

**SPEECH BY THE PRO-CHANCELLOR OF OSUN STATE UNIVERSITY, YUSUF ALI, SAN FCIArb
AT THE 2ND TUNDE PONLE ANNUAL LECTURE AT THE OLAGUNSOYE OYINLOLA
AUDITORIUM, OSUN STATE UNIVERSITY OSOGBO, ON TUESDAY, 22ND December, 2020**

THE REWARD FOR GOOD IS GOOD

It gives me immeasurable pleasure to welcome you all to this fast growing Citadel of Learning for the 2nd Prince Tunde Ponle Annual Lecture. I do this on behalf of the ***Management, Staff, Students*** and ***Council*** of this University.

I welcome in a very special way the Assistant Vice-Chancellor of the University of West England, Bristol in the United Kingdom **Professor Lukmon Oyedele** who will deliver this 2nd Tunde Ponle lecture with the title “***Internationalization of Higher Education in Nigeria: A call for change of Attitude and strategies***”.

In the same vein, I welcome the object of this Lecture, **Prince Engineer Michael Ayantunde Ponle OON, OFR** and his radiant ever young wife **Her Excellency, Otunba Titi-Laoye Ponle** to this epochal event.

This event is coming a few days to the 81st Birthday of a ***redoubtable, reliable, committed, focused, goal getting, astute businessman, a lover of progress*** and ***an***

uncommon philanthropist, committed community leader and a lover of Osun State; Engr. Tunde Ponle.

On behalf of the *Council, Management, Staff and Students of the University*, I wish you more years of *impactful service* in *good health* and *abundance* of wherewithal.

Why Tunde Ponle Annual Lecture? The saying is axiomatic that the reward for good is good. Engr; Ponle bequeathed his sprawling country home to this University for the use of our College of Health Sciences for life.

The best way to repay this kindness is to institute this Annual Lecture to appreciate this generosity, while the giver is still with us on mother earth.

The University is expectant of the helping hands of men and women of goodwill for the annual sustenance of this Annual Lecture.

In an address that deals with the spirit of giving, this University cannot forget the kindness of our Chancellor and her family **Modupe** and **Dr. Folorunso Alakija** for their unflinching support to this University. How can we forget the **₦250million Naira** they donated towards the completion of the access road to this University, the

Foloruso Alakija Boulevard. The ongoing multi-billion naira state of the art 250 bed Teaching Hospital.

How can we forget the **Late Mrs. Frederica Abimbola Omololu-Mulele** a *Lawyer, Philanthropist* and *Educationist* who bequeathed **₦58million** endowment in her will to the University's Department of Accounting. These are some of the outstanding givers to our University.

I use this special yuletide occasion to call on other public spirited and endowed citizens, to come and sow seed of progress in our University, by way of endowment, gifts, and donations to help alleviate the challenges of development in the University. We assure you that any such intervention will be prudently and scrupulously utilized in very transparent manner. This University will not forget you and your act of generosity.

I seize this occasion to salute our *Member of Staff* who inspite of all odds, are making the University to continue in its primary duty of teaching and research.

It is heartwarming to let you know that before the COVID 19 and End SARS crises crippled our country, this University had embarked on digitization of teaching and

learning and this vision has assisted us to continue with academic work, culminating in the successful completion of the 2019/2020 academic session.

In concluding this short piece, let me call on all the stakeholders in our Tertiary education sector to have a new look at our tertiary education in the country. One of the key indicators of world class University education is regular, uninterrupted and on time Academic calendar. We cannot expect new results, when we use the same old system to deal with new challenges. We must have a serious look and rethink about the use of strike as a bargaining tool in our tertiary institutions.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and New Prosperous 2021 in advance.

God bless you all.

God bless UNIOSUN

God bless Osun State

God bless Nigeria