

**"THE HAND OF THE DILIGENT SHALL BEAR RULE"  
BEING THE ADDRESS BY THE CHANCELLOR,  
DR (MRS) FOLORUNSO ALAKIJA,  
AT THE GRAND FINALE OF THE EIGHTH CONVOCATION  
CEREMONIES  
OF OSUN STATE UNIVERSITY  
FOR THE CONFERMENT OF FIRST, POSTGRADUATE AND  
HONORARY DEGREES,  
HELD ON 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

**Protocols**

- The Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Professor Yemi Osinbajo, *SAN, GCON*
- The Visitor to Osun State University, His Excellency, Mr. Gboyega Oyetola and his Cabinet members
- The Speaker, Rt. Hon. Timothy Owoeye and other Honourable Members of the State House of Assembly
- The Chief Justice of the State, Hon. Justice Adepele Ojo and other Judges
- Former Visitors to the University, Prince (Dr.) Olagunsoye Oyinlola and Ogbeni Rauf Adesoji Aregbesola
- Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Mallam Yusuf Ali, *SAN* and other Council members

- The Vice-Chancellor, Osun State University, Professor Labode Popoola and the 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
- His Royal Majesty, Oba (Dr) Gabriel Aromolaran II, CFR, LLD Hons, the Owa Obokun Adimula of Ijesaland
- All our 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 Chairmen and former members of UNIOSUN Governing Council
- Visiting Vice-Chancellors and former Vice-Chancellors
- Principal Officers
- Honorary Awardees
- Members of Senate

- Members of the Congregation
- Chairman and Members of Advancement Board
- Chairman and Members of Parent Forum
- UNIOSUN Alumni Association
- Student Representative Leaders
- Our Graduands and their families
- Gentlemen of the Press
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

To God be the glory for the great, mighty and unspeakable things He continues to do in our lives, in this institution, in the State of Osun and in Nigeria in general. It is by His divine grace that we are alive to witness today's historic event of the 8<sup>th</sup> convocation ceremonies for the conferment of first, postgraduate and honorary degrees.

I warmly welcome the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Professor Yemi Osinbajo, *SAN, GCON* who has come to Osun State University for the first time. His

Excellency's inspiring and thought-provoking convocation lecture has given us fresh hope in our country, as the key to Africa's development.

I welcome our Visitor, His Excellency, Mr. Gboyega Oyetola, the Executive Governor, State of Osun who is in our midst for the first time after assuming office and his Deputy, Mr. Benedict Adegboyega Alabi.

Your Excellency, the Visitor, at Osun State University, we are poised at making this noble institution a pride not only for our state but for the country as a whole, as well as being a major contributor to global development through the quality of our graduands. On behalf of the UNIOSUN Community, I pray that your tenure shall be peaceful and marked with great achievements. Please, let UNIOSUN always be a priority on your table.

I welcome our former Visitors, all founding fathers, members of the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary; our Royal Fathers, our honorary awardees and other dignitaries. We thank you for keeping this date of joy with us. I am excited to welcome Chief

(Mrs) Nike Okundaye, a friend in the fashion and culture industry, who is an internationally recognised professional; a former colleague and Banker of repute, Mr. Jim Ovia and business mogul, Dr Wale Babalakin in the list of those to be conferred with honorary degrees of our University.

Permit me to take a trip down memory lane for those who are not familiar with our history. Today, 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2019 marks the 12<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of this institution, the day official academic activities commenced in 2007. I congratulate Prince (Dr.) Olagunsoye Oyinlola, the Visioneer and other founding fathers for the great vision; the seed of knowledge they planted has now germinated and is producing our tomorrow's dreams.

I commend the Governing Council under the leadership of Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali, *SAN* for keeping faith with the lofty ideals of the founding fathers; and the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Labode Popoola for diligently managing the affairs of the university. I salute the entire management team, staff and students who also deserve commendation for maintaining and sustaining peace in the University. Within a few years of her existence, Osun State University has been growing in leaps and bounds. This is a divine

project and all of us owe it a duty to continue to nurture it. It is our own Jerusalem, and those who want to prosper must pray and work towards it.

During the seventh convocation on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018, I reiterated the need for good spirited individuals and groups to be active participants in our efforts at building an enviable institution. On that day, the foundation for the construction of Osun State University Teaching Hospital bequeathed to the University by my family was laid. I am happy to inform this convocation that the construction work has commenced. The hospital, when completed will consist of world class Community Health Unit, Maternity and Neonatal Medicare, Research and Diagnostic Laboratories, State of the art operating Theatres, Cutting edge Diagnostic Imaging inclusive of C.T Scan, M.R.I. Scanning Facility, Ultra-Sound Scanning Facilities and X-ray and Radiotherapy Suites. It is our desire that it will be one of the best hospitals in Nigeria. Its availability will help reduce the number of patients who are constantly flying out of the country for specialist medical care. We are resolved to delivering it on schedule, God with us.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I crave your indulgence to delve a little on critical issues of national relevance. Youth restiveness has become a plague that demands concerted efforts from all and sundry, because young people are vital to the future of a nation. This restiveness has led to increase in banditry, kidnapping, drug-abuse, Internet frauds/scams, youth suicides and other social vices. To worsen the situation is the prevailing atmosphere of hate, misinformation and fake news. No country grows in such self-induced circumstances. We seem to have lost our value system and parents and guardians are not helping the situation. While it serves no useful purpose heaping all the blame on government, we hereby implore governments to build value re-orientation systems into our curricula; our traditional institutions, Churches and Mosques must promote counselling of youths in school and out of school systems, while the society should encourage good parenting. Opportunities abound in Nigeria for all, yet we tend not to be taking advantage of these. Gone are the days when we expect governments to absorb fresh graduates into its services and agencies. Nowhere in the world is this in vogue anymore. What drives great societies now are creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship. Of course, in all of these, patriotism, sacrifices and love of motherland are key to nation-building.

My dear children and graduands, I have good news for you. Having been groomed in your various fields of academic endeavours, you have all it takes to be successful in life. Every nation has its peculiar challenges. Let our current challenges prompt you to find solutions rather than joining the multitude to commit evil. Walk with wise people and become wise, because when you walk with fools you will certainly get into trouble. As you go into the larger society, I urge you to be diligent. The Bible in the Book of Proverbs Chapter 12 verse 24 declared that ***“the hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute”***.

If you will rule your world, you must be diligent and make God the pillar of your support: you must be diligent in your career; be diligent in prayer and be diligent in building your future prospects. I urge you to commit your ways unto Him and He will guide you.

I implore the organised private sector to also join hands with the Federal Government to work out sustainable modalities for empowering our youths more in the acquisition of skills in the field of engineering, technology, film industry, sporting activities, entertainment industry, fashion industry and agriculture etc.



Finally, I like to thank most sincerely, all who have supported this university financially, materially, morally and spiritually in the out gone year. May God Almighty reward your labour of love. I call on all well-to-do individuals and corporate organizations in the society to extend their benefactions to our institution. It is an investment that is worth the while and the returns are enduring.

Your Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen I thank you for your attention. God bless UNIOSUN, God bless the State of Osun and God bless Nigeria.