

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR AT THE MAIDEN CAPACITY
BUILDING SUMMIT OF CALEB UNIVERSITY, IMOTA, LAGOS STATE,
WEDNESDAY, 16 JANUARY 2013**

Keynote Speaker, Distinguished Resource Persons, Management and Staff of Caleb University

It is with great delight that I welcome you all to the maiden Capacity Building Summit of Caleb University. It is coming a week after our grand and highly successful Corporate Prayer and Thansgiving, which ushered us into a glorious New Year.

I specially welcome our Keynote Speaker, Professor Sola Fajana, Vice-Chancellor, Joseph Ayo Babalola University, Ikeji-Arakeji, Osun State, a beloved brother in Christ, friend and colleague. Until his appointment as Vice-Chancellor, Professor Fajana was at various times, Acting Dean, Faculty of Business Administration, and Professor and Head, Department of Industrial Relations and Personnel Management, University of Lagos. We appreciate the sacrifice he made in accommodating our request in his busy schedule and for covering the long distance between Osun and Lagos States. Our other resource persons, Professors S.O. Ajayi, Olukunle Iyanda (Deans of COPAS and COSOMAS, respectively, at Caleb University) and Johnson Olaleru (of the Department of Mathematics, University of Lagos), and Pastors Dipo Ojedeji and Nelson Ayodele, all members of the Caleb University Family, need no elaborate introduction.

But let me stress that each speaker brings a particular perspective to bear on the theme of this Summit. Professor Ajayi's meritorious service and track record as teacher, researcher and mentor at the University of Ibadan is complemented by Professor Iyanda's international teaching and research experience, and managerial expertise as former Rector of Ibadan Polytechnic and former Director-General of the Nigerian Institute of Management. The much younger but no less accomplished Professor Olaleru combines the analytical insights of the internationally recognized abstract mathematician with the battle-tested convictions of the soul-winner. Pastor Ayodele, the CEO of SMI, is a renowned inspirational and motivational speaker, with a passion for human and institution building. Pastor Ojedeji, another longstanding stakeholder in the Caleb Project, is a private sector consultant and strategist, who also doubles as a pastor. Dr. Philip Lawal, our Acting Director of Academic Planning, will address us on the demands of the Benchmark Minimum Academic Standards (BMAS) of the National Universities Commission

(NUC). All of us at Caleb University deeply appreciate these distinguished speakers for identifying with the aspiration of this growing institution as we engage in critical self-appraisal, guided by their Spirit-inspired counsel and professional experiences. I pray that God will give them utterance and divine inspiration in their presentations.

Given the current and recurring challenges facing the education sector in general and tertiary education in particular, the need for integrity and competence for enhanced productivity in a competitive environment cannot be over-emphasized. In a nation that has over 100 universities, and still counting, only the best can survive and make a mark. That is why the theme of this summit is “Enhancing Integrity and Productivity in the Workplace.” As indicated in the programme, our keynote speaker and other resource persons will handle topics dealing with character, morality and integrity, efficient service delivery, human capacity development, leadership and compliance with the requirements of our regulatory bodies, especially the NUC.

We cannot pretend that all is well and that there is no room for improvement or drastic changes in our attitude to work (punctuality, regularity, dependability, etc), the quality of our output as teachers and workers, collegiality and motivation. Happily, our carefully selected speakers will assist us in our self-assessment by sharing with us their peculiar life experiences and professional expertise. Though we have crammed a lot into a single day’s event, I am confident that the variety and value of the presentations shall make it worth the while of every participant. I solicit the full cooperation of everyone, not least in proper time management by speakers, session chairmen and participants. That way, there shall be a profitable exchange of ideas and a happy ending.

At this juncture, I crave your indulgence to share my own thoughts on today’s Summit. This is without prejudice to what our distinguished Keynote and other speakers have to tell us. I believe that as fellow labourers in the Lord’s Vineyard at Caleb University, we should be guided by certain core principles, which include:

- ❖ Fear of God, who knows all that we think, say or do in our most private moments, and to whom we are answerable in eternity
- ❖ Respect for rules and constituted authority

- ❖ Commitment to our calling at Caleb University, which we took up voluntarily
- ❖ Regular self-examination
- ❖ Readiness to think beyond the box, improvising as required
- ❖ Courage to refuse to join the sinning or negative majority
- ❖ Self-respect and respect for others
- ❖ Dignity of labour
- ❖ Recognition that we are fallible mortals who cannot know everything,
- ❖ Acknowledgement that there is definitely or possibly a better way of doing things, and
- ❖ Humility and graciousness to acknowledge our mistakes, apologise or make amends as appropriate, without recourse to excuses and self-justification.

Once again, I welcome you to this epoch-making event at Caleb University, the only private first degree awarding university in Lagos State. May the Lord enrich us through His Word and various presentations made today. My charge to every participant is: open your mind, be attentive and heed the timeless admonition in John 2: 5 - “Whatever He says unto you, do it.”

Thank you for listening. God bless you.

Professor Ayodeji O. OLUKOJU

Fellow, Nigerian Academy of Letters

Vice-Chancellor, 16 January 2013