

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR,
PROFESSOR SOLA AKINRINADE AT THE
COMMISSIONING OF THE COLLEGE OF
MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES BUILDING,
THE COLLEGE OF HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING
BUILDING, AND THE HEALTH CENTRE
ON THURSDAY, 31ST JULY, 2008**

Your Excellency, the Executive Governor of Osun State and Visitor to Osun State University, Prince (Dr) Olagunsoye Oyinlola,

Your Excellency, the wife of the Osun State Governor, Princess Omolola Oyinlola,

Your Excellency, the Deputy Governor of Osun State, Erelu Olusola Obada,

The Right Honourable Speaker, Osun State House of Assembly, Barrister Adejare Bello,

Your Lordship, the Chief Judge of Osun State, Honourable Justice Fasasi Ogunsola,

Our Royal Fathers, the Kabiyesis here present,

Honourable Members, Osun State House of Assembly here present,

The Secretary to the State Government, Alhaji Fatai Akinbade,

The Chief of Staff to the Governor, Dr. Peter Babalola,

The Head of Service, Elder Segun Akinwusi,

Members of the State Executive Council and Special Advisers,

The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Osun State University,
Professor Peter Okebukola, OFR,

Other distinguished members of Council,

The Principal Officers, DVC, Registrar, Bursar and the Provosts of
Colleges,

Chairmen of Statutory Commissions,

Chairmen of Local Governments,

Senior Government Functionaries,

My esteemed colleagues, staff and students of UNIOSUN,

Our Distinguished Friends and Invited Guests,

Gentlemen of the Press,

Distinguished Audience,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish to welcome you most warmly to this commissioning ceremony at
Okuku Campus. Perhaps, the constant singular message of this large formal
gathering is that **‘Osun State University (UNIOSUN) is alive and moving
on at a positive and rapid pace in pursuit of the founding objectives.’** It
should be recalled that UNIOSUN officially commenced academic
activities on 21 September 2007, in what we considered modest edifices and
facilities. But, it is gladdening as well as inherently motivational that the

generality of visitors to our campuses have continued to admire and commend the progress of the University during the past ten months. We remain focused and steadfast in our efforts to develop and nurture a congenial learning organization and environment for the training of our future graduates.

I must also draw attention to the remarkable developments in our University and its six campuses over the past ten months, since our inception. These have included the gradual but steady provision of solid physical College structures as well as the provision of office/classroom facilities and associated equipment to activate positive learning centres. Furthermore, all our active campuses, including Okuku campus, already have their Internet facilities in place. In the coming months, we would be developing fully operational technological environmentally conducive lecture rooms for learning. Thus, for us at UNIOSUN, facilities such as the internet are part and parcel of an integrated package of knowledge impartation process. Hence, two of these facilities to be commissioned today by the Executive Governor and Visitor to the University are the campus ICT Laboratory and Health Centre, along with the gigantic two College Buildings for the

College of Management and Social Sciences, and the College of Human Resource Development and Life Long Learning. In addition, you may wish to note that plans are already at an advanced stage to construct a permanent ICT Building on this and other campuses of the University.

However, the need to successfully marry physical and infrastructure development with the acquisition of relevant and appropriate human competencies has necessitated the commencement of a regime of continuous training and capacity building programmes for the benefit of both the administrative and academic staff of the University. This arrangement will also provide a leverage for the necessary understanding of the technology and mechanics of educational delivery and university administration. It is our desire as a University to develop a quality workforce that would match its counterparts anywhere in the world.

One feature of the development of our academic programmes at UNIOSUN is the focus on developing programmes that are relevant to national needs and contemporary developments in the world of scholarship. Our academic staff know that in our aspiration to become a world class institution, it can

never be business as usual, not just in research but also teaching. Thus, our programmes combine quality with innovation. With specific reference to Okuku Campus, our programmes have been developed against the background of our understanding that meaningful and rapid social development of a nation can only be attained through a systematic development of that nation's human resource capacity. If we possess all the relevant technology but lack the human capacity to manage for optimal utilization, the investment in technology would have been a waste.

It is in this context, Ladies and Gentlemen, that we firmly consider the two Colleges located at our Okuku Campus as strategic. We at UNIOSUN especially rely on these two Colleges for the imparting of knowledge, skills and associated attitudes that are required for the organization and management of complex organizations at both the public and private sectors of the economy. We are confident that the various teaching, research and consulting activities of these two Colleges will contribute to the development of the local communities and wider operating environment, in ways that the social and economic enterprises of the populace can be enhanced and positively impacted.

One other feature of our Okuku Campus is the pace at which the Community has bought into our vision for the public-private partnership in the development of the environment for quality learning. Here we have a good example of the understanding of the mutual benefits derivable from public-private partnerships as the hostel facilities in place on this campus have been developed and are operated by private investors to whom the University has leased its land. Let me seize this opportunity to call upon other prospective developers, not just in Okuku, but in all our other campuses, to join hands with us in developing projects under the public-private partnership scheme.

Finally, distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I must now express appreciation for the kind gestures and support of our numerous benefactors. The University Management, staff and students remain eternally grateful to the Government and people of Osun State for the continued support we have been receiving. We are particularly immensely grateful to our Executive Governor and Visitor to the University, Prince (Dr) Olagunsoye Oyinlola. Without any iota of doubt, the solid support, total commitment,

challenging policy initiatives and prodding of the Governor in respect of the UNIOSUN project have been responsible for the magnitude of achievements so far recorded. Nevertheless, we humbly express that we would greatly appreciate a continuing prioritization of the UNIOSUN project in the ranking of the inclusive state development activities. I also wish to appreciate the Council of the University, led by its Chairman, Professor Peter Okebukola, OFR, for their unwavering commitment and stimuli. Our thanks also go to the State's Local Governments for embracing the UNIOSUN vision and the instrumentation.

I like to appreciate the Okuku community, and especially His Royal Highness, Oba Abioye Oyebode Oluronke II, JP, MNIM, Olokuku of Okuku; the Chairman, Odo-Otin Local Government, Hon. Alhaji Razaq Adenle Olaniyi; and Alhaji Kasim Funso Abioye, Chairman, Egbe Omo Ilu Okuku for their various assistance to our operations at Okuku Campus.

I should also appreciate the contractors who handled the construction of the two major College buildings at Okuku Campus namely: EFBEE Construction Company Limited for the College of Management and Social

Sciences Building, and Messrs L. D'Alberto and Company Limited for the College of Human Resource Development and Life Long Learning Building. They have obviously, worked flat out to ensure completion of the two main buildings for the purpose of today's official commissioning ceremony.

In the same vein, our gratitude goes to the technical supervisory team including the architects, structural, mechanical and electrical engineers, quantity surveyors, clerk of works and all those associated with the technical supervision in one way or the other. Please, accept our gratitude.

I must appreciate all of you who have come here to share in our joy. I pray that God will always give you reasons to rejoice.

Ultimately, our thanks and glory belong to God – and it is to Him that we ascribe it all.

Thank you and God bless.