

**ADDRESS OF THE PRO-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR OBAFEMI AJIBOLA,
AT THE 4TH AND 5TH CONVOCATION CEREMONIES OF OSUN STATE
UNIVERSITY, HELD ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY 8TH AND 9TH
MARCH, 2016**

Protocols

On behalf of the Governing Council, Senate, Staff and Students of Osun State University, I welcome the Visitor Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola the Executive Governor of the State of Osun to this august occasion of the 4th and 5th Convocation Ceremonies of this University. I also welcome our newly installed Chancellor of the University Mrs Folorunso Alakija, distinguished members of Council and Senate Vice-Chancellors and representatives of sister universities and our guests to this occasion.

This Convocation is a significant milestone in the lives of graduating students and I congratulate and rejoice with them on successfully becoming graduates of Osun State University after sessions of rigorous academic pursuit. I congratulate the parents and guardians of our graduates for the years of sacrifice, nurturing and endurance that has led to the achievement of this milestone. I pray that God will grant you the privilege to see your children and wards achieve greater things as they go out into the world to impact positively.

The vision of this university is “to be a Centre of Excellence providing high quality teaching and learning experiences which will engender the production of entrepreneurial graduates capable of impacting positively on their environment while being globally competitive”. The governing Council of this university takes this vision seriously and recognizes that the vision can only be achieved when teaching and non-teaching staff are competent and highly motivated; facilities are adequate for the programmes available; systems and processes are effective and efficient; the university environment embodies the best of academic culture; and the resources available to the university are prudently applied.

The actions of the governing Council are therefore being geared towards the promotion of these values and this has led into some bumpiness (variation) in our trajectory. I wish to place on record and thank the Visitor Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola the Executive Governor of the State for his continuing support to the university and for his efforts in promoting the evolution of Osun State University into a world-class institution of higher learning. It is with pleasure that I wish to state to this august body that the university has been running smoothly, peacefully and in the best tradition of academic pursuit. We are confident that our graduates are well prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the future. Council will not relent in its efforts at ensuring sustainable stability and growth of all aspects of the university.

It is appropriate for me to acknowledge that the current economic situation in our country poses significant challenges for the university in its quest to be a Centre of Excellence, a university requires significant resources to create a conducive teaching and learning environment. On this, I must acknowledge that the government of the State of Osun has done a wonderful job of providing for this university since inception; keeping in mind its enormous requirements because of its peculiarities which include its multi-campus nature, the need for rapid infrastructural development on all its campuses and the need to make university education relevant and affordable for the youth of the state and beyond. It is important to also acknowledge the contribution of the Local Governments of the State in providing significant financial support to the university. This support has contributed significantly to the infrastructural development of the six campuses. However, the situation now requires innovative approaches by Council and Management of the university to maintain this tempo of development in the university.

This University is now at a stage in which it needs to start working towards generating a significant proportion of its financial requirements

without making university education the preserve of the rich and at the same time improve the quality of instruction and research. Consequently, the Council has set in motion the processes for meeting this challenge. We will ensure that we use the intellect and skills available within members of this university community to device ways of improving our internally generated revenues, minimizing waste, eliminating fraud and inefficiency and at the same time improving the quality of teaching and learning in the University. We are determined to lay the foundation for the evolution of Osun State University as envisioned by those who established the university. To this end, I call for the sacrificial dedication and understanding of the staff and students of the university especially when the need arises for us to bear some hardship for the greater good of the institution. My interactions with the management, staff and indeed the broader stakeholders of this university indicate to me that with the proper leadership, these challenges can be overcome.

I wish to publicly acknowledge the support of the Visitor and Governor of the State of Osun, Ogbeni Rauf Adesoji Aregbesola, to the Council and Management of the University, and his positive response to issues concerning the progress of the university. I thank you for your support to this university. It is also appropriate for me to acknowledge with thanks the support of the Deputy Governor of the State of Osun, Otunba Titi Laoye–Tomori. She responds swiftly and promptly to issues concerning the university at all times. On behalf of the Council, I like to say that we are most grateful. I will like to congratulate the Chancellor, Mrs. Folorunso Alakija, on her well-deserved appointment. Your contributions to the development of education in this country are well known. May the good Lord help and guide you on this assignment and in all things. I will also like to acknowledge with thanks the State House of Assembly for their support on issues related to the University. We look forward to the quick passage of the proposed amendments to the establishment law of the university

It is imperative that I acknowledge the support of the members of Council and their unalloyed commitment to the advancement of the Osun State University. I consider it a privilege to be associated with these distinguished and highly esteemed members of this Council. God will reward your efforts and dedication. I thank you for your support. I believe strongly that this university will reach great heights and contribute significantly to the development of the State in particular and the nation in general. My belief is strengthened by the quality of the current leadership of the university, starting from the Acting Vice Chancellor and other Principal Officers of the University to the Provosts, Deans and other leaders of the university units (academic and non-academic). Prof. Oguntola Jelil Alamu has done very well in leading the University, particularly after the crisis of 2014.

Finally let me again congratulate our graduating students. My prayer is that God will continue to elevate and guide you. The University expects that you will continue to be a source of pride to this institution. I implore you to remember and 'give back' to your alma mata by continuing to associate with it and working in all ways available for its progress and the achievement of its vision.

May God bless you all.

Professor Obafemi Ajibola, FNSE, FAEng
Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council
Osun State University