

**“RAW DIAMONDS ... BEAUTIFUL JEWELS”**

**VICE-CHANCELLOR’S ADDRESS AT THE 2013 FRESH STUDENTS’  
ORIENTATION PROGRAMME, CALEB UNIVERSITY, IMOTA, LAGOS STATE**

**Acting Registrar**

**Acting Bursar**

**University Librarian**

**Deans of Colleges and Dean of Student Affairs**

**Academic and Non-Academic Staff of Caleb University**

**Dear Students**

On behalf of the Visitor and Proprietor, Dr. Oladega Adebogun, the Chancellor, the Chairmen and Members of the Board of Trustees and the Governing Council, Senate, Management, Staff and older students of this Great University, I am pleased to welcome you all to the opening session of the three-day Fresh Students’ Orientation Programme of this University. For the record, this is the only private university in the history of Lagos State that has awarded bachelor’s degrees, since 2011, in as many as thirteen NUC-accredited academic programmes. This is truly the Lord’s doing. Glory be to God for all the great things He continues to do in our lives. I am personally grateful to God for the privilege of welcoming the fourth successive set of fresh students to Caleb University. I commend the Student Affairs Division, ably led by Professor Nosa Owens-Ibie, for organizing once again an interesting orientation programme.

Some of you have been here since Sunday, October 6, and I have observed the palpable enthusiasm with which all of you and your parents have come here to start a new phase in your young lives. I have interacted with several of you and your parents, one of whom (Mr. Busola Ande) was my student at the University of Lagos up to his graduation in 1989. I had spoken with your parents well before you arrived here and one of you, Miss Rita Anozie, phoned me to ask questions about life at Caleb University and how she could bring a friend of hers to this

school. That she took the trouble to talk to me and to get a friend into this university is indicative of her initiative and potential as a leader. I challenge all of you to emulate her example by developing a strong passion for, and an abiding interest in, the University, which shall soon be your alma mater.

You will listen to several presentations by senior officials of the University today, while the programme continues tomorrow with another set of speakers. Please pay attention to them and ensure that you comply with all regulations, deadlines, instructions and admonitions. All I want to say for now is summarised as follows.

You are responsible to various officials in the different sections of the University: the Registry, Bursary, Library, Colleges and Departments, Chaplaincy, Security Unit, ICT Centre and halls of residence. Regardless of your discipline, you are answerable to the Dean of Student Affairs, whose office is organizing this programme. You will soon discover that this is one office that is closest to you in many respects. Kindly address your particular requests through the lines of communication to the heads of the aforementioned units. As your Vice-Chancellor, I am not expected to have daily direct dealings with you, but, where necessary, you can approach me and other top officials via the channels that the Security Unit will make available to you.

Let me stress that this University is committed to bringing the best out of you. We regard you as raw diamonds that have been sent here for polishing into beautiful jewels. I urge you to allow the University to pass through you as you pass through it. Every student is being trained to be a leader, hence you will be taken through the Caleb Leadership Academy modules that I handle personally while guest speakers have been selected to address you on issues that will ennoble your lives. I can confirm that the Chairman of our Board of Trustees, the distinguished Dr. Christopher Kolade, CON, has agreed to address the entire student body on this platform. As you are aware, this is a Christian faith-based University which is committed to producing people imbued with faith-induced ethical values. I urge you to be regular and punctual at all Chapel programmes, all of which are designed to minister to your spiritual need. You must also be diligent in your primary calling as students, attending lectures, studio and laboratory sessions punctually and regularly, using the online and conventional library consistently, taking part in sports and other activities, and representing the University, your family and God as mature and responsible citizens. It is this combination of moral and academic excellence that is the hallmark

of this University. You must seek to be exemplary in conduct and character within and outside the University. Our expectation is that, with hard work, diligence, determination and faith in God, you will make a great success of your stay here. I challenge you to follow the charge in I Corinthians 10:31: whatever you do, say, wear, drink or eat, let all be to the glory of God.

I welcome you to Caleb University and commit you to God, while wishing you the best as you study with us.

God bless.

**Professor Ayodeji O. OLUKOJU**

**Fellow, Nigerian Academy of Letters (FNAL)**

Vice-Chancellor

Caleb University

Imota, Lagos State

9 October 2013