



OSUN STATE UNIVERSITY

PMB 4494, OSOGBO

Address of the Pro-Chancellor, Professor Peter Okebukola, OFR, at the Commissioning of the College of Agriculture Building, Ejigbo Campus, Wednesday, 8th October 2008

Your Excellency, the Executive Governor of Osun State and Visitor to Osun State University, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola

Your Excellency, the Deputy Governor of Osun State, Erelu Olusola Obada

The Right Honourable Speaker, Osun State House of Assembly, Barrister Adejare Bello

Your Lordship, the Chief Judge of Osun State, Honourable Justice Fasasi Ogunsola

Your Imperial Majesty, Alayeluwa Oba Okunade Sijuwade Olubuse II, the Ooni of Ife

Your Royal Majesty, the Ogiyan of Ejigbo, Oba Omowonuola Oyeyode Oyesosin

Our other Royal Fathers, the Kabiyesis here present

Honourable Members, Osun State House of Assembly here present

The Secretary to the Osun State Government, Alhaji Fatai Akinbade

The Chief of Staff to the Governor, Dr. Peter Babalola

The Head of Service, Elder Segun Akinwusi

Members of the State Executive Council and Special Advisers

Members of Council of Osun State University here present

The Vice-Chancellor, other Principal Officers and Provosts of Colleges

Chairmen of Statutory Commissions

Chairmen of Local Governments

Senior Government Functionaries

Staff and students of UNIOSUN

Gentlemen of the Press

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Council of Osun State University, I like to extend a warm welcome to all who are present here today to felicitate with us as we commission the College of Agriculture Building and the College's Experimental Farm for teaching and research.

As I have noted in my addresses at earlier commissioning ceremonies at Osogbo and Okuku, the University Council has

been particularly concerned with developing the infrastructure and facilities that would match our aspirations to build a world class university in the State of the Living Spring at the shortest possible time.

Developing the physical and other infrastructural facilities as well as proper equipping is crucial to the emergence and sustenance of a true university. Today's ceremony is coming a few days after the formal take off of the College of Agriculture. The students of the College who are in their second year moved to the campus only a few days ago. They had been resident at the main campus in Osogbo for their first year as they offered courses in basic sciences. In the interim, the campus had taken off in April 2008 with the Pre-Degree Programme. Today, we can say that Ejigbo Campus is running fully.

For the next couple of months, the College of Agriculture would, of necessity, be sharing its facilities with the Pre-Degree

programme. However, the development of our physical facilities and infrastructure is an ongoing thing and we would be putting more structures in place to match our requirements in the coming months. As keen observers of developments in our University would have noted, the learning environment in all campuses of the University has witnessed significant positive changes in the past few months. The goal has been to enhance the learning experiences of our students and equip our staff with the necessary wherewithal for them to perform maximally. Our Ejigbo Campus has not been left behind as we have continued to develop facilities for the campus even while waiting for the students to be ready to move to their campus.

The commissioning of our College Building is only the beginning as the next phase is equipping the classrooms, laboratories, and offices with the facilities that would make learning a truly worthwhile experience on this campus. We cannot compromise on

our desire to make the graduates of this institution comparable in quality to graduates of other institutions anywhere in the world.

I must acknowledge publicly once again, the support our University has been receiving from the Government of Osun State led by our amiable and able Governor, Prince (Dr.) Olagunsoye Oyinlola, in our effort to develop the institution into one of our dream. There is no gainsaying the fact that the Governor has a clear focus and good understanding of his mission not least in relation to the development of the University. I must also appreciate the members of his government especially members of the Executive Council. The Commissioners for Education and Finance and their Permanent Secretaries have been exceptionally supportive, and it is only appropriate to express our gratitude.

In closing my remarks, I must appreciate my colleagues in the Council of Osun State University, as well as the Management and

Staff. I also like to appreciate the technical supervisory teams and the contractors for working to give us this structure.

I thank you all for your attention.

Professor Peter Okebukola, OFR
Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council

8 October 2008