

**ADDRESS OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR AYODEJI O. OLUKOJU, AT THE FOURTH
MATRICULATION CEREMONY OF CALEB UNIVERSITY, IMOTA, LAGOS STATE, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY
12, 2011**

My Lords Spiritual and Temporal, Dear Parents, Colleagues, Matriculants, Gentlemen of the Press, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are grateful to God for what He has done for us and through us over the years, and we are elated to be alive to witness this important occasion. I hope it is not too late to wish everyone a happy new year and God's abundant grace throughout 2011.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you on behalf of the Chancellor, Prince Oladega Adebogun, Chairman and Members of the Board of Trustees, Pro-Chancellor and Members of the Governing Council, Management, Staff and Students of Caleb University, Imota, Lagos State to this important occasion. This is the fourth matriculation ceremony of this University, the second to be held on our permanent site. But it is the first to be held inside this hall, the first where our anthem (composed in November 2010 by Mr. Peter Ikporo) is sung and also the first matriculation ceremony that I have the privilege to preside over since assuming duty on 18 October 2010.

In the University tradition, the matriculation ceremony formalizes the admission and induction of freshmen into the University system. It is an event that confirms their studentship of the institution and provides a platform for them to take a public oath of their willingness to accept the responsibilities of their new status. It has never been easy to secure admission into credible Universities in Nigeria. The competition is keen and the space is limited. Hence, I congratulate the young men and women who scaled the hurdles on their way to studentship of Caleb University. Accordingly, this Address is primarily for the consumption of our students as it spells out our expectations and their responsibilities as prospective graduates of this University.

In welcoming our matriculants to this new world of learning, I need to emphasize that they are being inducted into a new culture and tradition of specific rules and regulations that must be obeyed. We at Caleb University are determined to tackle through a holistic curriculum the bane of poor leadership, indiscipline, crass materialism, lack of strategic vision, uncritical adoption of base foreign values, low sense of civic responsibility and excessive self-centredness which bedevil societal development in Nigeria. We are confident that our intervention will make a difference because we have made God the foundation of our enterprise.

First, we realize that spiritual emptiness is a major enemy of progress in Nigeria. Accordingly, we offer our students a balanced diet of spiritual development, skills acquisition and academic training in line with our motto – “For God and Humanity.” Hence, attendance at the statutory fellowship meetings in the Chapel is as compulsory as regular class attendance. The importance attached to the spiritual welfare of our students is underscored by the relocation of the Chaplaincy to the Office of the Vice-Chancellor.

Second, we are inaugurating the Caleb Leadership Academy later this month as our unique contribution to leadership development to take the country to greater heights. Our advantage is that we are teaching values and imparting skills in young people who can hit the labour market and the outside world fully **prepared to lead**, having been equipped with spiritual, intellectual, technical, language and entrepreneurial skills. Nobody will graduate from this University without passing through the Academy and satisfying the requirement for certification.

Third, indiscipline is the greatest bane of our society and a pervasive symptom of it is lateness to events. Hence, late-comers are shut out of our events and punished accordingly. Our structures for dealing with disciplinary matters guarantee fair hearing and strict enforcement of sanctions. Let me make it clear that we do not tolerate lawlessness and do not recognize any sacred cows. Students found to be exerting a negative influence on others will be shown the way out. A rotten apple, they say, spoils the rest.

Now, addressing myself to the matriculants, you must take due advantage of the facilities for learning, spiritual development, counselling and recreation that are available on campus. All our programmes have been accredited by the National Universities Commission and as such we insist that you excel in scholarship as you excel in character. Lecturers and instructors expect you to satisfy 80% class attendance, failing which you will not be allowed to take the semester examinations. Examination misconduct attracts appropriate sanctions ranging from rustication to expulsion. We expect you to cooperate with, and duly respect, your lecturers, who evidently studied and developed themselves before attaining their current status.

You must recognize your uniqueness – as a member of the pioneering sets of this University, as an individual that God has created with requisite skills and a peculiar personality, and with a family name to protect and project - and be determined to stand out in the crowd. You must never accept second best, or succumb to inferiority complex. You must always look for opportunities in the challenges that confront you. Nothing good that will endure ever comes easy. So, imbibe diligence and integrity.

Finally, I urge you to make the best of this opportunity. Your parents, lecturers and counsellors expect you to justify their investment in your development. You owe the Nigerian society and the world at large the full development of the gift of genius that God has deposited in you. You cannot afford to fail, and you will not fail in Jesus Name!

Barak Obama said "Yes, we can." Like the Biblical Caleb in Numbers 13:30, your confession must be: "we are well able"!

Welcome to Caleb University!

As I conclude this Address, I congratulate the parents and the matriculants on this important occasion, and wish everyone a safe journey to their respective destinations.

Thank you for listening and God bless .

Professor Ayodeji Olukoju

Vice-Chancellor