

IT IS TIME TO SOW

Sixth Convocation and Tenth Foundation Anniversary Address

**By the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman Governing Council Yusuf Ali,
SAN on 6TH April, 2017**

Protocols

On behalf of the Governing Council of Osun State University, I heartily welcome you all to this epoch making occasion, marking our University's Tenth (10th) anniversary and the Sixth (6th) Convocation Ceremonies. I wish to in a special way, welcome the Visitor to the University, Ogbeni Rauf Adesoji Aregbesola, the Governor of the State. In the same vein, I warmly welcome Her Excellency, the Deputy Governor of the State and in a special way our very dear Chancellor, Dr. Folorunso Alakija.

I welcome and congratulate all our graduating students, their parents and guardians for the academic attainment of today. This graduation ceremony climaxes your educational journey and pursuit of degrees in Osun State University with the decoration of garlands of honour.

In the same vein, permit me to warmly welcome my three distinguished predecessors in the office of chairman of council, Professors Peter Okebukola, Gabriel Olawoyin, SAN and Obafemi Ajibola, back to the Osun State University family. I am sure you will be curious and interested to know about the progress and development of your darling University.

After the inauguration of the Governing Council of the University in August, 2016, by the Governor the first task that we set for ourselves was to set up a conciliation and mediation committee of council to try and address the various polarizing issues that arose from the needless skirmishes that almost brought the University to its knees. The committee also have the mandate to see to the out of

court settlement of the myriad of court cases that were filed by aggrieved gladiators of the said crises. Thank God, we have recorded appreciable progress OFOR all fronts on these issue, moving forward. The selection and appointment of a substantive Vice-Chancellor for the University was also a major hurdle that had been cleared. Thankfully, through an open and transparent process, the appointment of Professor Labode Popoola as the new Vice Chancellor was concluded on 04 November, 2016. Upon the approval of his appointment by the Visitor, he assumed duties with immediate effect on 05 November, 2016. Our Council is also committed to the appointment of substantive officers to the positions of Registrar and Bursar respectively.

IT IS TIME TO SOW

Osun State where this University is situated is an agrarian state. The title of this short address will resonate with our people , who are mostly farmers.

It is common knowledge that before a farmer can sow or plant he will first acquire the land, prepare it, hoe and harrow and generally make the land ready for cultivation. This analogy sits well with this university in my view.

I take the view that the last 10 years of the existence of our university was a period of acquisition of land, preparation of land, by hoeing and harrowing and it is now time to plant.

The logical question that will follow is what do we do? We have to sow so that we will expect bumper harvest when the time comes.

In my humble view I summarized the things we need to sow as follows:

- (i) We need to sow exemplary and exceptional leadership that is, positive, transparent, honest, progressive, dynamic and God-fearing to propel the impetus that will lead to change and progress.
- (ii) We must sow academic excellence and best international practices if we want to take this University to the next level. Mediocrity, cronysim , nepotism and favouritism must be shuned like a plaque.
- (iii) We must sow scholarship, learning and deep intellectual development. A university must not be a bastion of ignorance, tokenism and favouritism.

- (iv) We have to sow adherence to processes, the law and procedure. Impunity, quick fix and cutting corners distort the basis of excellence.
- (v) We must sow serious commitment to solid infrastructural development. Though the hood does not make the monk, but there would be no monk without the hood.
- (vi) We must sow commitment to science, technology and information technology. We cannot be global players by deploying out dated and out moded knowledge.
- (vii) We must sow responsibility within the Council, the Management, Staff and Students. We must shun destructive and scoth earth behavior in the pursuit of whatever we think is our right, we must exercise our leadership with responsibility.
- (viii) We must sow learning and character, for learning devoid of character is like a vehicle without an engine.
- (ix) We must sow commitment to worthy and noble causes, the best for the system and goodwill to all.
- (x) We must sow truth, courage, loyalty, steadfastness, selflessness, uncommon integrity, and consistence.
- (xi) It is befitting at this juncture to quickly identify six indices that a world class university must possess in order to be so recognized. I cannot do better than to quote Luis Maria R. Calingo, who set out three of the indices in the following words:

“Perhaps the most authoritative work on creating world-class universities is the one that Dr. Jamil Samli of the World Bank published in 2009. According to Dr. Samli, a world-class university has three distinguishing outcomes: first, highly sought graduates; second, leading-edge research; and third, dynamic knowledge and technology transfer. Dr. Samli attributed these outcomes to three complementary sets of factors at play in these universities. The first factor is a high concentration of talent, consisting of faculty, students, researchers and internationalization. The second factor requires favorable governance features that encourage leadership, strategic vision, innovation, and flexibility and that enable institutions to make decisions and manage resources without being encumbered by bureaucracy. The third factor consists of abundant resources to offer a rich learning

environment and to conduct advanced research, with these resources coming from the public budget, endowment revenues, tuition fees and research grants. According to Dr. Samli, it is the dynamic interaction among these three factors that defines world-class universities.”Luis Maria R. Calingo, Building a World Class University: Beyond The Numbers.

The above identified indices were also complimented by three otencumbered even once again quote another outstanding academic, Michael Shattock who stated as follows:

“This list is not sufficient and we should add three others: the age of the institution, its physical location and the existence of an external political climate that gives full licence to free expression and academic freedom.” Michael Shattock, Policy Reviews in Higher Education Volume 1, 2017 -Issue 1.

CONCLUSION

The Visitor SIR, the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, my Predecessors in office who are Honorees today, Management, Students, Granduands, the happy parents and guardians of the Granduands, members of the forth Estate of the realm, Ladies and Gentlemen, the attainment of the above are the challenges facing all the stakeholders in the Osun State University project. If we expect bumper harvest during the time of harvest, it is incumbent to sow healthy and wholesome crops.

I thank you for your attention.