

An Address by the Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Oguntola Jelil Alamu, at the Commissioning of the Central Research Laboratory, Osun State University, Osogbo, Nigeria held on Thursday, March 3, 2016

Protocols

It is with utmost pleasure that I stand here today to welcome you to the commissioning of this TETFund sponsored Central Research Laboratory at the main campus of our citadel of learning, Osun State University, Osogbo, Nigeria. The commissioning of this project is the first and one of the major events lined up for the 4th and 5th Convocation ceremonies holding from March 3 to March 9, 2016.

Universities across the globe have common tripodal mandates of teaching, research and community service. Fulfillment of these mandates would be a mirage without adequate state of the art facilities to drive teaching, learning, and innovative discoveries for community utilization.

The vision of Osun State University is “*to be a centre of excellence providing high quality teaching and learning experiences which will engender the production of entrepreneurial graduates capable of impacting positively on their environment while being globally competitive*”. In our bid to enthusiastically pursue this vision, the Management has strategically developed processes that will engender the production of high quality graduates through provision of serene environment for learning and research. In the last nine years of existence of this University, we have placed premium on infrastructural development using funds available from Internally Generated Revenue, State and Local Government grants and external supports such as Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund).

Since inception, our University has been benefiting from TETFund interventions in the areas of Normal intervention for infrastructural development, Academic Staff Training and Development, Library, Research, Journal publications and Entrepreneurial development as well as Conference Attendance for teaching and non-teaching staff. For the records, the University built the ICT Buildings in Okuku and Osogbo Campuses, the Twin 500-seater Lecture Theatre at Ikire Campus and the Central Research Laboratory Complex (which we are commissioning today) through TETFund interventions. The Faculty of Environmental Science Building and 250 capacity Twin Lecture Theatre at Okuku Campus are being constructed through TETFund interventions. These projects will soon be commissioned too.

It is gratifying to add that ninety-five (95) academic staff have benefitted from Tertiary Education Trust Fund on Academic Staff Training and Development (AST&D) to pursue Postgraduate studies within and outside Nigeria, while two hundred and two (202) staff (academic and non-academic staff) have attended conferences / workshops through TETFund sponsorship (161 international conferences and 41 local conferences / workshops). The University had also taken delivery of Library procurements from TETFund, as well as twenty (20) interactive white Boards and six (06) LD Interactive Boards donated to the University through the NUC's Electronic Teaching and Learning Platform financed by TETFund. Some cutting-edge research studies are also on-going in the University courtesy of research grants from TETFund. A couple of weeks ago, TETFund approved and disbursed about N20m for twelve (12) research projects submitted by researchers from Osun State University.

It may however be imperative to stress that accessing TETFund interventions is not an easy task. The Agency has strict guidelines which all beneficiaries must totally

comply with before the funds could be accessed. The processes involved in accessing the funds are rigorous and require high level of transparency, due process and judicious utilization of the funds. Quite a number of Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education had been sanctioned by TETFund for lack of transparency and financial recklessness in utilizing the funds allocated to their institutions. It gladdens my heart to report that our University has never been found wanting in this regard. Transparency, prudence and due process are our watch words and we shall continue to uphold this virtue.

The project we are commissioning today, as designed, is to serve as a common place for promoting qualitative research in the University, which will impact positively on our society. As such, the building is expected to house some specialized equipment and facilities for joint utilization of the Science based Faculties and external consultancy. Presently, the building houses the specialized Geological equipment donated to the University by ExxonMobil supported by Schlumberger, in 2015 and Mechatronics machines and equipment donated to us by TETFund. The University is striving to procure other high-tech equipment such as GC-MS for analytical studies and molecular equipment for biotechnological advancement.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I shall not fail, on behalf of the Osun State University, to appreciate the Federal Government of Nigeria for the massive support to public institutions through TETFund. I also thank the Government of the State of Osun under the indefatigable governor, Ogbeni Rauf Adesoji Aregbesola, the University Governing Council, Management team, Works and Physical Planning Departments, the contractor in charge of the project and the entire University Community for the necessary commitments, which has brought this project to successful completion. Our sincere appreciation goes to the Acting

Executive Secretary of TETFund and the South-West Zonal Coordinator of TETFund, Mr. Olusegun Jebooda for being a friend of Osun State University over the years.

Once again you are all welcome to the official commissioning of the Central Research Laboratory.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Professor O. J. Alamu

Acting Vice- Chancellor