative to add value to your life and the society.

Alumni are the strength of academic institutions all over the world and they own their alma maters and work assiduously to make them competitive. I therefore urge you to join UNIOSUN Alumni Association to give back to the Institution that put the tools for successful and meaningful life and living in your hands.

The university Management must continue to rally the university community to cultivate the alumni to be useful contributors to the building of the Institution of our dream.

As a government, we shall continue to support UNIOSUN to make it the preferred University through funding under available resources and appointment of quality officials that will deliver university governance for excellent service delivery.

I hereby charge all the University staff and students to be peaceful and law abiding and be alive to their responsibilities in our collective interest.

Let me take this opportunity to remind us that COVID-19 is still here with us. I implore everyone to stay safe and continue to comply with protocols.

Once again, I congratulate the University on this 10th convocation ceremony.

I commit all our graduands into the able hands of the Almighty God for protection, guidance and direction in their journeys through life while also wishing all of us a safe journey to our respective destinations

Thank you for listening and may God continue to bless you all.

