VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS TO CONGREGATION, WEDNESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2011

Preamble

Registrar, University Librarian, Deputy Bursar, Deans of Colleges, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am deeply grateful to God for making possible this Congregation of geaduate members of staff of Caleb Universaity, the second such gathering since the relocation of the University to the present site in November 2009. For the record, the previous one took place on Monday, January 18, 2010. As you are aware, I assumed duty as the second substative Vice-Chancellor of this University on October 18, 2010. I subsequently undertook a facility tour of the campus – offices, classrooms, laboratories, ICT centre, library, studios and hostels - to know the state of existing facilities and to engage with the academic staff (first, on College basis and, then, as a body) and non-teaching staff (in their offices and, then, as a body). I also interacted with the students on the platform of the Chapel services and on other occasions. Today's event, my maiden address to Congregation, affords us the chance to reflect on developments within the last eleven months.

Challenges and Constraints

As might be expected, the Administration grappled with several challenges including the following – delay in payment of some entitlements (leave bonus, Foundation programme and Summer School emolument), professional accreditation of some courses, outcome of programme accreditation, low student enrolment, gaps in staffing, suspension of the Eduportal project, the narrow bandwidth of the internet service with attendant inefficiency and security challenges in hostels.

Working together with the Chancellor, Pro-Chancellor and the staff, Management tackled these challenges with a reasonable measure of success. The following are some of our joint accomplishments.

Notable Milestones

- Settlement of all outstanding claims by current and former staff – Leave Bonus, Summer School, Foundation Programme and other entitlements

- Regularization (or, determination) of all temporary appointments through interviews
- Full compliance with the national University wage structure from January 2011
- Appointment and assumption of duty of a substantive Registrar, January 2011.
- Appointment and assumption of duty of the first substantive University Librarian, September 2011
- Appointment of substantive Dean of Students, Prof. Lai Oso, from March 2011, substantive Dean of COSOMAS, Prof. O. Iyanda, and substantive Dean of COLENSMA, Professor Niyi Okedele.
- Senate approval of change of nomenclature of COSOMAS to CASMAS to reflect presence of Arts disciplines, as recommended by NUC Resource Verification Panel. This is awaiting Council approval.
- Resuscitatiion and completion of the abandoned contract with Trois Revieres for the University Eduportal project. This is a major landmark in the annals of the University as critical modules – admissions/applications, registration, finances, internal correspondence/chatting, etc – are now fully operational. Caleb University can now be said to be truly ICT-driven.
- Acquisition of software for posting results to parents by text message and e-mail – a first in Nigeria
- Acquisition of CISCO internet router and stabilisation of internet services. We have increased our bandwidth from half-megabyte to two megabytes per second from April 2011 (after a test-run in March).
- Procurement of cataloguing tool for the Library
- Improvement of University website – with lecturers' CV and several new features, including the Eduportal
- International ICT certification of our students in CRM and COMPTIA+

- Successful matriculation ceremony and Parents' Forum on January 12, 2011.
- Composition of University Anthem, which made its debut on January 12, 2011
- Successful Foundation Day on January 21, 2011. The Guest speaker was Professor J.K. Olupona, NNOM from Harvard University, USA
- Completion of the cafetaria building in time for the events of January 2011.
- Launch of Caleb Leadership Academy
- Significant media visibility of the University – practically all our events have been attracting positive media coverage.
- Media Appreciation Luncheon for Education Correspondents of eight newspaper houses on February 25, 2011
- Hosting of three important professional bodies – ICAN, ACORN and NIA – for accreditation purposes; visit of National Executive of ICAN
- Hosting of the highly successful Idowu Sobowale Conference by the Department of Mass Communication, May 11-12, 2011. Distinguished scholars and veteran media practitioners attended.
- The VC led a contingent of Caleb University students to a one-day event at the US Consulate, Lagos on February 24, 2011
- The University was duly represnted at the AVCNU Conference at Covenant University, Ota, 27-30 June 2011.
- Caleb University Delegation comprising two members of the BOT, VC, Registrar, Deputy Bursar, and two others visited the President of Senate, Dr. David Mark, GCON and the leadership of the Senate in Abuja, July 24, 2011
- Conclusion of a draft MOU with Tantalizers for cafetaria services, subject to approval by Council

- Conclusion of plans to establish formal banking services on campus by ECOBANK
- Conclusion of draft partnership agreement with Baruch College of the City University of New York to run executive entrepreneurship courses in Lagos
- Rapport with local stakeholders – Ranodu of Imota, Chairman of LCDA, DPO and PHCN headquarters, Odogunyan – facilitated by courtesy visits
- Planning towards 2012 Convocation – procurement of academic gowns in progress; choice of another Convocation Lecturer from Harvard University settled, etc.
- Securing male and female hostels with perimeter fence razor wire guard to prevent intrusion
- Commencement of building of COLENSMA Workshop
- Good progress on landscaping, hostel and roof renovation, and road construction projects
- Graduation and mobilization of our pioneer set of students for national service

Plans for the Future

Management is working to tackle the critical issues of staff recruitment, student enrolment, infrastructure development, programme resource visitation and accreditation, take-off of Law programme and institutional accreditation. I would like to assure everyone that we have recorded notable successes in all these respects. Our enrolment figures will be boosted significantly after the final formal screening test on September 24 and this will improve our financial situation. Our part-time programme, including the HND conversion scheme, are also additional sources of student enrolment and revenue generation. We are also working on the take-off of our commercial ventures.

I am happy to report that we have recruited several new teaching staff in all Colleges, especially the tough areas of Banking and Finance (a full-time Professor will resume in January 2012), Computer Science (a Senior Lecturer and Head is resuming shortly), Architecture (two full-time Professors for the first time), Quantity Surveying (a full-time Associate Professor), Chemistry/Biochemistry (a full-time Professor in a few months) and Mass Communication (a

full-time Professor, a Senior Lecturer and Lecturer I on sabbatical). We have recruited Professors, Senior Lecturers and lower ranks for Political Science, International Relations, Psychology and English, both on full-time and sabbatical bases. A Visiting Professor from the USA will double as substantive Director of Academic Planning and another Professor will take charge of our part-time programmes and commercial ventures.

In conclusion, I wish to place on record our gratitude for the immense support and encouragement of the Chancellor/Proprietor, Dr Oladega Adebogun, Chairman, Dr. Christopher Kolade, and Members of the Board of Trustees, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Professor ’Nimbe Adedipe, and Members of the Governing Council, Parents and Friends of Caleb University, toward the development of the University. I pray that God will continue to strengthen and bless them, and that we shall all live to see the Caleb University of our dreams.

Thank you for listening. God bless.

Professor Ayodeji O. Olukoju, FNAL

Vice-Chancellor

Caleb University

Imota, Lagos State

14 September 2011