Former Governor of the State of Osun, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola has called for need to pay greater attention on the education sector in Nigeria. Oyinlola raised this concern on Saturday in Osogbo while delivering an address at the 60th birthday ceremony of the Vice-Chancellor of the Osun State University, Prof. Adekunle Bashiru Okesina on 11th October, 2014 at Leisure Spring Hotel, Osogbo, Osun State.

The Ex-Governor, who doubles as the chairman of the occasion organized by Committee of Friends in honour of the Vice-Chancellor, said proper funding of education would help solve the problem of poverty in the country. “It is to be noted that investment in people, or human security, in training, and in education, is an investment in stability, growth and profitability,” he stated. According to him, “any plan to attack the scourge of poverty, must necessarily emphasize the crucial significance of education. It must also encourage the introduction and usage of scientific and communication dimensions and also confront frontally, the scourge of poverty.”

He tasked the private sector on need to support the government in raising the standard of education and combat the scourge of poverty, unemployment and other socio-economic problems in the country.

Noting the joint statement signed by the UNESCO Director General, together with the heads of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and the World Bank at the Dakar World Education Forum held in June 2001 in which they observed that educational challenge is the greatest problem confronting Africa, Oyinlola said, “At the forum it was observed that about half of the countries of Africa are unlikely to reach the target of
universal primary enrolment by 2015. It is also feared that by 2050, 30 percent of African children will never attend the primary school, or learn to read or write. This disclosure is weighty enough to be a matter of concern to everybody who desires the proper growth of our society.”

He maintained that the future of our nation lies in the hand of the youth, urging parents, guardians and other stakeholders to be more actively involved in the monitoring of the development of their children and wards at all levels of educational institutions and partner with other stakeholders in the educational sector. "We must all – parents, guardians, teachers and all stakeholders, get more interested in the development of education. Therefore, I sincerely trust and hope that all of us will continue to support very worthy initiatives designed to ensure a better tomorrow for our beloved children, wards, and society at large," he stated.

While concluding his remarks, the former Governor congratulated Prof Okesina, whom he called a dear brother and friend, adding that the celebrant has joined the club of senior citizens, by virtue of his attainment of the age of 60 years.

African universities have been urged to channel their academic and research activities towards developing the African continent. Professor Olutayo Adesina of the Department of History, Faculty of Arts, University of Ibadan made this call on Saturday in a lecture delivered in Osogbo to mark the 60th birthday ceremony of the Vice-Chancellor of Osun State University, Professor Adekunle Bashiru Okesina on 11th October, 2014 at Leisure Spring Hotel, Osogbo, Osun State.

The Don in the lecture, titled, “The Dilemmas and Prospects of the African University in the 21st Century” reiterated the urgent need for Universities across African Continent to begin projecting the kind of knowledge through which intellectuals can better understand human situation with a view to transforming African society.

He maintained that their definition of development must include and indeed emphasize the need for mental liberation, generating necessary knowledge, innovation and partnerships that will make Africa to get out of the cycles of despondency and underdevelopment.

Professor Adesina added that the universities should retool the mechanisms by which African societies in the modern world generate the knowledge and innovation which African peoples need for survival and sustenance as, according to him, “this is where African universities become relevant.”

Explaining how the African universities can become an essential factor and instrument of
development and change, Prof. Adesina said: “Our universities must develop partnerships that would help in the grounding of younger African scholars in the most modern methodologies while retaining their primary focus and interest on the continent.”

The renowned Professor however identified challenges facing African universities in this regard as he posits that it is not enough to address the challenges of the African university in merely managerial and financial terms but also in terms of cultural and intellectual capital.

“Cultural and intellectual capital are central to our capacity to engage in competitive scholarship,” he added.

In response to global development needs, he noted that partnerships have become the paradigm of international development cooperation and the higher education community has responded with enthusiasm and intellectual rigour to this method of development, adding that Partnerships should be mutually beneficial.

Prof Adesina said ideas should be developed jointly and the projects must clearly benefit both the host institution and the foreign counterpart. He also recommended Split-site supervision as a way of grounding African products in the most modern methodologies while retaining their primary focus and interest on the continent.

The National Universities Commission (NUC) and the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) have set up a Joint Technical Committee to streamline the accreditation of all Engineering Programmes, scrutinize engineering curriculum and address other related issues to improve the quality of Engineering in the Nigerian University System (NUS).

The Committee which was set up during a courtesy call by a delegation of COREN, led by its President, Engr. Kashim A. Ali, is to be chaired by the NUC Deputy Executive Secretary, Research and Special
Projects, Professor Chiedu Mafiana. It has ten members, five from each of the organisation. The other NUC members are, Directors of Research and Innovation (DRI), Professor Val Ekechukwu; Academic Standards (DAS), Dr. Gidado Bello Kumo, Quality Assurance (DQA), Dr. Noel Saliu and NUC Visiting Professor, Peter Onwualu. The COREN members are Professors J. A. Olorunmaiye, J.O. Odigure, Kehinde Taiwo, A.M.O. Obiazi and S.A. Yaro.

In a welcome address, the Executive Secretary, NUC, Professor Julius A. Okojie, OON, lamented that in the past, the Commission had a dysfunctional relationship with professional bodies, especially in the area of accreditation. He, however, said that a lot of the professional bodies had seen the benefit of cooperating with the Commission in the conduct of the accreditation and cited the example of the Nigerian Law School which was currently cooperating with the Commission to conduct a census of all law Faculties in the NUS.

Professor Okojie said that NUC decided to invite COREN in order for the two Organizations to look into some issues of mutual interest, especially Accreditation and the Curriculum of Engineering Programmes in the NUS. The NUC Scribe said that it was not healthy for the NUC and professional bodies to be going on Accreditation of the same programmes at different times, citing the example of the USA where professional bodies constituted panels in accreditation teams in exercises conducted by different accrediting bodies. Professor Okojie also disclosed that the NUC was in the process of determining the quality of Engineering Degrees from neighboring countries to ensure that Nigerians who got those degrees were qualified to practice in Nigeria.

Responding, the President of COREN expressed happiness with the new found relationship between the NUC and COREN and observed that both Organizations had similar focus of streamlining the accreditation of engineering programmes in the NUS, adding that COREN had been conducting joint accreditation of engineering programmes in Polytechnics, with the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE). The COREN President also disclosed that his Council had developed a draft accreditation document for ratification by the NUC. He presented the draft document to the Executive Secretary for consideration by the new Technical Committee. Engr. Ali said that COREN had a data base of all certified engineers in Nigeria and that all students of Engineering in Nigeria were captured from the day they entered into any higher institution to study any branch of engineering.

In a vote of thanks, the Deputy Executive Secretary, Research and Special Projects, Professor Chiedu Mafiana, corrected the impression that the NUC had been rebuffing COREN in the past, adding that the Commission felt that it was the other way round. He said that the issue raised by both parties underscored the urgent need for teamwork in their joint interests. Professor Mafiana reminded the COREN delegation that all NUC accreditation exercises were carried out by Professors in the particular programmes being accredited, saying that if there was any complaint on the quality of accreditation of Engineering Programmes, it should be directed at the Professors of Engineering used for the accreditation.

The COREN Delegation included its Vice President, Engr. Charles Uko; the Vice President of Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), Engr. Kunle Makuolu; members representing other Engineering bodies and some Heads of Engineering Faculties in the NUS.
The Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission (NUC), Professor Julius A Okojie, OON, has assured the Committee of Deans of Student Affairs of Nigerian Universities (CODESANU) of his continuous support towards uplifting the Nigerian University System (NUS).

The Executive Secretary gave the assurance when he received the new Executive Members of CODESANU, who paid him a courtesy visit in his office on. The NUC Scribe advised the Committee on the need to constantly interact with members, to enable them to share ideas and experiences on how to move the Committee forward. He urged them, as Deans of Student Affairs in their various institutions, to do their best in managing the affairs of students diligently and also try to resolve issues that arise between students and their Vice-Chancellors.

Responding, the new Chairman of CODESANU, Professor Armstrong Matin Adejo, expressed joy for the guidance provided to the group by the NUC, promising that the Committee would constantly liaise with the Commission for advice and would equally do its best to standardize the affairs of students in their various institutions.

The Chairman further informed the NUC Scribe of the appointment of new members, assuring him that the new members were most willing to put in their best for the smooth running of the NUS. Other members of the CODESANU delegation included its new Secretary-General, Professor Yemi Akegbejo Samson; the outgoing Secretary-General, Dr. Mrs. A. N. Duyleni; the Public Relations Officer, Professor Hillary Ezeh; Treasurer, Dr. Mrs. Veronica Okogbaa; Dean, Student Affairs, Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT), Professor John Obasikene; outgoing Assistant Secretary, Dr. B.J.O Ayorinde, as well as the new Vice Chairman, Professor Olubukola Kuforiji.

Ali Mazrui, 81, Albert Schweitzer Professor in the Humanities and Director of the Institute of Global Cultural Studies, died Sunday, October 12. Recognized as one of the world’s top 100 public intellectuals by Foreign Policy magazine and British journal Prospect in 2005, Mazrui was also named one of the world’s top 500 most influential Muslims in 2012 and 2013.
He earned his bachelor’s degree from Manchester University in England, his master’s degree from Columbia University and his doctorate from Oxford University in England. Prior to joining the faculty at Binghamton in 1989, he taught and served as dean at Makerere University in Uganda, taught at the University of Michigan and was a visiting scholar at countless institutions. He was also the Andrew D. White Professor-at-Large Emeritus and Senior Scholar in Africana Studies at Cornell University.

He served as President of Muslim Social Scientists of North America and was elected senior fellow of Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim Christian Understanding. Author of more than 30 books, he also published a novel, wrote for magazines and newspapers and had his most influential articles republished by Africa World Press in three volumes. He was also known for the 1986 BBC/PBS series “The Africans: A Triple Heritage.” He was awarded numerous honorary degrees in disciplines ranging from divinity to science to human development, and from humane letters to political economy. He is survived by his wife, five sons and one daughter.

Authorities of the Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti (ABUAD), have announced a comprehensive set of scholarship opportunities for indigent and undergraduate students of the institution beginning from the 2014/2015 academic session. They have also spelt out plans to reward members of academic staff that distinguish themselves in different areas of their calling.

The university says the move is aimed at promoting quality, equity and relevance in education. Prospective indigent applicants who have at least six A1s in WASSCE or NECO examinations and who qualify for their chosen courses are eligible for the scholarship. Such applicants will enjoy free tuition and accommodation; but they must be able to provide evidence of financial incapacity, be free from drugs and alcohol and must not belong to any cult group.

The details of the scholarship, according to the university, are as follows: Students with 5.0 CGPA, N500, 000 each; students with 4.75 - 4.99, N200,000 each; while students with 4.75 CGPA will enjoy N100,000 scholarship.
UNILORIN PRODUCES 48 NEW FIRST CLASS GRADUATES

The University of Ilorin is turning out 48 First Class graduands during this year’s Convocation Ceremonies taking place between Monday, October 20 and Thursday, October 23, 2014. This shows a slight increase over the 41 produced last year.

A total of 6,329 graduands will be receiving the first and postgraduate degrees as well as Diplomas in various disciplines at the convocation, which is the 30th in the series. Of these, 5,421 will be getting their first degrees while 18 will receive Diplomas. To convocate also are 642 Master’s Degree, 106 Ph.D. and 142 postgraduate Diploma graduands. These details were obtained exclusively by Unilorin Bulletin even as the Registrar, Mr. Emmanuel Dada Obafemi, released the programme of events for the convocation ceremonies last Wednesday (October 8, 2014).

According to the programme of events, the convocation activities will formally kick off on Friday, October 17, 2014. The Convocation Lecture, entitled “Innovation: A Trans-disciplinary Approach”, will be delivered on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 by Prof. Dzulkifli Abdul Rasak, the President, International Association of Universities. Forty-eight of the 5421 first degree graduands are passing out with the First Class honours degree while a total of 1,190 are graduating with the Second Class Upper degree; 2,814 graduands will be awarded the Second Class Lower degree. A total of 1,068 will bag the Third Class degree while 84 will get the Pass grade. A further breakdown of the performance of the graduands shows that 12 of the First Class graduates are from the Faculty of Engineering; 11 are from the Faculty of Physical Sciences; nine from the Faculty of Life Sciences; six from the Faculty of Agriculture and five from the Faculty of Communication and
Information Sciences. The Faculty of Management Sciences produced two First Class graduates this year while the Faculties of Arts, Basic Medical Sciences and Education produced one First Class graduate each.

The Faculty of Education is producing the highest number of graduating students this year with a total of 1,640, followed by the Faculty of Physical Sciences (694), the Faculty of Arts (627), the Faculty of Life Sciences (491), the Faculty of Social Sciences (431) and the Faculty of Engineering and Technology (299). Others are: the Faculty of Management Sciences (254), the Faculty of Communication and Information Sciences (238), the Faculty of Agriculture (224), the Faculty of Clinical Sciences (217), the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences (168), and the Faculty of Law (156).

In the postgraduate category, the Faculty of Management Sciences will issue 147 higher degrees, made up of 66 Postgraduate Diplomas, 77 Master’s degrees and four Ph. Ds. This is followed by the Faculty of Physical Sciences with 145 higher degrees, consisting 18 Postgraduate Diplomas, 104 Master’s Degrees and 23 Ph. Ds. The Faculty of Arts is issuing 122 higher degrees, made up of 102 Master’s Degrees and 20 Ph. Ds while the Faculty of Education will present 121 graduands for higher degrees. Others are: the Faculty of Life Sciences, 89 higher degrees; the Faculty of Communication and Information Sciences, 70; the Faculties of Agriculture and Law, 50 each; the Faculty of Social Sciences, 42; the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, 31; and the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, 23.

4 NIGERIANS IN THE LIST OF BEST 147 PH.D GRADUATES OF MALAYSIAN VARSITY

Four Nigerians have been listed among 147 Ph.D graduates of the International Islamic University, Malaysia (IIUM). A release by Daily Trust said there were 4,853 students from 73 countries who graduated with Diploma, Bachelor, Master’s and PhD, at the convocation.

Fifty two Nigerians were among them, out of which 26 received PhD, 25 Master’s and 1 Bachelor degrees. Imran had introduced the thesis called “Modeling Academic Dishonesty among Undergraduates of Nigerian and Malaysian Public Universities”, Aliyu’s thesis was entitled “Party Constitutions and Political Challenges in a Democracy: Nigeria in the Fourth Republic, 1999-2011.” Imran praised IIUM management for providing good learning environment to the students.

The award winning Nigerians are: Dr. Imran Adesile Moshood (Education), Dr. Aliyu Mukhtar Kastina (Political Science), Dr. Mohammed Baba Ndaliman (Engineering) and Dr. Raji Lateef Akintunde (Biosciences).

Mohammed’s work “Powder Metallurgy Compacted
Electrodes of Electrical Discharge machining for Surface Modification of Titanium Alloy (Ti-6AL-4V) was also recognized by the judges, so was Raji’s piece on “Agronomy Breeding and Cytogenetic Studies in Stevia Rebaudiana Bertoni”.

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- Banking, Inflation and Interest Rates etc.
The Management and entire Staff of UNIOSUN rejoice with the Staff members whose birthdays fall on the dates noted below. We wish you many happy returns.

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The future is simply infinite possibility waiting to happen. What it waits on is human imagination to crystallize its possibility.

~ Leland Kaiser

Try to forget yourself in the service of others. For when we think too much of ourselves and our own interests, we easily become despondent. But when we work for others, our efforts return to bless us. ~ Sidney Powell

Hope is important because it can make the present moment less difficult to bear. If we believe that tomorrow will be better, we can bear a hardship today. ~ Thich NhatHanh

Follow your dream as long as you live, do not lessen the time of following desire, for wasting time is an abomination of the spirit. ~ Plato

Don't let the fear of the time it will take to accomplish something stand in the way of your doing it. The time will pass anyway; we might just as well put that passing time to the best possible use. ~ Earl Nightingale