

Address by the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Oguntola Jelil Alamu, at the Convocation Lecture for the combined Fourth and Fifth Convocation Ceremonies of Osun State University, Osogbo, Nigeria on Monday, 7th March, 2016

Protocols

With a grateful heart, filled with utmost joy, I welcome you to this Convocation Lecture, which is one of the major activities lined up to mark the combined fourth and fifth convocation ceremonies of Osun State University. For the records, the first Convocation ceremony in this institution took place on the 3rd February, 2009. It was a special Convocation, where the pioneer Chancellor was installed and the pioneer Visitor was conferred with a degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa). We had the maiden convocation for the conferment of first degree and award of prizes on May 21, 2011 and the second of such took place on July 21, 2012 while the third was held on March 29, 2014. By the grace of God, the fourth and fifth convocation ceremonies will hold on the 8th and 9th March, 2016.

Activities lined up for this Convocation commenced on Thursday March 3, 2016 with the commissioning of the Central Research Laboratory by the Visitor to the University, Ogbeni Rauf Adesoji Aregbesola, and staging of the Convocation Play titled "Midnight Hotel" written by Professor Femi Osofisan and directed by Professor Ameh Dennis Akoh of the College of Humanities and Culture of this University. The Ag. Vice-Chancellor addressed the Press on Friday March 4, 2016 while Special Jumat Service was also observed at the University Mosque. On Saturday March 5, 2016, The University featured live on the Television and Radio service of the Osun State Broadcasting Corporation. Later same day, the Nigeria Society of Engineers (NSE), in conjunction with the University, organized induction ceremony for Engineering graduates. The National President of the NSE, Engr. Otiz Anyaeji (FNSE) admitted the two sets of our Engineering graduates into Graduate Membership cadre of this professional body.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, we are gathered this morning to listen to the Convocation Lecture, titled ***Sustainable Tertiary Education in Post-Oil Nigeria*** to be delivered by Professor Michael O. Faborode, the Secretary General, Committee of Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian Universities under the distinguished chairmanship of the pioneer Visitor of this great institution Prince (Dr.) Olagunsoye Oyinlola. The Convocation Ceremony and Award of First Degrees for the 2013/2014 graduating set will hold tomorrow March 8, 2016. Investiture of the second Chancellor and Award of First Degrees for the 2014/2015 graduating set will hold on March 9, 2016.

As an institution, we return all glory to the Almighty God for his mercies in granting us a peaceful University, where all stakeholders are now consciously working together to make UNIOSUN a unique institution committed to achieving the vision and fulfilling the mission of its founding fathers.

I am delighted to report that our graduates are already making us proud. First class products of Osun State University are not only competing favourably with their colleagues all over the world, they are emerging top of their class with distinction at postgraduate level in foreign Universities. It gladdens my heart to report that the University successfully completed 2014/2015 academic session promptly without any form of interruption in our academic calendar. The stable calendar aided successful admission of our pioneer graduates from College of Law into the Nigerian Law School in Oct. 2015.

Since the last convocation ceremony in 2014, Osun State University has continued to make progress in teaching, research, community service, physical and infrastructural development, development of academic programmes, staff training and development as well as linkages and partnership locally and internationally. Our staff have continued to make indelible marks in their research and other activities winning competitive international research grants and bagging notable awards and securing high profile appointments. Our students have also been excelling both in national and international competitions. Details of all these will be provided in my Convocation Address.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, Osun State University will continue to provide the platform for intellectual discourse. As we listen to yet another unique lecture today, I must commend the activities of our Colleges and Faculties that have continued to organise series of distinguished lectures on topical issues. One that easily comes to mind is the distinguished personality lecture of the Faculty of Law, held on the 20th January 2016, titled: "Justiciability of Social and Economic Right in Nigeria" and delivered by an erudite lawyer and human right activist Mr. Femi Falana, SAN.

The major challenge facing government institutions today is the dwindling of financial resources. This underscores the choice of the theme of the Convocation Lecture. How do we survive and remain relevant as tertiary institutions when the oil wealth, for which this country depends solely upon these days, goes into extinction?

As the erudite scholar and an accomplished University administrator, Professor Michael O. Faborode painstakingly takes us through the journey of this discourse this morning, I congratulate and rejoice with our happy graduands, who have been found worthy in learning and character after years of rigorous academic activities. Our immense gratitude goes to all our stakeholders including our friends, the gentlemen from the Press. I wish us a result-oriented and successful Convocation Lecture. Ladies and gentlemen, you are welcome!