

ADDRESS PRESENTED BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR AYODEJI O. OLUKOJU AT THE MAIDEN MEDIA APPRECIATION LUNCHEON OF CALEB UNIVERSITY, IMOTA, LAGOS STATE ON FRIDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2011

Dear Colleagues and Gentlemen of the Press,

I am most delighted to welcome you to this maiden edition of the Caleb University Media Appreciation Luncheon. The aim is to thank the gentlemen of the press for their support since the University commenced operations in January 2008, and especially since I assumed duty on October 18, 2010. In addition, we wish to deepen our partnership with you in the development of this young, promising and ambitious University. As you are aware, young institutions pass through several phases of growth to maturity, and Caleb University is on the threshold of producing its first set of graduates in June 2011. Happily, all our programmes are accredited and we are preparing for institutional accreditation, which will determine the ranking of Nigerian Universities.

In spite of various challenges, I am pleased to report that we are making steady progress on all fronts. Four months is a short time in the life of any administration but one can highlight a number of milestones as we accelerate the tempo and pace of the development of this University.

Relationship with professional bodies and external agencies – During this period, we played host to Architects Registration Council of Nigeria (ARCON), led by its national president, Architect Aliyu, which undertook a joint accreditation with the NUC. The outcome was overwhelmingly positive. The national president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), Maj-Gen. Sebastian Onwuama (ret.) led the national executive of the body to visit our Accounting students and staff. Only yesterday, Thursday, 24 February, I led a team of students to participate in a youth leadership programme organised and hosted by the Public Affairs Section of the US Consulate. The event also opened possibilities of collaboration on the training of our students in the Department of Mass Communication. In terms of partnership with foreign institutions, we are collaborating with the UK-based Association of Business Education to run a series of sub-degree programmes. Early in the week, a team from Cyprus visited us to explore possibilities of joint degree programmes.

Notable Events – The University organized a highly successful matriculation ceremony and Parents' Forum on January 12, and the Foundation Day Lecture on January 21, 2011. The University Anthem, which was composed and approved in November/December 2010, was rendered for the first time on the matriculation day. We are soon inaugurating the Caleb Public Policy Dialogue Series. Confirmed speakers include a State Governor and a Federal Permanent Secretary. Our staff and students have been making a mark in their callings. Dr. Chuma C. Okoro of the College of Pure and Applied Sciences has been involved in a major research project with two multinational oil companies and a major Canadian University. The University is funding his further participation in a collaborative research with his Canadian counterparts. A set of 21

students of Caleb University acquired ICT-based international certification in Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and COMPTIA+.

Facilities – The University Eduportal is now fully activated and the internet services are being upgraded to twice the existing capacity. The cafeteria services will be taken over by a franchised professional caterer when the students resume for the second semester. As well, arrangements are nearing completion for the take-off of formal banking activities in the new semester. The architectural drawings of the ultra-modern sports complex are now ready and, after approval by the relevant authority, work is expected to commence on a phased development of the complex later this year. We are deploying ICT to fast-track our students' result and transcript processing by sending complete results to parents by SMS.

New Programmes – The NUC has approved the take-off of new programmes – Political Science, Philosophy and International Relations. The College of Law, English Studies, Physics with Electronics, Psychology and Sociology/Anthropology programmes are awaiting NUC Resource Verification before their formal commencement later in the year. The University has provided the requisite facilities for these programmes and relevant staff vacancies have just been advertised.

Staff Welfare – With effect from January 2011, all full-time employees of the University were placed on the salary scale in force in Federal Universities. This has boosted morale and made us more competitive in the recruitment of quality staff.

Spiritual Development – The Chaplaincy was transferred from the Student Affairs Office to the Vice-Chancellor's Office for better coordination and performance. The Vice-Chancellor participated in several activities organized for students in the Chapel, including worship services.

Resource Mobilisation – The Administration took delivery of the report of the Internally Generated Revenue Committee of the University and has taken steps to actualize some of the projects in phases. Commercial enterprises identified include a bakery, printery, table water production plant, fish pond and bookshop.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Gentlemen of the Press, we welcome your comments and suggestions toward making Caleb University truly great. We enjoin you to share our passion as we pursue this aim. For, we are WELL ABLE, if we can work together with God.

Thank you and God bless.

Professor Ayodeji O. OLUKOJU

Vice-Chancellor