

**AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR**  
**OF OSUN STATE, PRINCE OLAGUNSOYE OYINLOLA AT THE**  
**COMMISSIONING OF OSUN STATE UNIVERSITY, OSOGBO HELD ON**  
**FRIDAY <sup>TH</sup> 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2008**

Her Excellency, the Deputy Governor of Osun State,

Hon. Speaker, Osun State House of Assembly,

My Lord, the Chief Judge of Osun State and the President of the State Customary  
Court of Appeal,

Kabiyesis,

Parliamentarians in attendance,

The Secretary to the State Government,

Chief of Staff to the Governor,

Head of Service,

Members of the State Executive Council and Special Advisers,

Chairmen of Statutory Commissions,

The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council and other members of the Governing  
Council of UNIOSUN,

Other members of the University Community,

My Lords Spiritual and Temporal,

Permanent Secretaries, Executive Assistants and Heads of Non-Ministerial Agencies,

Chairmen of Local Governments,

Senior Government Functionaries,

Distinguished Guests,

Gentlemen of the Press,

Ladies and Gentlemen

You will recall that on September 21, 2007, we were all together here to witness the formal take off of the Osun State University and the commencement of academic activities. At the time, the University had in place just enough facilities for it to commence serious academic work in the four campuses that took off at the time. Of necessity, we could only admit a small number of students that the facilities in place could meaningfully cope with without compromising quality in any form.

However, the promise we made to our people is that enough facilities would be put in place to enable this University admit a substantial number of additional undergraduates and expand access to quality tertiary education being offered by UNIOSUN. Today, we are witnessing the evidence of yet another promise fulfilled.

I am, therefore particularly delighted to be here today to commission the Central Administration Building and the College of Science, Engineering and

Technology Building recently completed at the Osogbo Campus of the Osun State University. It is very remarkable that the two buildings being commissioned at this ceremony are by far the biggest evidence yet of the infrastructural development taking place across the six campuses of this University simultaneously. Efforts are still on-going to put several other structures in place in the six campuses of UNIOSUN.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I must let you know that what is happening here today would be replicated in the other five campuses in the coming months. I would therefore like to congratulate not only the Council, Management, Staff and Students of the University but also the good people of Osun State, in whose time we are witnessing these developments.

Our promise of the provision of avenues for quality university education was made, fully aware of the implications, both in terms of manpower and physical infrastructural requirements. We never, at any time, deluded ourselves that what we have in mind would come cheap. But, our commitment to providing a glorious future for our children, not only in this state but also in the country and the world at large has continued to drive our initiatives and actions regarding the development of UNIOSUN.

I need to emphasise the fact that building a world class university in a developing world a major challenge. However, the leadership of Osun State University, as reflected in its Council and Management, has continued to prove that this salient goal is attainable. Indeed, the goal at all times is to develop

UNIOSUN into a world class institution. We are persuaded that creating an enabling environment for high quality teaching and learning requires the best physical facilities and infrastructure that are available. It is in this context that our concentration over the past several months has been on putting in place permanent high quality facilities that can stand the test of time.

One of the most difficult decisions we have taken is starting off our six campuses on their **permanent** sites simultaneously. We could have taken the easier route of using temporary campuses in the various locations. And, indeed, we received so many offers of sites that could be used to start off. But, as it is, our approach has paid off. Today, Osun State University is the proud owner of high class, purpose-built structures that will last for decades. We will continue to use this approach as we tackle and address the various challenges confronting our people and bringing development to our State, using every means available.

I like to challenge the Council of Osun State University this morning as the custodian of all the physical infrastructural and facilities of the University. One of the major banes of public sector utility development in this country is poor maintenance culture. Billions of Naira worth of facilities are wasting away in several of our public institutions today due to lack of maintenance. This is a trend that must not be allowed to rear its head in any of the campuses of the institution. While the Council is the official custodian of these facilities, the task of ensuring judicious use and proper maintenance actually devolves on the Management. The Management of UNIOSUN, including the Principal Officers and Provosts of

Colleges must, therefore, ensure that they are worthy and dependable custodians. These structures have been built, and others are being constructed with taxpayers' money. The least you can do is to ensure that they are not only used for the purposes for which they have been built, but that their lifespan is extended daily by proper use.

The other challenge similarly goes to the University. Building fanciful structures, as I have already said, is not enough to produce world class graduates. The quality of graduates that are being produced year in, year out from these buildings and others that would join them is what would make the world acknowledge this University as a worthy addition to the body of institutions providing tertiary education in this country.

On our part, the current administration in Osun State pledges its continued support for the all-round development of this institution and other government-owned tertiary institutions in this state. We would make funds available to a reasonable extent, to enable the University procure the necessary equipments and teaching facilities, without which these structures would be nothing more than an assembly hall.

Once again, I wish to congratulate members of the UNIOSUN Community, including myself as Visitor to the University, for the giant steps taken today towards the fulfilment of our joint dreams.

Thank you all and God bless.