

**ALL HANDS ON DECK: ADDRESS OF THE CHANCELLOR, HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY, OBA OKUNADE
SIJUWADE OLUBUSE II, CFR, D.LITT., AT THE MAIDEN CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF OSUN STATE
UNIVERSITY, MAY 21, 2011**

Protocol

I have great pleasure addressing this august body today. First, I must congratulate the Governor of Osun State, OgbeniRaufAdesojiAregbesola, who God has been put in position at this particular time that Osun State University is graduating its first set of students. We must always realise that it is God that put people in positions and He is here today because it is the will and purpose of God for him. Mr. Governor, you are witnessing a great thing during your tenure and I pray that you will continue to experience good things.

Secondly, I congratulate the Council, Senate, Staff and Students of Osun State University for being part of this great event. Being alive is a gift from God. Because you were there at the beginning does not mean you would have been here today. It is because God has shown you mercy and kept everyone alive to witness the day. I congratulate you that your efforts have not been in vain. You have laboured greatly over the past four years to make this day possible and God has blessed your efforts. I salute your courage, your doggedness, your commitment and your sacrifices. I am sure you have had to put in all of these at one time or the other during these past four years.

The third set of people I am congratulating this morning and the people for whose purpose we are all here: the pioneer graduating students, and with them, their happy and delighted parents. I thank God for your lives because I know it is not all of you that were enrolled in 2007 that are graduating today. Even when you take out those individuals who are undergoing courses that are longer than four years, there are still so many who are unable to share in the joy of this day for various reasons including inability to complete their various programmes. So, I congratulate you and I congratulate your parents and guardians who have invested greatly in your future. Their investments would not be in vain.

I must thank the Council and Senate of the University for counting me worthy of being conferred with the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.). By this act, you have enrolled me as an alumnus of this great institution. My commitment to the University will continue to be reinforced in the years to come.

I have followed the developments in Osun State University with interest even before I was appointed the pioneer Chancellor of the University in 2008. Indeed, my acceptance of the offer to be the Chancellor of the University was accepted because of the good things I saw that the University was doing and the way it was going about its activities. That we are today is evidence that some things are being done right in the institution. Indeed, the whole of the Osun State University experience during the past four years have lessons for us, probably the most striking of which is that the success of the education sector today in this country requires the partnership of all stakeholders and that all hands must be on deck.

Time and again, experts in tertiary education have confirmed that for education to perform at the highest levels, there is need for input from all stakeholders. More importantly, it has become clear that our Governments can never have enough money to do everything they would like to do for the people. Many times, governments in various parts of this country and other parts of the world have called upon their people to join hands with them to tackle the problems in the Education Sector. Tertiary education, in particular, requires great funding and money available to its operators is never enough. Thus, we cannot but commend the parents of students who are graduating today for

investing in the education of their children. What they have done is to partner with Government in providing education for their children.

I am therefore seizing this opportunity to appeal to all stakeholders to join hands with the Government of Osun State to develop this important sector. We cannot leave everything to Government to do; the resources available to it are not enough. Inevitably, Government has always had to prioritise and, in the process, one sector or the other is always feeling aggrieved. Whatever assistance we can render – as individuals, as corporate organisations, faith-based groups, etc. – will go a long way in resolving the crisis in the sector.

I would not want to take too much of our time. I know our happy graduates are waiting anxiously for their degrees to be conferred on them. Once again, I congratulate the graduating students of today and challenge them to be worthy representatives of their alma mater in their post-graduation years. My prayer is that God will continue to direct your footsteps in life and your parents will never regret over you.

I thank you all for your attention.

His Imperial Majesty
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Ooni of Ife
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May 21, 2011