

**GOODWILL MESSAGE BY PROFESSOR JULIUS A. OKOJIE, OON
ON THE OCASSION OF THE 3rd CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF THE OSUN
STATE UNIVERSITY, OSOGBO, NIGERIA HOLDING ON SATURDAY 29th
MARCH, 2014**

I bring warm felicitations from the Board, Management and the entire members of staff of the National Universities Commission, Abuja on this occasion of the 3rd Convocation Ceremony for the conferment of First Degrees and Award of Prizes of the Osun State University, Osogbo, Nigeria.

I congratulate very warmly, the Chancellor, the Council, the Senate and the entire Academic community on this auspicious occasion, and indeed all the graduands for being found worthy in learning and character after years of rigorous academic activities.

I am aware that today, the university is turning out graduands in all NUC accredited programs of the University. I am also aware that, of this number, twenty (20) are in the First Class category. It is my hope that the University will offer employment to these graduates as a way of building its academic staff capacity.

As you transit into the world of works, I urge you all to apply the knowledge acquired to become useful citizens of Nigeria and create jobs for yourselves instead of looking for white-collar jobs that are becoming competitively difficult to get. As alumni and alumnae, I admonish you to hold the ideals of your university very dearly, contributing positively to its good name, brand and development. I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

I was here in 2013 for your 2nd Convocation Ceremony and coming here this time around to see the progress the university has made in the last one year gives me great joy and hope that the public state universities in Nigeria is making efforts for national and global academic relevance. Osun State University should strive to pursue excellence in the areas of need driven research, teaching and community outreach that will make it relevant to its immediate environment. Its universal nature also underscores its international and global competitiveness in knowledge generation,

dissemination and utilization. It is in this regard that I want to admonish all academic staff of this university and indeed the NUS to take advantage of all windows of opportunity for research and development provided by the state, the Federal Government and other global donor agencies and foundations. Recently the World Bank and the Federal Government provided competitive research grants for ten Nigerian Universities for the establishment of Centers of Excellence.

Let me seize this opportunity to congratulate this year's Convocation Lecturer who made the point succinctly in his lecture that academic excellence can only evolve through upholding of cherished world wide academic culture, moral values, acquisition of relevant skills and competences and adopting global best practices in solving myriads of developmental problems facing us as a nation.

It is important for me at this juncture to thank the Chancellor our father the Alayeluwa, Olubuse II, the Ooni of Ile Ife, Oba Okunade Sijuwade for providing the fatherly pillar of support for the peace the university is experiencing since it's establishment.

Finally, my gratitude goes to the Visitor to the university, the Executive Governor of the State, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola for your support and untiring contribution to the infrastructural development of the university for the enhancement of its academic programs.

The national Universities Commission sincerely wishes the Osun State University, Osogbo successful celebration and greater accomplishments in the future.

Once again, please accept NUCs expression of hearty felicitations.

Professor Julius Okojie, OON.

Executive Secretary,

National Universities Commission