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PRO-CHANCELLOR CALLS FOR BETTER FUNDING OF EDUCATION

The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council Chief Wole Olanipekun, SAN, has called on the government to quickly specially intervene in the challenge of under-funding facing the University of Ibadan in order for the University to continue to invest in the development of human resources and capital amongst others, and showcase the beauty of Nigeria's University education to the outside world

He made this call in an address delivered on the occasion of the 2009 Special Convocation Ceremony.

Chief Olanipekun, while appreciating the effort of the government at making Nigerian universities autonomous, said there cannot be any autonomy, realistically speaking, without proper and adequate funding.

The word "University" itself cannot be divulged from "universality". In other words, a university cannot be a local champion but must strive to have a universal acclaim and outlook" he stated.

The Pro-Chancellor however appreciated the Federal Government of Nigeria through the Education Trust Fund for choosing the University of Ibadan as one of the first set of beneficiaries of the ETF Intervention Fund for tertiary institutions in Nigeria. He disclosed that the University has done and completed all that is expected of it by the ETF for the full implementation and actualisation of the Fund. He said proudly that as far as the conditionalities were concerned, UI led the way for other beneficiaries to follow. Chief Olanipekun therefore pleaded with the ETF to hasten and quicken action on the full disbursement of the fund so that the university could meet the October/November deadline for the final implementation of all projects derivable from the fund.

Chief Olanipekun assured that the University Council under his Chairmanship would not rest on its oars but ensure that the 5-year strategic plan of the University is vigorously pursued and implemented to effect the dynamic changes which the University needs.

He said the governing Council is geared not just towards re-orientation for the University, the realization of the dreams of its founding fathers but was also propelled to make the necessary selfless sacrifices to situate the University within the top ranking universities in the world, thus placing it where it properly belongs.

The Pro-Chancellor expressed happiness that academic activities and pursuits have been fully restored in the University and pleaded with all unions on the campus to ensure crisis free and/or uninterrupted academic sessions. While not condemning any of the unions for embarking on the previous strikes, Chief Olanipekun urged the leaders to sheathe their swords, rewind and peep into their own times as University undergraduates when academic sessions were predictable and ascertainable.

He assured the unions that the Governing Council is prepared to listen to and dialogue with them and to endeavour to satisfy legitimate demands within the limits of the University's resources.

Chief Olanipekun who spoke on the processes of the appointment of a new Vice-Chancellor, emphasized that the Council does not have any preferred candidate but will surely go for the best. He noted that being the leading University in Nigeria, UI deserves a Vice-Chancellor with energy, focus, strength, integrity, dynamism, intelligence, courage, patriotism, learning and good character amongst other rare qualities.

The Pro-Chancellor also commended Professor Bamiro and described his 5-year tenure as progressive, dynamic, rewarding and value added. He prayed that God would grant him an auspicious time in the near future to bare his mind on the person of the outgoing Vice-Chancellor.

Chief Olanipekun reiterated that the University Council under his leadership, has always given the administration sufficiency of freedom to perform its duties and functions. "We do not interfere, interject or meddle in the day-to-day running and administration of the University" he stated.

Nevertheless, Chief Olanipekun said Council shall not and never abdicate its responsibility to instill discipline and decency in the way and manner the affairs of the University are being run. He said Council owes a duty to Government, the founding fathers of UI as well as all stakeholders not to allow or tolerate any fall in acceptable standard and behaviour whether within the academic or members of the Administration.

Chief Olanipekun congratulated the graduands, their parents, sponsors and well wishers. He urged the graduands to behave well and conduct themselves decently wherever they go adding that UI has become a brand and a very unique style "Please do not tarnish or soil that brand, style and good name which jointly belong to you and your forebears, as well as your followers. The certificates that you have earned with hard labour are meant to open frontiers of varied and diverse opportunities for you in life. In case you do not readily secure paid employments either in public or private sectors, you have been well equipped by this University to use the combination of your heads, hearts and hands to eke a living for yourselves."

UI IS CONSCIOUS OF ITS ROLE AS NIGERIA'S PREMIER UNIVERSITY SAYS VC

The University of Ibadan is not only conscious of its role as Nigeria's premier University, it also strives to provide leadership thrust on it by virtue of history.

The Vice-Chancellor Professor O.A. Bamiro, FNSE, FAS made this statement in an address he delivered on the occasion of the 2009 Special Convocation Ceremony for the award of Higher Degrees of the University of Ibadan.

He said the university uses its historical linkages to sustain itself in the present realities while also impacting all sectors of the nation's educational system by remaining Nigeria's largest training ground for high level academic and professional human capital.

Professor Bamiro noted that most countries including Nigeria, have realized that human resource development and human capital formation are absolutely vital to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

He said UI needs to re-energize in order to provide the kind of human resources the country requires to spearhead sustainable development.

“There is no doubt that innovation is key to the development of our economy. Thus the vision statement of the University “To be a world class institution for academic excellence geared towards meeting societal needs” is indeed in tune with this national challenge” he stated.

Professor Bamiro said the University of Ibadan has the great potential by virtue of academic manpower and facilities to provide the required human capital of the national university system create an enabling environment to drive Nigeria’s knowledge-based economy and respond to new technology in the acquisition and delivery of knowledge.

To achieve this, the VC said, UI has developed a broad-based and activities-driven five-year strategic plan (2009-2014) adding that the thrust of the plan is transforming the University into a world-class institution of learning adequately equipped to foster high quality education, relevant scholarship and research for national development.

Professor Bamiro said the University of Ibadan over the years, has kept its mandate in focus as it continues to train personnel in different spheres of human endeavour and that these individuals have impacted positively on national and global development.

The University had in recent times achieved tremendous development not only in its academic curricula but also infrastructure.

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF UI IN THE LAST ONE YEAR AT A GLANCE

- ❖ Significant progress in open and distance learning through the Distance Learning Centre with a current population of about 16,000 students.
- ❖ Postgraduate School and Distance Learning Centre are collaborating to mount professional postgraduate programmes and diploma. Departments will administer the postgraduate programmes by ODL according to established guidelines of the Postgraduate School.
- ❖ New Postgraduate Programmes to meet the demands of society and industry and to sustain sound and rigorous academic scholarship. A new Centre for Sustainable Development (CESDEV) has just been launched to run the following degree and non-degree awarding multidisciplinary research and development/training programmes.
 - Master in Development Practice (MDP) Programme which will be using combined mode of lecture delivery in collaboration with nine other universities spread all over the world.
 - Professional Master degree in Tourism (PMT) Programme
 - Indigenous knowledge and Development (IKAD) programme
 - Leadership and Governance Programme
 - Environmental Protection and National Resources (EPNAR) Programme
 - Society and Climate Programme
 - A new Research and Training Programme in Biomathematics and Energy is to be added to the list
- ❖ Senate also approved the following programmes
 - Postgraduate degrees (M.Sc, M.Phil, M.Phil/Ph.D. and Ph.D. in Ophthalmology).
 - Postgraduate Diploma in Radiotherapy Technology
 - Master’s degree in Disaster Risk Management Programme based in the Department of Geography.
 - Establishment of a Research Management Office (RMO) and Office of International Programmes (OIP) to provide the required institutional frameworks for the University’s research agenda and international relations.
- ❖ All but one of the undergraduate programmes in the University have been given full accreditation by the Nigerian Universities Commission. The only one yet to be fully accredited has interim accreditation.
- ❖ Senate has approved the establishment of a Department of Music in the Faculty of Arts, and a multi-faculty Yoruba Language Centre for research, training and dissemination in collaboration

with the American Council for International Education. The NUC will soon be approached for necessary approval.

- ❖ Department of Adult Education was identified by UNICEF as a Centre of Excellence for Innovative Research and Capacity Building.
- ❖ Senate has approved that the existing Faculty of Agriculture be split into the Faculty of Agriculture and the Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources.

GOVERNING COUNCIL APPROVES THE TAKE-OFF OF FULL FLEDGED STUDENT UNIONISM

The Governing Council had at its last meeting approved the take-off of full fledged student unionism in the University as from the next semester.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor O.A. Bamiro disclosed this in his address on the occasion of the Special Convocation Ceremony for the award of higher degrees of the University.

He thanked those who have worked assiduously towards solving the legal logjam that had prevented the restoration of student unionism on the campus in the past few years.

Professor Bamiro noted that the student body has an army of responsible individuals that will usher in responsive and responsible student unionism, a distinct departure from the rabble rousing of the past.

He therefore urged all students to be involved in the fourth coming democratic dispensation of choosing their leaders.

VC APPEALS TO STAFF UNIONS

The Vice-Chancellor recalled that the University witnessed long periods of disruption of the academic calendar last year occasioned by the national strike embarked upon by the University Staff Unions – ASUU, SSANU, NAAT and NASU.

This notwithstanding, Professor Bamiro commended the staff unions for the support and cooperation given by them to the University Management.

He therefore seized the opportunity of the convocation ceremony to appeal to all unions to continue to sustain the long enduring culture of dialogue between Management and the unions in handling issues that are capable of precipitating crises and straining cordiality.

WORDS OF GRATITUDE

The Vice-Chancellor Professor O. A. Bamiro FNSE, FAS expressed sincere gratitude to the Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Education, Professor Dapo Afolabi who represented the Visitor, His Excellency, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria at the Convocation Ceremony. Professor Bamiro congratulated the President on his assumption of office as the President of the Federal republic of Nigeria and wished him God's wisdom and guidance as he steers the ship of this great nation.

He noted that the national university system, in particular and the nation, in general will continue to be grateful to both Professor Afolabi and Professor Julius Okojie, the Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission, who was also at the Ceremony for the positive roles they have been playing towards bringing sanity to the university system and their support for the University of Ibadan at all times.

Professor Bamiro commended the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council, Chief Wole Olanipekun, SAN and other members of the Governing Council for their dedication.

He also thanked his colleagues in the University Administration – Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) Professor E.A. Bamgboye; the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor A.A.B. Agbaje; the Registrar, Mrs. Omotayo Ikotun; the Bursar, Mr. I.O. Aponmade and the University Librarian, Dr. B.A. Oladele.

He thanked the Provost College of Medicine, Professor A.O. Omigbodun, Deans of Faculties, Deans of Students and of Postgraduate School, Masters/Mistresses and Wardens of Halls of Residence, Chairmen and members of various Council and Senate Committees, members of staff of the Registry, the Bursary, the Audit, the Health Service and Works and Maintenance, other staff and students.

According to Professor Bamiro, the visible positive transformation that is being witnessed at the University is a result of the dedication and commitment towards the progress of the University especially on the part of those who kept the system going during the recent turbulent period of the strike action by the Unions.

He expressed gratitude to the Security Unit, under the able leadership of Dr. G.A. Adeniran as Chairman and Mr. Akinmoladun as the Acting Chief Security Officer. These men, he said, deserve great commendation for their efforts in ensuring peace and harmony on campus.

The Vice-Chancellor added that apart from the Federal Government grants, donations by other individuals, alumni and corporate organizations have also contributed immensely to the visible positive transformation of the university infrastructure. “To all these benefactors, I express our deep appreciation.”

VC ADVISES GRADUANDS NOT TO BE DISCOURAGED

The graduands at the 2009 Special Convocation Ceremony have been advised not to allow themselves be discouraged with the current level of unemployment and underemployment of graduands especially with the current proliferation of tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor O.A. Bamiro, FNSE, FAS gave the advice at the Special Convocation for the award of diplomas and certificates and admission to first degree of the University of Ibadan for graduands in the Faculties of Agriculture and Forestry, the Social Sciences, Education and Veterinary Medicine.

Professor Bamiro urged them to scan the environment and identify opportunities to which they can channel their entrepreneurial spirit and turn into positive engagement that is not limited to getting paid employment, but also creating jobs.

He enjoined the graduands to continue to deploy the positive spirit which made them successful in their chosen courses, to bear as they face the challenges in the globalised knowledge economy.

“It is better to try and fail than not to try at all, because if you don’t try, you may not bring out your hidden talents” said the VC.

He also charged the graduands, as worthy ambassadors of the University, to make themselves relevant to solving the multi-dimensional problems confronting Nigeria.

VC URGES GRADUANDS TO SEE DEGREES AS SPRINGBOARD

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor O.A. Bamiro has urged graduates of the University of Ibadan to regard the UI degree as a springboard and a call to greater challenges and aspirations in life.

He made the call in an address delivered at the Special Convocation for the award of Diplomas and Certificates and admission to first degree of graduands of the Faculties of Arts, Science, Basic Medical Sciences, Clinical Sciences, Dentistry, Public Health, Pharmacy, Technology and Law.

Professor Bamiro observed that in a rapidly changing world, the graduands will have to be able to adapt to changing times and conditions. He therefore charged the graduands not to allow any problem overwhelm them.

The Vice-Chancellor urged the graduands to become worthy ambassadors of this great citadel of learning well known for her tradition of excellence and hard work.

According to the Vice-Chancellor, the University of Ibadan has not only provided human capital for national development but has also been helping to mould and inculcate ethical values and moral discipline in its students to achieve national aspirations for quality and ethical leadership in their chosen areas of engagement after graduation.

FACTS ABOUT THE 2009 SPECIAL CONVOCATION

The graduation ceremonies for this set of graduands could not hold in November 2009 as usual because of the prolonged 2008/2009 academic session occasioned by the national strike action of the Universities Staff Unions.

- ❖ Total number of graduands was 4,507 from thirteen Faculties including Distance Learning and Affiliated Colleges.
- ❖ 84 First Class Honours and 1087 Second Class Honours (Upper Division) across the faculties.
- ❖ 2390 candidates received higher degree certificates. 125 Ph.D., 10 M.Phil, 14 MPH, 1457 Academic Master's Degree, 565 Professional degree of Master and 219 Postgraduate Diplomas.

SUMMARY OF GRADUANDS

PROGRAMME	TOTAL
Arts	407
Affiliated Colleges	603
Science	483
College of Medicine	
- MBBS	49
- BDS	10
- B. (Physiotherapy)	9
- B.N.Sc.	14
- B.Sc. (Biochemistry)	23
- B.Sc. (Physiology)	21
- B.Sc. (Human Nutrition)	18
Agriculture & Forestry	214
Social Sciences	281
Education	406
Distance Learning Centre	189
Institute of Education (Affiliated Colleges)	1,428
Veterinary Medicine	62
Technology	165
Law	101
Pharmacy	24
GRAND TOTAL	4507

**HIP! HIP!! HURRAY!!!
OUR CHANCELLOR CLOCKS 80!!!**

The Chancellor, His Highness, Alhaji Ado Bayero, CFR, Emir of Kano clocked 80 years on the 15 of June, 2010.

The University Community is very much aware of his love and invaluable contributions to the development of not only this institution but to the entire Nigerian University system.

The University therefore wishes him many more years of peaceful reign and Happy Birthday!!!

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