

**Address by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sola Akinrinade, at the Commissioning
of College of Law Buildings, Ifetedo Campus,
Friday, March 19, 2010**

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this ceremony marking the commissioning of the College of Law Buildings and formal take-off of the Ifetedo Campus of Osun State University. To the glory of God, we all here are living witnesses to the demonstration of the commitment of Government of Osun State to ensure that befitting infrastructure are put in place for the smooth functioning of the various campuses of Osun State University.

With the commissioning of the buildings and formal take-off of the Ifetedo Campus, we can proudly affirm that ALL six campuses of Osun State University are now operational. While we have yet another College Building to commission in a few weeks time, academic activities have already commenced on all six campuses.

What the Government and people of Osun State have done through the development of the six campuses of this University is an unparalleled feat in the history of this country and stands as a major achievement for any regional government anywhere in the world. What is more, these six campuses have been developed in virgin forests, starting from permanent structures as we have seen here today. Please permit me to specially appreciate our Visitor and Governor of Osun State for this great achievement which would be in the record for several generations to come.

In a way, our efforts to commence academic activities at the Ifetedo Campus were hampered by certain systemic constraints. The Collegiate system that Osun State University operates is the efficient cost saving one that ensures that programmes are not duplicated across campuses. The major programme assigned to Ifetedo Campus is Law which could not commence due to the moratorium on the starting of new Law programmes in Nigerian universities placed by the National Council of Legal Education and the National Universities Commission. The moratorium was lifted sometime in 2009 and the process of securing approval for commencing a degree programme in Law was initiated, incidentally, a year ago today, when Council approved that a three-man delegation comprising the Honourable Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Barrister Niyi Owolade, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, and the Vice-Chancellor, should convey the expression of interest to establish a Law programme at the Ifetedo Campus to the Council of Legal Education and the National Universities Commission. In a demonstration of the seriousness attached to the matter, the letter was personally signed by His Excellency, the Executive Governor of the State.

What I am saying in essence is that both at the level of the Government and the University, the matter of take-off of the Ifetedo Campus of the University had been paramount in our minds. It is in relation to getting academic activities to commence on the campus that Council approved that the Pre-Degree Programme in Arts and Social Sciences should be conducted at the Ifetedo Campus and I am happy to report that the students reported for study on the campus in February 2010. To increase the tempo of academic activities before the commencement of the LL.B. programme, Council upon the recommendation of Senate has also approved that a Diploma in Law programme should commence immediately.

Students would therefore be reporting on the campus in April 2010. Already, lecturers for the College of Law have been appointed and the selection test conducted.

Our plea to the community is that they should create an enabling environment for our students to thrive and enjoy the period of their stay with us. As in all our active campuses, we expect students from all over the country and, in particular, we expect our people in the community and neighbouring towns to take special advantage of the programmes we are running here to enhance their knowledge and their skills particularly in the area of legal education. We plead with you to welcome the students with open arms and help them to acquire experiences that will be with them for life.

I am happy to note that we have so far enjoyed excellent relationship with the leadership of the community. Many well known indigenes of the town have been of great assistance to the University, and in a demonstration of the faith of the community in the University project, the good people of Ife South Local Government with headquarters at Ifetedo, are currently constructing a block of classrooms for us. For this kind gesture, we are truly grateful. We look forward to mutually beneficial relationship between the University and the host community in the years ahead.

In closing, I must toll my bell of gratitude, the first of which is to God who has made this great day possible. I must appreciate His Excellency, the Governor, Prince (Dr.) Olagunsoye Oyinlola, for his unstinting support for the Osun State University Project. Next is the Council of the University led by the indefatigable Pro-Chancellor and Council, Professor Peter Okebukola, OFR. Osun State University Council is a special breed and it is only appropriate on occasions like this to salute the commitment of this special group of people who have identified with the University in ways beyond the call of duty. Of course, I must appreciate my colleagues in the Management particularly the Principal Officers, as well as members of the Ceremonials Committee chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Finally, let me appreciate you all seated here for your support and to congratulate you for being part of this historic occasion.

Thank you and may God bless you all.

Professor Sola Akinrinade
Vice-Chancellor
19 March 2010