

**ADDRESS OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR SOLA AKINRINADE, AT  
THE 2008/2009 MATRICULATION CEREMONY, FEBRUARY 4, 2009**

The Principal Officers – DVC, Registrar, and Bursar  
The Provosts of Colleges  
Members of Senate and other staff  
Our happy matriculating students and their proud parents and friends  
Other guests  
Gentlemen of the media  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to formally welcome you to the Second Matriculation Ceremony of our University. First, I must congratulate our matriculating students and their proud parents on witnessing this occasion. As you know, in the true university tradition, matriculation not only marks the formal admission of a student into the institution, but the ceremony also signifies the conclusion of the admission process for that year. Thus, whoever intends to be a student of Osun State University and is not part of today's ceremony has to wait for another year in the minimum.

Today's matriculating students are part of a privileged group. Of the over one million applicants who wrote the university matriculation examination for the 2008/2009 admission year, the entire Nigerian university system had spaces for only 153,000 candidates. Thus, put together, all universities in Nigeria – federal, state, private – are able to accommodate only a little above 10% of qualified applicants. Anybody that manages to enter the university is thus a privileged individual. Thus, I must congratulate you for being that of that privileged few.

However, that privilege comes with its responsibilities. It is one thing for a student to matriculate; it is another to graduate. Between matriculation and graduation is a period ranging from three to six years depending on your programme and mode of entry. If you are to successfully graduate from the university, it means you have not only passed the prescribed examinations at the required levels, but you are also found to be worthy in character and general conduct. By matriculating today, you are getting enrolled into a unique academic community that we are sure you would really be proud of.

Over the last one year since the commencement of academic activities, the University has witnessed a gradual but steady provision of solid physical infrastructures and matching equipment and facilities to ensure enhanced, positive learning experiences for our students in all disciplines and campuses. The State and Local Governments have deployed enormous financial resources to ensure that we put in place the facilities that would ensure that you have true value for money. Our campuses boast of ultra-modern facilities for teaching in Agriculture, Medicine, the Humanities, Management and Social Sciences, Education, Basic and Applied Sciences, Environmental Studies, Engineering and Technology. We believe that we have in place and are putting in place facilities that will ensure that your undergraduate experience would be a truly worthwhile one and we are not relenting in our efforts.

We have also been engaged in developing the human capacity that would assure the delivery of the vision of building a world class institution and we are building in our staff of all categories relevant and appropriate human competencies that would enhance their performance as our staff. We are also putting in place policies that would ensure accountability of staff to their students and ensure improved teaching and learning experiences for our students. In addition, we are currently finalising arrangements to put in place another innovation in the Nigerian university system – the introduction of a summer

semester, that would permit students that are interested and inclined, to undertake courses during the summer vacation that would count towards the credit hours required for graduation and permit them to graduate ahead of the traditional due date. We are sure that many of you will take advantage of this innovative policy.

Thus, on our part, we are doing everything possible to fulfil our obligations to you. It is only natural that we expect you to play your part. We also expect the proud parents to work with us in achieving our goals of building the total student. If I must reiterate, the Code of Conduct for Students is meant for compliance and we intend to continue enforcing every provision of the code. Osun State University has no room for cultism, thuggery of any sort, examination malpractices and various other social vices that have crippled older tertiary institutions in this country. Our Code of Conduct and other rules and regulations are in addition to the Laws of the country and not a substitute; thus, our students are also expected to be totally law abiding in their conducts both within and outside our campuses. In particular, we expect you to be totally faithful to the Matriculation Oath that you have taken today, throughout the period of your stay with us. While those of you who are matriculating today are not exactly the pioneer class, we still regard you as among the first generation and like the class ahead of you, we expect that you will be good ambassadors of the University both now and in the future.

My final word goes to the parents. We expect maximum cooperation from the parents of our students in ensuring that these students are exposed to the best learning experiences available. We plead that you cooperate by providing them with what they legitimately need to function as students. The Parents Forum has been wonderful in the dealing of the body with the university and the executive in particular has shown exceptional leadership ability. I plead with the parents of our fresh students to play an active part in the activities of the Forum, offer innovative suggestions and generally assist in moving our University forward.

Once again, on behalf of my colleagues in the Management and other staff, I like to congratulate you all on your admission or the admission of your ward to Osun State University. I pray that you will have a truly enjoyable and memorable time with us.

I thank you for your attention and God bless you all.

**Professor Sola Akinrinade**  
**Vice-Chancellor**  
February 4, 2009