

A welcoming speech delivered by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Temi E. Ologunorisa, Olusegun Agagu University of Science and Technology, Okitipupa, Ondo State, Nigeria, 8th March, 2022 on the commissioning of Principal Officers' Quarters and other projects.

Introduction

The Visitor, His Excellency, The Governor of Ondo State, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Odunayo Akeredolu, SAN

The Deputy Governor, Mr. Lucky Ayedatiwa,

Distinguished Commissioners here present,

Other Top Government Functionaries,

The Chancellor, His Imperial Majesty, Oba (Dr.) Fredrick Obateru Akinruntan, CON, Okoro Ajiga 1, Olugbo of Ugboland,

Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Professor Akinbo Adesomoju,

Members of the Governing Council,

Deputy Vice-Chancellor,

Registrar,

University Librarian,

Ag. Bursar,

Deans and Directors,

Eminent Professors of the University and members of Senate,

Heads of Departments and Units,

Academic, Administrative and Support staff of the University,

My Lords, Spiritual and temporal,

Unique students of OAUSTECH,

Gentlemen of the Press,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

The Visitor Sir. Standing on the existing protocol. On behalf of Council, Senate, Management, staff and students, I want to specially welcome His Excellency to our great University. I want to thank the Visitor, the Governor of Ondo State, His Excellency Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Odunayo Akeredolu, SAN for the approval of my appointment as the 4th substantive Vice-Chancellor of Olusegun Agagu University of Science and Technology. I remain eternal grateful to God, the Council ably led by Professor Akinbo Adesomoju, and to your Excellency Sir for this appointment even though His Excellency never knew me. I promise not to betray the confidence reposed in me. Your Excellency Sir, we want to use this opportunity to thank you once again for breathing life into this University at a critical period when it was gasping for breath through the construction of access road, the University Senate Building, and the University Library. His Excellency Sir, your name will forever be written in gold for including Olusegun Agagu University of Science and Technology among the list of universities that benefit from TETFund.

My Commitment and Vision

The Visitor Sir, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to openly acknowledge the contributions of the Pioneer Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Akinbo Adesomoju and all the past Vice-Chancellors especially the immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Robert Ogunduyilemi. However, my Vision as Vice-Chancellor is to build a bi-lingual, entrepreneurial, ICT driven and world class university renowned for its impeccable teaching, research, and community service. A University that addresses the developmental challenges of the 21st century through innovation, knowledge transfer and sound moral character. In other words, my agenda is to make OAUSTECH *the Centre of Gravity for Research and Innovation in Africa*.

What We Should Expect

The University will key into the new global economy called **BLUE ECONOMY** because of the strategic location. The University will place emphasis on the development, utilization, and preservation of coastal, marine, and oceanic resources. We intend to carve a niche for this University *in Maritime Transport and logistics, Port Management, Marine Engineering, Shipping Technology and Management, Nautical Science, Oceanography, Applied Geology and Coastal Geophysics, Marine Economics and Finance, Maritime Security, Petrochemical and Gas Engineering, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Marine Biotechnology, Renewable Energy, Coastal Environmental Management and Climate Change among others*. I am quite aware of your Excellency's efforts at linking our University with Caribbean Maritime University based in Kingston, Jamaica. I have already initiated discussion with the Deputy-President of the University, Professor Ibrahim Ajagunna for the implementation of the MoU with our University. I am also aware that your administration has an agenda to build a seaport that will drive this blue economy, and which ultimately, will leapfrog the state to economic prosperity.

We will promote creativity and innovation in teaching and learning driven by technology. My goal as Vice-Chancellor is to prepare our students through programme content and delivery for the **fourth industrial revolution** by focusing attention on developing the **21st century skills** of our students. In other words, to train our students to be critical thinkers, technologically adept, humane, culturally sensitive, and ready to provide leadership for the state and our country. We intend to implement '**One Student One Laptop Policy**' to make us functional in the fourth revolution especially during this period of Covid-19 pandemic.

Provision of hostel and staff accommodation will be prioritized through the speedy completion of existing hostel and housing projects as well as partnering with the private sector under a Built Operate and Transfer (BOT) arrangement. This will ultimately help us to build and develop an enduring university culture.

The Visitor Sir, the University will forever be grateful if you could use your good offices to facilitate the early completion of the abandoned hostels by Niger Delta Development Commission (NNDC), and Ondo State Oil Producing Commission (OSOPADEC). These projects are at 30 percent completion.

Your Excellency Sir, the value of a 21st century university is in the wealth of the knowledge it produces, the training it offers and its perceived relevance to its external public. We will build effective partnerships with research institutions and universities across the world. We will expand the University's strategic international research collaborations and partnerships. We will increase the University visibility and ranking by ensuring a strong web presence through aggressive propagation of our achievements and research outputs and innovations via appropriate media/web outlets. We will also support and expand international mobility opportunities for undergraduate and postgraduate students to study, undertake research or gain study experience abroad.

In terms of finance, we are working to increase our alternative income streams to move our university from the cycle of uncertainty in funding. We will increase our research, consultancy, and external funding income, increase special programmes across the University and streamline our non-traditional income sources, OAUSTECH Endowment funds, strategize, strengthen, and reposition our Advancements Office for optimum performance. We will also put efforts at minimising waste through stringent financial control.

The Visitor Sir, it will be greatly appreciated if our Recurrent grant and Monthly Subvention could be reviewed upward more so that the new Faculties and programmes springing up are awaiting National Universities Commission (NUC) resource verification for their take off. We will appreciate it Sir, if special capital grants could be available to complete the abandoned School of Science building which is at 25 percent to completion. We would also appreciate it Sir, if a 2km access road linking the Principal Officers' Quarters to the academic area of the University could be provided.

Conclusion

Your Excellency Sir, I want to seize this opportunity to recognize the contributions of the following illustrious sons and daughters of Ondo State towards the development of our great university:

- 1. Professor Anthony Adegbulugbe (a member of Council) who sponsored a Fire Service Station.***
- 2. Chief Pius Akinyelure who built the University Advancement Centre.***
- 3. Senator Michael Onukun who donated a functional Hall.***
- 4. Ms. Tolu Adesomoju (the daughter of the Chairman of Council) who provided Solar Street Light.***
- 5. Rear Admiral Akin Adunwo (Rtd) for donating approximately 7 hectares of land at Ode-Aye.***
- 6. Professor Olukoya Ogen, Pastor Jeremiah Akinsele and Justice Ademola Enikuomehin who sponsored a Student Relaxation Centre.***

It is to be noted that the Student Relaxation Centre was the First Voluntary private sector contribution to the physical development of this University.

The Visitor Sir, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, Great OAUSTECH students, I thank you for listening and for the opportunity to welcome His Excellency to our University. Thank you and God bless.

Temí Emmanuel Ologunorisa, PhD
4th Substantive Vice-Chancellor,
Olusegun Agagu University of Science and Technology.