

The Visitor to the University, His Excellency, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola  
The Deputy Governor & Honourable Commissioner for Education, Her  
Excellency, Otunba (Mrs.) Grace Titi Laoye-Tomori

Honourable Chancellor, Osun State University, Oba Okunade Olubuse II  
Sijuwade, Ooni of Ife,

Honourable Pro chancellor & Chairman of council, Prof. Gabriel Adesiyun  
Olawoyin (SAN),

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Adekunle Bashir Okesina

All Vice Chancellors of other universities,

All the Principal Officers of the university,

All Provost, Deans and Directors,

The Heads of Department, Osun State University,

Members of Staff,

All parents present,

Gentlemen of the Press

Ladies and gentlemen

My fellow Graduands,

It is with great sense of honour, privilege and fulfillment that I stand here today representing the graduating class of Osun state university 2012/2013 academic session. We must express our profound gratitude to Almighty God, the custodian of wisdom, knowledge and understanding and to every

one present here today irrespective of their busy schedules, to share in our celebration. I have to admit that accepting and preparing for this task was not easy, but with the encouragement and support of others, here I stand today with all attention focused on me. I thank you all.

My personal journey through this prestigious university began in September, 2009, when I saw my name on the admission list of the department of Economics. The feeling of felicity, happiness and profound joy that I felt was not only because my name was on the admission list of this prestigious university but also that it was the top most in the college of management and social sciences. Ladies and gentlemen, while not denying the place of hard work in this great achievement and privilege I enjoy today, I must also admit that my background and experiences in life contributed immensely. I come from a home where I have always been encouraged to work hard and rewarded for all academic excellence. When they say that victory will surely come to those who never quit they also refer to success because it comes to those who refuse to quit despite series of failure encountered. Hence, if you say to me today in light of this, "Rasheed Oladipupo you are lucky", I will say "thank you, of course I am. I am lucky to have had my family and I am lucky to have passed through the great men and women in the name of friends, mentors, teachers, and professors that have contributed immensely to making me who I am today. They encouraged and propelled me to give my best in everything I did.

Ladies and gentlemen, it was just like yesterday when we started our formal educational journey from primary school, to high school, then through the undergraduate level to the successful completion of our various disciplines which we began 4 or 5 years ago. I must confess that this journey has been a challenging one. What made it even more challenging were the expectations of friends, parents and other well wishers. Despite all these, WE MADE IT.

In the twinkle of an eye, the first semester of our first year came to an end and we had to take our first vacation as undergraduates. The result of our performances for the preceding semester was released early in the second

semester and that serves as the turning point for most of us. For some of us whose results were something to write home about, we made a pledge to use it as a benchmark upon which we would build greater successes. Others in the same category however, saw it as a reason to relax. Thus, while some were encouraged, others became complacent. Majority of us here today found ourselves in the category of the former, learnt our lessons, and charted a new course, and as expected, it has paid-off very well, as we are witnessing today. In all, I would say that perseverance, determination and sacrifice won the day and have brought us this far.

Fellow graduands, we have fought a good fight, we came, we saw and we conquered, and with determination, we have won the race. However, this could have been impossible without the support of the Almighty God. Therefore, let us all make Almighty God our lifeline as we journey through the rest of our lives. Furthermore, let us always apply to our daily activities, the discipline and lessons that have been inculcated directly or indirectly in us through our studies in this University, and which have resulted in the honour being bestowed upon us today. These are the same virtues that we will need to apply as we journey through the rest of our lives.

To my fellow graduands, success in life depends on how determined and how well prepared we are to effectively apply the knowledge and skills we have acquired here, and in addition, how willing we are to constantly add to these by improving ourselves. I would not say that the world out there is an easy domain; neither will I say it is an extremely tough and impenetrable one. Let us always bear in mind that in this fast paced growing world, change is inevitable, and this calls for the need to seek to upgrade ourselves both formally and informally whenever the opportunity presents itself. The end of our studies here should therefore be seen as a means to an end, rather than an end in itself. Let us go out there to harness our potentials and God-given abilities to contribute to the growth of humanity in our own small way. As we step out of this university and into the world, let us ponder on this simple but thought-provoking quote by Ben Francia, “Don’t give up until you make your last attempt and don’t make your last attempt until you have succeeded”.

I will like to rephrase the popular saying which states that behind every successful man there is always a successful woman, by saying behind every successful graduand, there are lots of successful and hardworking people. Therefore, our joy and fulfillment will not be completed if we do not acknowledge the people who sacrificed and supported us immensely and in diverse ways to make our accomplishments possible. We take this opportunity to duly discharge and pay the debts of gratitude owed to every one who has contributed in one form or the other to make this day.

First and foremost, this magnificent achievement would not have been possible without the help and support of our supreme creator. Next, we give thanks to our parents, guardians and friends for their immense support and sacrifices that have brought us this far. We know we can never repay what we owe them. All we say to our parent is, may the Almighty God reward you all greatly for your love and support. At this point, ladies and gentlemen, please join me in giving a round of applause to the parents and guardians of all graduands here and everywhere.

We also want to appreciate our lecturers, mentors, the university administration and every stakeholder of this great institution for making this our great alma mater a Citadel of excellence for breathing successful ambassadors they can always be proud of. We must not fail to appreciate, in a very special way, the present administration for its commitment in making the University community very conducive for academics through infrastructural and human development. Only eternity knows our depth of gratitude to you.

Also, words are not enough to express my gratitude to my mother Alhaja Oladipupo Kuburat, my late father Mr Oladipupo Kareem and my one and only sister Mrs Idowu Anuoluwa for their financial and material supports, immeasurable love and words of encouragement, advices and prayers. I am also grossly indebted to them; it is only through the grace of Allah that I can reciprocate their efforts. Alhaja, I want to tell you that the best is yet to come. You will be alive to reap the fruits of your labour and sacrifice.

God will so bless you that you will be called blessed. I love and appreciate you so much. You are the best mother one can ever have and I could not have asked for a better mother. If I were to make a list of all those I should appreciate, the reading of it may deprive our families and friends the photographs, delicious foods and drinks waiting to be devoured soon.

To my fellow graduands, we must note today that it's not just enough to be a graduate of this great institution. I implore you to stand, protect and defend the image of this great institution. We must also defend the degrees that have just been awarded to us. We all have passed through doors opened by the heroes of the past. So let us not close the door behind us by hoarding whatever experience or knowledge we have accumulated these years. Let our successors pass through the doors we will open. Also dare to make some breakthroughs to make life easier and more interesting for those that will come after us.

Great ambassadors of our reputable institution, in saying a very big congratulations to you, I remind you that the battle line has just been drawn. Therefore, in order to affect our world positively we must exhibit a great sense of courage, power, humility, optimism, and tenacity. We must be prepared to dare challenges and also never accept defeat as we journey through life. So I implore you to be great leaders wherever you find yourself and also have the zeal to dare things that may seem impossible from the onset. It is pertinent to have it in mind that if you can fail or get defeated, you can also win or triumph, this single thought gave me self confidence and courage that made me succeed when I represented my department in a competition. Also always acknowledge and remember God in all your endeavours because grace and favour is an integral part of every success story.

May I conclude by saying that Nigeria is a nation endowed with great mineral and human resources. Her vision 2020 could only be accomplished through optimization and full employment of both human and natural resources. It is possible, very possible for Nigeria to be number one advanced nation in the world through researches, proper use of

resources, formulation and implementation of realistic economic policies. From the economic history of Nigeria, it has been observed that the country's economic problem is either as a result of improper implementation of good economic policies or the formulation of bad economic policies. Therefore, those on the seat of power should not only be ready to formulate reliable, realistic and good economic policies but should also be prepared to ensure the successful implementation of such economic policies.

May God bless Osun State University, State of Osun and Nigeria.

Thank you all.