

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR AYODEJI O. OLUKOJU, VICE-CHANCELLOR,  
CALEB UNIVERSITY, IMOTA, LAGOS STATE, AT THE THIRD FOUNDATION DAY  
LECTURE ON JANUARY 21, 2013.**

Visitor, Caleb University, Prince Oladega Adebogun, PhD, DSc

Chairman of this Event, Professor Olakunle Lawal, Former Honorable Commissioner for Education,  
Lagos State

The Special Guest of Honour and Special Adviser to Governor of Lagos State on Informationa and  
Strategy, Hon. Lateef Raji

Our Royal Father, the Ranodu of Imota, Oba Ajibade Agoro II

Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council, Prof. Fola Tayo, MFR

Members of the Board of Trustees of Caleb University

Members of the Governing Council of Caleb University

Our Guest Speaker, Mr. J. Ogunnniyi Otunla, FCA, Accountant General of the Federation

Members of the University Senate

Staff and Students of Caleb University

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Gentlemen of the Press

It is with great delight and gratitude to God that I welcome you all to the third Foundation Day Lecture of Caleb University, Imota, Lagos State. For the record, this event commemorates the commencement of lectures on January 21, 2008, two weeks after the take-off of the University at Magodo, Lagos on January 7, 2008. The previous Foundation Day Lectures were delivered on January 21, 2009 and January 21, 2011 by Professor Julius Okojie, the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission, and Professor Jacob K. Olupona, NNOM, of Harvard University, respectively. The events for 2010 and 2012

were overtaken by more pressing developments. This is the second Foundation Day Lecture taking place at the Imota permanent site.

On behalf of the Visitor, Chairman and Members, Board of Trustees, Chancellor, Pro-Chancellor and Members of Council, Management, Staff and Students of Caleb University, I welcome our distinguished visitors, beginning with the Chairman of the Occasion, Professor Olakunle Lawal, Former Honorable Commissioner for Education, Lagos State, the Special Guest of Honour, Hon. Lateef Raji, the Special Adviser to the Governor of Lagos State on Information and Strategy, and our Foundation Day Lecturer, Mr. J. Ogunniyi Otunla, FCA, Accountant General of the Federation. We are grateful to God and to our distinguished guests for honouring our invitation at short notice – some barely two weeks ago! Mr. Bode Agbaoye, Deputy Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC), an old schoolmate and mutual friend, deserves special thanks for facilitating the visit of our Lecturer, who will be properly introduced at the appropriate time.

Our Royal Father, the Ranodu of Imota, Oba Ajibade Agoro II, is not a guest but he deserves our appreciation for always attending and adding royal colour to events on campus. We are also greatly appreciative of the presence of numerous friends and well-wishers – academics, captains of industry, opinion leaders, men and women of substance - from our immediate host community of Imota, from Lagos and other States.

Today is a milestone in the history of tertiary education in Nigeria and of this University in particular: the commemoration of the birth of the only bachelor degree awarding private university in Lagos State, the premier State in Nigeria. It is also an opportunity to praise God for nurturing the mustard seed sown six years ago to what we are seeing at the Imota permanent site, to which we relocated less than two years after take-off. In the interval, the institution has recorded notable achievements by the grace of God: the NUC accreditation of all our programmes, ICAN and NIA accreditation of our Accounting and Architecture programmes, six successive uninterrupted academic sessions, the graduation of two sets of bachelor's degree holders across three Colleges, commencement of degree programmes in Political Science and International Relations (with Physics-with-Electronics starting in October), and the establishment of a brand that combines excellence in scholarship and research with godliness, in line with our motto: "For God and Humanity." A major achievement of late was the approval obtained from the NUC to commence postgraduate studies here at Caleb. The state-of-the-art College of Postgraduate Studies is ready and it takes off immediately with the MSc programme in Architecture.

The rising profile of this university has attracted the attention of local and foreign external stakeholders. In 2012 alone, the University hosted the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to

Nigeria, H.E. Ryuichi Shoji; officials of the Public Affairs Section of the US Embassy, who organized a one-day event here during the Black History Month; and the President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), Mr. Adedoyin Idowu Owolabi, FCA, who was accompanied by the Second Deputy Vice-President, Otunba Olufemi Deru, FCA and other members of the national and Ikorodu District Executive, led by Revd. Samson Disu. The ICAN ATS examination held on our campus for the first time in September 2012. Throughout the year, the Department of Mass Communication, under its indefatigable Head, Professor Nosa Owens-Ibie, who is also the Dean of Students and University Chaplain, organized highly successful Mass Communication Fora, which brought distinguished practitioners to interact with our staff and students. The speakers have been generous in endowing the Department with equipment, and financial and other forms of material support.

Already this year, we have organized two highly successful programmes - the Corporate Prayer and Thanksgiving Programme, involving all staff and students, on January 9, featuring the charismatic Pastor Amos Ifedayomi, and the Capacity Building Summit on January 16. The latter event, attended by all categories of staff, was headlined by a keynote address delivered by Professor Sola Fajana, Vice-Chancellor of Joseph Ayo Babalola University, Ikeji-Arakeji. Professors S.O. Ajayi, O. Iyanda, J.O. Olaleru, Pastors Nelson Ayodele and Dipo Ojediji, and Dr. P. Lawal made powerful and insightful presentations around the theme: "Enhancing Integrity and Productivity in the Workplace." Other major events later in the year include the second Convocation on March 9, our first-ever Inaugural Lecture to be delivered on April 9 by Professor Nosa Owens-Ibie and our third Convocation for the current final year students in July 2013.

In terms of infrastructure projects, we have virtually completed our bakery and water factory buildings, and the enterprises should commence production in February 2013. The printery, for which the equipment has been procured, will take off at the same time. Work has commenced on the Professor Idowu Sobowale International School of Mass Communication complex, which on completion, will facilitate the realization of our objective of becoming the leading professional and postgraduate media training centre in Nigeria. We have pursued prospects of partnership with foreign and local institutions with encouraging results. Following a meeting last week in the UK between our Pro-Chancellor, Professor Fola Tayo, MFR and officials of the University of Birmingham, we are well on our way to cementing one of the best partnerships and linkages in the Nigerian university system. It promises to be a windfall for our staff and students in many dimensions.

The foregoing provides a glimpse into what God is doing for and through us at Caleb University. I pray that the Lord will renew the strength and brighten the vision of all stakeholders, especially our

Visitor/Proprietor, Governance and Management functionaries, staff, parents and students, so that we can take the university to greater heights this year and beyond.

Finally, I crave your indulgence to challenge friends of the university, lovers of education and supporters of worthy causes to join us in actualizing the vision of the founding fathers of this university. Your intervention could be in the form of endowing professorial chairs, doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships for our academic staff, and prizes and awards for outstanding students. Those led to endow infrastructure or facilities on campus will immortalise themselves by doing so, to the glory of God. You never can tell how far your contribution will go in changing a life and our society for good.

We are deeply grateful to you for honouring us with your distinguished presence. We wish you journey mercies, God's favour and abiding presence as you return to your respective destinations.

Thank you for listening. God bless.

**Professor Ayodeji O. OLUKOJU**

**Fellow, Nigerian Academy of Letters**

**Vice-Chancellor**

**21 January 2013**