



**OSUN STATE UNIVERSITY, OSOGBO, NIGERIA**  
**[www.uniosun.edu.ng](http://www.uniosun.edu.ng)**

**9<sup>TH</sup> CONVOCAATION SPEECHES**

**21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020**

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**Osun State University**

**9<sup>th</sup> Convocation Speeches**

**Delivered by:**

**Chancellor  
Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Council  
Vice-Chancellor  
Visitor**

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Produced and published by:

**Osun State University Press**

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## **“KEEP YOUR VISION ALIVE”**

### **ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE CHANCELLOR OF OSUN STATE UNIVERSITY, APOSTLE (DR.) FOLORUNSO ALAKIJA, AT THE NINTH CONVOCATION CEREMONIES FOR THE CONFERMENT OF FIRST AND POSTGRADUATE DEGREES ON MONDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2020**

#### **PROTOCOLS**

- Our amiable Visitor to Osun State University, His Excellency, Mr. Adegboyega Oyetola and his Cabinet members
- The Speaker, Rt. Hon. Timothy Owoeye, and other Honourable Members of the State House of Assembly
- Chief Judge of the State, Hon. Justice Adepele Ojo and other Judges
- Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Mallam Yusuf Ali, *SAN*, and other Council members
- Vice-Chancellor, Osun State University, Professor Labode Popoola, and the Principal Officers
- Convocation Lecturer, Professor Jeffrey Sachs- Director of the Centre for Sustainable Development, Columbia University and Special Adviser to the Secretary General of the United Nations on Sustainable Development Goals

- All our Royal Fathers
- Executive Secretary, NUC, Professor Abubakar Rasheed
- Registrar of JAMB, Professor Is-haq Oloyede
- The Executive Secretary, TETFund, Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro
- UNIOSUN founding fathers, Members of Senate, Congregation
- Members of Advancement Board, Parents Forum, Alumni Association, Members of Staff, Student Representative Leaders, and Union Leaders
- Graduands and their families
- Gentlemen of the Press
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

I give God all the glory for the privilege to witness today's convocation ceremony despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

I warmly welcome the Governor of the State of Osun, His Excellency, Mr. Adegboyega Oyetola, the Visitor to this ceremony for the conferment of first and postgraduate degrees. I also welcome all our guests. I rejoice with all my children who are graduating today and their parents, guardians, and well-wishers.

This year's convocation is significantly unique because of the restrictions occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the lessons we have learned during this period is that the virus does not respect national boundaries, status, social or financial standing.

It has brought to the fore the need for governments, institutions, and every individual to be vigilant and to understand the new narratives. We need to reform governance and learn how to live with the new normal. I also call for global cooperation to develop the necessary vaccines to combat the virus.

I appreciate the efforts of the Coalition Against COVID-19 (CACOVID), the Federal Government, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), and the World Health Organisation (WHO) for their efforts in combating Coronavirus in Nigeria. At our State, here in Osun, I like to commend the commitment of the government of the State as well as the COVID-19 Food and Relief Committee eminently co-chaired by Pastor Enoch Adeboye and Alhaji Tunde Badmus. Let us continue to maintain social and physical distancing, wear face-mask, and stay informed about the virus.

I appreciate the Visitor for his continued support to the University, and I applaud his decision to extend the tenure of our Governing Council for another term. It aligns with a French proverb that says, "One does not change a winning team."

Without an iota of doubt, I know the members of the Governing Council and Management are a group of committed professionals and distinguished academics whose tireless effort maintain the academic excellence of the University. I am

proud to say that “UNIOSUN is one of the few public institutions in the country with a stable academic calendar.”

## **PROGRESS REPORT ON THE MODUPE & FOLORUNSO ALAKIJA TEACHING HOSPITAL**

Your Excellency and all stakeholders let me update you about the Modupe and Folorunso Alakija Teaching Hospital. I am happy to report that construction work is steadily progressing on-site, and by God’s grace, the project will be completed and delivered next year.

I enjoin all affluent persons and corporate organisations to join hands with us in building a meaningful future for the future generations at Osun State University. Partner with us at UNIOSUN for this noble mission and, you will be glad you did.

## **KEEP YOUR VISION ALIVE**

I charge all graduands to keep their vision alive. In Proverbs 29:18a, the Bible says, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.”

Today’s ceremony marks the beginning of good things in your life. You have not arrived yet; the journey is still long, and everyone’s destination is different. However, to arrive at your port of success, you must nurture your vision; you must release yourself from the shackles of failure and procrastination.

I encourage you to be visionary because it’s visioner’s that position themselves among the world changers. With vision, you can expand your career, horizon, and exploit new avenues. So, I encourage you to allow your vision to give you an

insight into your creativity, and it will lift you high, transform you, and place you in a more advantageous position.

- I want you to note that having a vision does not preclude you from experiencing challenges in life. As they say, there is no glory without a story. Every successful person has a story to tell.
- From Dr. Ben Carson - the famous neurosurgeon who performed the only successful separation of conjoined twins, joined at the back of the head.
- to Mr. Chinua Achebe – the Nigerian author who wrote the internationally acclaimed novel “Things Fall Apart”
- to President Nelson Mandela –who was imprisoned for 27 years before he became the first black person to be elected as the President of South Africa
- and last but not the least our very own President Muhammadu Buhari who contested three times before he was elected the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

All these men, in addition to their vision, also exhibited endurance and courage. They never gave up on their vision despite the challenges they faced.

Therefore, you must not allow your present challenges or the environmental conditions you find yourself to becloud your vision. Remember, a vision has an

appointed time, and the time for the manifestation of your vision is now. Get the right career skills and experience to forge ahead. Don't rest on your oars. Life is not static; you must keep moving.

Keep moving in your career and your profession, continue to acquire knowledge and gain experience in solving society's problems, and more importantly, always put your vision before God.

- Let your vision propel you to greatness
- Keep on pushing
- Overcome your fear and don't be jittery
- Your tomorrow will be better than your today
- If I succeeded, then so can you.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, I urge governments at all levels and corporate entities to invest in our youths, formulate and implement appropriate policies that will equip them with new skills and innovative ideas that will make life more meaningful for them.

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for listening and wish the graduands happy celebrations.

# **LIFE IN THE NEW NORMAL:**

## **BEING A SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE PRO-CHANCELLOR AND CHAIRMAN, GOVERNING COUNCIL, YUSUF ALI SAN FCIArb, AT THE 9TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF OSUN STATE UNIVERSITY HELD ON 21ST SEPTEMBER 2020**

The world was jolted in the first week of **March 2020**, from the news from Wuhan in China, that a new variant of the Corona Virus infection had been discovered and was afflicting residents of the Chinese city. Before the world could gather its breath, the pandemic had become a ravaging monster, killing and devastating its victims, but not only in Wuhan, China anymore. It had become a worldwide phenomenon.

From scientific investigation, it was discovered that the virus infection actually started earlier than March, 2020, but sometime towards the end of 2019. As a result of this discovery, it came to be christened as **COVID-19**. The pandemic has turned the world upside down in its effect, ramification, aftermath and impact.

As at the time of writing this address, on **31st August, 2020**, Nigeria had a total of **53,865** confirmed cases with **41,513** recoveries and **1,013** deaths. The world total, as at the same date, stood at over **25 million** confirmed cases, about **18 million** recovered and close to **860,000** deaths, with the United States accounting for about **15%** of the deaths. The disturbing pattern of the pandemic is such that, it's been projected that by December, 2020, the mortality rate in the USA may surpass **300,000**, from the current figure of 187,227 and the projection for Nigeria is also not inspiring.

The pandemic, as stated above, has altered the way we normally live our lives in all ramifications and has led to new vocabularies and expressions in our lexicon. We now hear of ‘the new normal’, ‘social distancing’, ‘hand washing and sanitizing’, in short, things that we never thought of as normal ways of life have become the order of the day. We are now in the era of virtual everything – ‘virtual learning’, ‘virtual court hearings’, ‘virtual meetings’, ‘virtual religious gathering’, ‘virtual social gatherings’ and, very shortly, virtual political gatherings’ as well.

The last report from the United States, when it comes to university education, was that all the universities in the United States were migrating to virtual learning. Initially, Trump touted the idea of sending back all the foreign students to their respective countries, since there will be no physical learning. However, due to hues and cries, especially the economic implication for the United States, that idea has been dropped.

For us as a University, it was as if we saw this current pandemic in a crystal ball. Serious efforts in the last two years had gone into the development of our ICT infrastructure on all the campuses and this act of foresightedness has made it possible for the University to conduct the first ever virtual matriculation, the first of its kind among all the higher institutions in Nigeria. Virtual learning has since then also taken off. Our Engineering department, in collaboration with others, has developed a hand washing and decontamination cubicle.

The future of learning in our tertiary institutions is no more going to be the same. It is therefore, incumbent upon our Universities to invest massively in ICT infrastructure and adapt to the new normal of virtual learning. This will have to be the case, until effective and mass vaccination against the pandemic is discovered

and implemented. Any University that fails to heed the above will likely not be able to offer courses for students in the near future.

I, therefore, use this medium to appeal to the Federal and State governments to increase the level of funding to the Universities, for two critical things, research and ICT infrastructure development. There is a rat race in the world to discover an effective vaccine for this virus. Without adequate and sufficient funding, our Universities cannot even play a catch game.

This pandemic has provided a rare opportunity for our universities academic, to join the bandwagon of other universities all over the world, to launch into cutting edge impactful researches that will address this pandemic and other areas of science and technology that will ease the way we live.

**I have the rear honor to disclose to this gathering, that our university is now into partnership with Covid-19 Relief Committee of this state to drive molecular laboratory to carry out Covid-19 tests and serve as the hub for research into herbal medicine.**

**ADDRESS OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR,  
PROFESSOR LABODE POPOOLA AT THE 9TH CONVOCATION  
CEREMONY FOR THE CONFERMENT OF FIRST, POSTGRADUATE,  
AND PRIZES OF OSUN STATE UNIVERSITY, NIGERIA ON  
21 SEPTEMBER, 2020**

The Governor of the State of Osun, and the Visitor to the University, His Excellency, Mr. Adegboyega Oyetola,  
The Deputy Governor of the State of Osun, Mr. Benedict Alabi,  
The Speaker, State House of Assembly, Rt. Honourable Timothy Owoeye,  
The Chief Judge of the State, Rt. Hon. Justice Adepele Ojo,  
Chancellor of our University, Apostle (Dr) Folorunso Alakija,  
Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Mallam Yusuf OlaOlu Ali, SAN,  
Distinguished members of UNIOSUN Governing Council,  
Distinguished Professor Jeffery D Sachs, the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General and our Convocation Lecturer,  
His Imperial Majesty, the Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, Ojaja II,  
His Royal Majesty, Ataoja of Osogbo, Oba Jimoh Oyetunji Olanipekun, Larooye II,  
His Royal Majesty, Oba (Dr.) Gabriel Aromolaran II, CFR, LLD Hons, the Owa Obokun Adimula of Ijesaland,  
Your Royal Majesties here present,  
The Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC), Professor Abubakar Rasheed,  
The Registrar of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), Professor Ishaq Oloyede,  
The Executive Secretary of Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Professor Suleiman Bogoro,  
  
Visiting Pro-Chancellors and Chairmen of Councils of other Universities,  
Visiting Vice-Chancellors,  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic, Research, Innovation, and Partnerships),  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Development),  
Registrar,  
Bursar,

University Librarian,  
Heads of Security Agencies present,  
Provosts, Deans, Heads of Department and Directors,  
Members of Senate,  
Members of Congregation,  
UNIOSUN Alumni Association,  
Dear Students,  
Members of the University Community and our host communities,  
Our Cherished Graduands, their Parents, Guardians, and well-wishers,  
Gentlemen of the Press,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today is the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Founder's day and the first time that we are conducting our convocation and award of degrees virtually. This is due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and government's restrictions on large gatherings and as approved by our Governing Council. It is a great honour and privilege for me to welcome you, distinguished personalities and eminent world citizens, from both within and outside the Nigerian geographical borders to Osun State University and the 9th Convocation Ceremony for the conferment of first and postgraduate degrees and Diplomas. This year's virtual convocation is part of our decisions and resolve as a university, never to be slowed down or stopped, but rising to the realities of this 'new normal', rather than complaining or giving excuses.

In forty-five days, I will be four years in the saddle as the Vice-Chancellor of this young and unique institution of higher learning, Osun State University, UNIOSUN for short! I consider it a rare privilege that in four years, this is the fourth convocation ceremony, against all the odds.

I like to warmly welcome the Visitor to our University, Mr. Adegboyega Oyetola, the Governor of the State of Osun, and his hardworking Deputy, Mr. Benedict Alabi. On behalf of the UNIOSUN community, I commend you both for your exemplary leadership which can be seen in the current strategy you used in the prevention and fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in the state amongst other interventions for the benefit of the people in the state.

I most heartily welcome our beloved Chancellor, Apostle (Dr) Folorunso Alakija, who has continued to be a great pillar of support and benevolence to our University. It will be recalled that on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2018, the sod was turned for the foundation of a world-class ultra-modern Teaching Hospital which Mama and her family are building for the University. I believe in God that very soon, we all shall gather to commemorate the opening of this ultra-modern UNIOSUN-Modupe and Folorunso Alakija Teaching Hospital (UNIOSUN-MOFATH) for our university's Medical Training and Research and the health needs of Nigerians and humanity at large. Madam Chancellor Ma, your kind support and many other philanthropic gestures, the energy, and your commitment to the UNIOSUN's mission continue to amaze us all. We are forever grateful and blessed to have you Ma. May the good Lord continue to reward and bless you bounteously.

I would also like to heartily welcome the Speaker, State of Osun House of Assembly Rt. Honourable Timothy Owoeye, his colleagues, and all our eminent and distinguished guests from all over the country and beyond; especially the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC), Executive Secretary of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Vice-Chancellors and their representatives, Rectors of Polytechnics and Provosts of Colleges of Education and Registrars of different institutions from far and near.

I like to especially appreciate and welcome our Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, the enigmatic and redoubtable Mallam Yusuf Ali, SAN for his positive guidance and leadership. Before this august gathering, I like to formally congratulate you and other eminent members of our Council on your recent re-appointment for another four-year term by the Visitor. Hard work they say, begets more work.

I like to also use this opportunity to welcome and recognize my colleagues whose efforts have helped immensely in shaping and sharpening the minds of today's graduands. Thank you for your labour of love, and you are recognized. No doubt, you have helped to guide our graduands on a path to lead meaningful and better lives. I feel most blessed to have you all as colleagues and partners in this business of knowledge imparting. I would also like to congratulate the parents, guardians, families, and friends of our graduands as well as other well-wishers. We

understand, value, and appreciate the sacrifices you have made towards helping today's graduands in their academic journeys.

I like to specially welcome and deeply appreciate, on behalf of the Council, Management, staff, and students of Osun State University, my good friend and mentor, Professor Jeffery David Sachs, a world-renowned economist, liberal academic, public policy analyst, former director of the Earth Institute and now, Director of the Centre for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, New York. Jeff is one of the world's leading experts on economic development and the fight against poverty. He is our 2020 Convocation Lecturer on the theme: “**The New Normal: Challenges and Opportunities for Tertiary Education**”. Professor Sachs, your lecture today would be highly-stimulating, intellectually-enriching, rewarding, and most memorable in several respects. Once again, thank you very much for accepting our invitation and for doing justice to the topic.

### **Keeping up with Ethos of Convocations**

Meanwhile, as we all are learning to live with the realities of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the imminent impacts across countries of the world, we at UNIOSUN have chosen to join the people that are adapting, innovating and making a difference in this era of the new normal. Our efforts are in line with the ethos and practice of world-class Universities, hence our decision to continue all our teaching and learning activities virtually. Interestingly, this was enhanced by the digitization of our teaching materials and our decision to adopt the dual delivery mode, which was concluded even before the advent of COVID-19.

I am glad to inform you that we are the first University in Nigeria (and perhaps in the world) to conduct a virtual Matriculation in May of this year and the first publicly funded University in Nigeria to conduct a virtual convocation ceremony. Last year, we spread the convocation ceremonies over three days, where graduands were grouped based on their respective colleges and we were able to successfully host all our graduands, their parents, and well-wishers for the memorable 8<sup>th</sup> convocation ceremonies. However, given the nature of this year's convocation, we have chosen a one-day virtual convocation ceremony by exploiting technology to seamlessly connect all our graduands, their families and guests, thus another

opportunity for us to demonstrate the commitment to the essence of a university in the society.

Ladies and gentlemen, as part of our resolve to leave no one out, we supported our graduands, each with the provision of three gigabytes of data with their most preferred Internet Service Provider (ISP) for them to be able to join this virtual convocation via the Zoom platform, Youtube and other social media. This gesture will in no small measure encourage participation and prompt connectivity for a memorable 9<sup>th</sup> convocation ceremony for our graduands, their families, and well-wishers. I am glad to add that our graduands are fully kitted at their respective locations in their convocation gowns, which had been couriered to them along with the convocation brochure, scroll and plaque as their memorabilia from the University for this unique event three weeks ahead of today.

### **Progressing Towards a World Class Learning Environment**

Ladies and gentlemen, I am happy to also inform you that Osun State University is thirteen years old this year. Although we are young, we are moving very fast with the understanding that we cannot afford any excuses for non-performance or failures. Our efforts in the last four years of this administration have been to consolidate on the gains of our humble beginnings. It is with great pride that I report here today, that we have successfully redirected the institution to the path paved for it by our founding fathers, which is to be a centre of excellence, providing high-quality teaching and learning experiences which will engender the production of the high calibre of entrepreneurial graduates capable of impacting positively on their environment while being globally competitive. We have also continued to improve on facilities and equipment, just as we continue to invest in human capital development. These three are the key ingredients and major requirements towards achieving a world-class higher learning environment status.

### **Academic Growth and Development**

The Visitor, eminent personalities, and distinguished guests, the world is changing very fast daily and any institution of higher learning that is caught flatfooted will certainly be left behind. At UNIOSUN, we are cognizant of this and we have continued to make academic development the centre point of our institutional policy to be relevant to the changing needs of the society and our people. Noting

our responsibility as a knowledge economy player, we have continued to emphasize increased access. This is because we believe in the capacity of higher education in destroying the myth of underdevelopment and the cycle of poor growth.

We have also reviewed our courses, upgraded our curricula, and created new programmes to promote the ideals of scholarship and enhance the quantum of research activities. Currently, our undergraduate programmes have increased to sixty-five (65), spanning the fields of Agriculture, Education, Law, Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Health Sciences, Humanities and Culture and Management, and Social Sciences. Our postgraduate programmes, on the other hand, also increased to forty-five (45), at the postgraduate diploma (PGD), Master's degree (academic and professional), and doctoral levels. I am glad to add that all our programmes have been duly accredited by the NUC and these include all professional courses such as Law, Nursing, Accounting, Urban & Regional Planning, and Engineering, which are also enjoying professional accreditation from their various professional bodies. Similarly, our MBBS programme is now fully resuscitated and is up and running smoothly. With our Teaching Hospital under construction, we are in no doubt poised to contribute to the development of medical breakthroughs, Thanks again and again to the Alakijas!

### **Continuous Access to Higher Education**

At UNIOSUN, we believe in unrestricted access to quality education. We remain committed to this especially during this COVID-19 pandemic period where we have innovatively sustained an environment which enables quality teaching, learning, and research activities across our campuses and creating unique opportunities for our students. Such opportunities include the provision of constant access to data and gadgets for educational activities, access to scholarship, financial support, or opportunities to work and earn some stipends while schooling.

Mr. Visitor Sir, I am happy to report that during this pandemic lockdown, the University management approved and recently deployed a robust Learning Management System (LMS) for continuous engagement of students and prompt

assessment. This was further enhanced with the provision of data to *bonafide* registered students via the LMS and has remained a key motivation for attendance and participation in lectures across our colleges. The University Senate also approved the Blended Learning Policy for the university. As a result of this, our academic activities will continue both physically and virtually when academic activities resume. Further, I like to inform this distinguished gathering that our Centre for Open, Distant and e-Learning (CODEL) will soon be commencing academic activities. This Centre will afford would-be-students, the opportunity to study and earn degrees from any locations in the world.

On our determination not to relent in the provision of prompt and unhindered support for our students, we recently initiated discussions on the provision of digital personal devices such as tablets and laptops for our students and this is with a flexible payment plan, spreading well over four (4) years. In addition, we have also continued to provide different opportunities for our students to remain in school. Arising from this, we have considerably reduced the number of students who seek to defer their studies or withdraw from school on account of financial incapability. This we have been able to accomplish through scholarships and financial support/funding opportunities from individuals, staff, and corporate organizations. Notable among these are Mallam Yusuf OlaOlu Ali, SAN, Prince Tunde Ponnle, other members of our Governing Council, members of staff at UNIOSUN, and some other notable NGOs.

In the last one year, our students have continued to gain experience through the student work-study scheme by working on our campuses and earning a living (monthly) stipends to support themselves while easing the burden on their parents. They are registered with the Student Affairs Unit of the university as students, companies, or groups to render a range of services including cleaning, ushering, and other ICT support services. It is with pride that I inform this gathering that the digital design of the University bi-annual publications and monthly bulletins are being handled by one of our students on this scheme. Distinguished audience, permit me to use this medium to solicit for your support towards increasing our funding base for students' scholarship and financial support. No amount is too small!

## **The 9<sup>th</sup> Convocation**

This year's convocation is unique and like the previous convocations, this year's convocation presents the university another opportunity to release individuals who have met the graduation criteria and have been found worthy in character and learning into the world of service and global relevance, through the award of first and postgraduate degrees and diplomas in the fields of Agriculture, Education, Health Sciences, Humanities, and Culture, Law, Management and Social Sciences, and Science, Engineering and Technology.

Tables 1 and 2 present the breakdown of the first and postgraduate degrees and Diplomas as well as the classes of the degrees.

**Table 1: Classes of Degrees by Faculty**

<b>Class of Degree</b>	<b>1st Class</b>	<b>2nd Class Upper</b>	<b>2nd Class Lower</b>	<b>3rd Class</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Total</b>
Faculty of Agricultural Production and Management	0	31	50	8	0	89
Faculty of Basic & Applied Sciences	8	77	160	109	6	360
Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences	0	24	78	32	2	136
Faculty of Clinical Sciences	3	60	80	5	0	148
Faculty of Education	1	45	122	26	1	195
Faculty of Engineering & Environmental Sciences	5	48	54	11	1	119
Faculty of Humanities & Culture	1	57	145	20	0	223
Faculty of Law	2	31	14	4	0	51
Faculty of Management Sciences	13	167	170	31	0	381
Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources Management	0	20	14	1	0	35
Faculty of Social Sciences	2	43	85	27	0	157
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,894</b>

**Table 2: Breakdown of Postgraduate Degrees and Diplomas (PGD)**

<b>Faculty/Centre</b>	<b>Postgraduate Diploma</b>	<b>Academic Masters</b>	<b>Professional Masters</b>	<b>Total</b>
Basic and Applied Sciences	1	9	-	10

Climate Change and Environmental Research	-	-	4	4
Engineering and Environmental Sciences	25	-	-	25
Humanities	-	3	2	5
Social Sciences	7		1	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>52</b>

Ladies and gentlemen, the total graduate output of the University for the 2018/2019 Academic Session is one thousand nine hundred and forty-six (1946), and this is made up of one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four (1894) undergraduate graduands and fifty-two (52) postgraduate degree and Diploma graduands. Table 1 summarizes the first-degree graduands according to their faculties and classes of degrees while Table 2 provides statistics of higher degrees and Diplomas.

Summarily, we have thirty-five (35) First Class representing 1.79% of the total number of graduands, six hundred and three (603) Second Class Upper Division, nine hundred and seventy-two (972) Second Class Lower Division, two hundred and seventy-four (274) Third Class, ten (10) Pass, nineteen (19) Masters' and 33 Postgraduate Diploma graduands from various programmes spread across the 11 faculties in the University. Since the first convocation in 2011, UNIOSUN has surpassed 10,000 marks. To date, we have graduated a total of eleven thousand nine hundred and forty-seven (11,947) and for a young and fledgling University like ours, this is indeed not a small feat.

The Visitor Sir, ladies, and gentlemen, this year's convocation produced one overall best graduating student, a male. I, therefore, present from the Faculty of Engineering and Environmental Sciences, and the Department of Civil Engineering, Olubunmi Emmanuel OGUNLEYE, with Matriculation Number CVE/2014/0039 and Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 4.85. Hearty congratulations.

### **Capacity Building**

At inception, the university assembled academics and scholars who were capable of imparting knowledge and character in our students as well as seasoned administrators who were experienced in university affairs and management. Thirteen years after, we have not departed from that culture and practice. Understanding that the terrain and university education needs are changing every day and at a very fast pace too, the university has continued to encourage and promote the need for continuous upgrading and improvement among its staff members. Recently, eleven (11) academic staff got their full professorial chairs while eight (8) others rose to the position of associate professors, with the timely promotion of several other teaching and non-teaching members of staff of the University to higher cadres. We are rest assured that our students will be better serviced with these advancements.

Likewise, we have not wavered in our commitment to staff development. There has been continuous training and retraining of our staff through the Internal Learned Conference Programme from where the university expended the total sum of ₦10,872,066.80 over the last one year. This intervention has supported the participation of about fifty-one (51) members of staff at various training workshops and conferences, bringing the total number to over 351 in three years. In the same vein, Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), also expended ₦25,230,895 on twenty-seven (27) staff members to local and international learned conferences, training, and workshops.

In like manner, several in-house capacity building workshops were organized and conducted for staff members and students in the last one year and they have been of immense impact on the beneficiaries and the University as a whole.

### **Staff Welfare**

We have been alive to our responsibility on staff welfare in a supportive manner, taking into account their feelings and difficulties in an atmosphere of trust and confidentiality. It is noteworthy that the present administration in UNIOSUN has committed itself to the proper welfare of staff despite the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global economy.

Within the last 47 months of this administration, different kinds of staff welfare schemes have been initiated and implemented. As part of the welfare scheme for staff, the university set up the staff health fund with a base capital of ₦10million to be grown on an annual basis. The fund aims to take care of the serious health needs of staff members or their direct dependants. In the last six months that the university has switched to virtual teaching and learning, I am glad to inform all, that we have remained committed to the prompt payment of staff salaries and we have sustained our tradition of paying by the 25<sup>th</sup> of every month. This administration also created the automobile and housing loan scheme for staff members. The loans are repayable at a single digit of between 4 and 6% interest rate respectively.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, two sessions back, we kick-started a 50% rebate programme for the tuition of biological children of staff members. The number of beneficiaries has increased from the 51 reported last year to 67 with a total estimated cost of three million, eight hundred and forty-one thousand, eight hundred and seventy-five naira (₦3,841,875.00). This scheme has been of immense support to staff members since its inception and it remains viable.

In another recent effort, one hundred and thirty (130) members of staff above 40 years of age were freely screened for Cancer at our UNIOSUN- MicCom Cancer Foundation Center, which is part of the UNIOSUN ADA Medical Outreach Programme which was recently bequeathed to the University by our dear Engr. Tunde Ponle and family. At this two-week-long event, eighty (80) male staff were successfully screened for Prostate Cancer while 50 female staff members were screened for Breast Cancers.

### **Students' Welfare**

As mentioned earlier, several student-centred programmes were recently initiated for the benefit of our beloved students. However, it is also important to point out other specific efforts particularly in this regard between the last convocation and now.

It may interest you to know that this administration recently assessed students' needs and came to the conclusion that student leaders are not associating freely enough to get the yearnings of the students they represent. Recently, the

administration presented the student leaders with the new constitution of the Students Union to usher-in for the first time, opportunities for the students to practice democracy. It is instructive to note here that the constitution was prepared by the past student leaders who are now alumni of the University. Arrangements have been concluded on the smooth conduct of the inaugural election of the Students Union (SU) of this University and we sincerely look forward to working with the SU executives.

Similarly, apart from the regular interactions at the College, Faculty, and Departmental levels through the Staff/Students colloquia, the University management organized yet another 3-day training workshop for student leaders in November 2019 at the MicCom Golf and Resort, Ada. We are resolved to yearly provide our students with this kind of experience across the various faculties and colleges and we will surely continue to use such opportunities to empower them to be responsive and responsible leaders.

As part of our response to the persistent requests of our students, we recently approved and commenced the construction of 1-Storey 104 capacity hostel accommodation facility across all six (6) campuses of the University. The project is at an advanced stage, soon to be delivered for immediate and effective use of our fresh students in the 2020/2021 Academic Session.

The stories of the series of recent student-centred developments, training, and workshops are detailed in Volume 1, Numbers 13 and 14 editions of the UNIOSUN News-Spring Magazine.

### **Student Relaxation Centre and Motion Ground**

The importance of socialization in the lives of contemporary students underscores the need for relaxation/recreation areas within the academic environment. Since more and more students spend a greater part of their time on campus or around it, this administration has found it necessary to explore other funding opportunities by seeking support from corporate organizations in the form of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). At the last convocation ceremonies, I reported that the First Bank of Nigeria Plc approved the proposal of the University to build a modern relaxation and motion ground for our students. I am glad to inform this gathering

that the motion ground is almost completed and it is situated on the main campus in Osogbo. Indeed it is aesthetically appealing and I make bold to say that it is an eco-friendly platform for students to socialize and recreate.

In our resolve to spread developments across our campuses, we approached other prospective sponsors and I am happy to announce that the management of Unity Bank also recently approved the proposal of the University to build a replica of the motion ground at our Okuku and Ikire campuses. These relaxation centres offer spaces for small businesses and the beautiful green spaces will also be suitable for students to take pictures and/or make films.

### **Recognitions, Breakthroughs, and Achievements**

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the University continues to soar in recognition through many of its activities. Our professors and lecturers continue to attract competitive funding for research, while our academic staff and products remain versatile as more of them gained admission to foreign universities over the past year. As we continue to seek global relevance in the comity of universities worldwide, our staff members have never relented in their various endeavours, producing globally competitive graduates with marketable skill sets.

One of the great achievements is the induction of our pioneer set of nursing students into the nursing profession. This set of nurses have laid a very good foundation with brilliant performances in the two professional examinations they wrote. Forty-two (42) of them were presented for the final professional qualifying examination organized by the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN) in May and November 2019 and they had 100% success. Similarly, in March 2020, Twenty-five (25) of these inductees wrote the final qualifying Midwifery examination, and they also recorded 100% success again. I am very proud to say that this feat is uncommon, even in older universities.

Similarly, our students recorded yet another successful outing at the 2019 Bridge to Better Life Design Competition, organized by the Nigerian Institution of Civil Engineers, emerging the 2019 Winners of the Competition. The 'Team UNIOSUN' ably represented by Fatokun Abiodun, and Ogunleye Olubunmi of the

Department of Civil Engineering outshone other participants from Universities across the country at the competition which held in November 2019.

It is equally important to mention that two of our students, Ridwan Bolatito Adetu, and Semilore Ajayi-Smith both of the Department of Economics got special recognition for their outstanding performance in the Macroeconomic Diagnostics Course of the International Monetary Fund's Institute for Capacity Development. They were commended for their exemplary achievements in Economic Analysis which earned them the ticket for participation in the 2020 International Monetary Fund Challenge.

In December 2019, the Global Affairs and Sustainable Development Institute (GASDI) organized the first annual public lecture in honour of one of our benefactors and a friend of this University, Engr. Tunde Ponnle. I am pleased to inform you that the Honourable Speaker of the Federal House of Representatives, Right Honourable Femi Gbajabiamila delivered the first lecture on the theme, "Building A truly 21st Century University: A Task Beyond Government". The public lecture had many acclaimed scholars and researchers in attendance physically. The event was a spectacular success and we are already working to have a similar experience every year.

I am also glad to inform you that this institute also recently initiated a special programme tagged 'UNIOSUN Solutions Forum' to impact positively and proffer solutions to developmental challenges in the country. This programme is a one hour educative and interactive programme on Rave FM at 91.7 MHz with the primary objective of taking the gown to the town for a better society. The 'UNIOSUN Solutions Forum' represents a paradigm shift in how we understand and engage with national problems, and focuses rather on possible solutions to extant problems. The shift in the narrative is timely and provides a unique opportunity for the University to impact society positively especially given that the government relies on the academia to proffer solutions to developmental challenges.

Likewise, as part of our contribution towards creating a better society, we recently advertised in the dailies our Start-Up Scheme for UNIOSUN alumni who have innovative and bankable proposals. The idea is to create a pool of entrepreneurs

and job creators. Each successful proposal will receive a Start-Up capital of two hundred thousand naira (₦200,000) repayable over three years at a single-digit interest rate. I am glad to inform you that we have received a good number of proposals and a committee is currently working on reviewing these proposals and getting back to the prospective beneficiaries.

Our members of staff continue to gain global recognition through their research efforts and scholarships. During the year, specifically around April, Professor M.A Adeleke of the Department of Zoology in collaboration with the Vice-Chancellor and one of our alumni, Mr. Abdulmajeed Kabir launched a forecasting model for the prediction of new cases of COVID-19. It was tested and remains accurate and a comprehensive report on this forecasting model was published in an international journal. Professor Adeleke also received a grant from the Global Fund, National Malaria Eradication Programme (NMEP), and the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) for the studies on insecticide resistance in mosquitoes in Osun State. In like manner, Dr. Olabanji Surakat of the Department of Zoology was awarded the ARNTD/UKAID/USAID grant for the year 2020. Also recently, our own Dr. Tella Adeniran Rahmon of the Department of Business Administration was appointed by the Federal Government of Nigeria as the Resident Electoral Commissioner with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), posted to Ekiti State.

In December 2019, Osun State University was ranked along with other tertiary institutions in the country by the Centre for Ethics and Self Value Orientation (CESVO), a Non-Governmental Organisation for exemplary leadership. I am happy to inform this gathering that UNIOSUN emerged as the 2019 Least Corrupt State University in Nigeria. This same organization decorated my humble self as an Ambassador of Ethics and Man of Conscience, while other principal officers of the University were commended for their exemplary leadership. Also recently, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Labode Popoola received the 2020 Outstanding Leadership Award from the Southwest Nigeria Excellence Awards (SNEA), the largest award body in Southwest Nigeria.

Given what we have achieved in just three years plus, our infrastructural development is one of the most rapid in the history of tertiary education in Nigeria. The recent equipping/setup of the state-of-the-art Molecular Laboratory remains

part of our efforts in combating the menace of the COVID-19 pandemic and our way of complementing the efforts of the government. We are set to commence a massive COVID-19 test in UNIOSUN. We have also continued to impact the community with the provision of quality services and products through the UNIOSUN Ventures.

### **Linkages and Partnerships**

The University recognizes the increasing need to position itself within emerging global systems of higher education, which can only be achieved by collaboration with other institutions no matter where they are located. I am pleased to inform you that Osun State University has not relented in her efforts to explore partnerships and collaborations from across the world. We are better positioned now with the recent creation of our stand-alone establishment of the Office of Linkages and International Partnerships (OLIP). In the last one year, we also have initiated discussions with prospective partners, while actively retaining and engaging our current partners such as the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), the Association of African Universities (AAU); the Association of West African Universities (AWAU); the West African Research and Innovation Management Association (WARIMA); Medical Research Council (MRC) the Gambia; University of The Gambia, Banjul; Dullah Omar Institute, University of the Western Cape, South Africa; Indiana University, United States of America; University of Kwazulu-Natal South Africa; Alabama A & M University; United States of America, International Development and Research Centre (IDRC), Canada; University of Manitoba, Canada; National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN).

### **Our Efforts on the Fight against COVID-19**

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, as you may be aware, the Government has over the last six months championed the fight against the spread of the COVID-19 in the country, our dear state, and across local governments through various policies and actions. It is given in line with this that we made several efforts to complement the effort of the Government as a responsive and responsible

academic institution, particularly in the fight and prevention of this dangerous disease. The University started with an enlightenment seminar and campaign on COVID-19 for the people in its host communities; distributed relief materials and palliatives to the vulnerable ones in its host communities; launched an online forecasting model to advise the government on the right decisions to take; deployed an awareness/educative jingle on how to stay safe during COVID-19 on the radio and billboards in five different languages: English, Yoruba, Hausa, Igbo, and pidgin; set up a state-of-the-art laboratory for the testing of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases; and also invented a mechanical sanitizing cubicle where people can easily wash their hands and sanitize the whole body. This cubicle is available for use in companies, schools, government parastatals & agencies and the general public at an affordable cost.

### **Conferences, Lectures, and Intellectual Engagements**

Just like the previous years, the last year has been a very busy one for the University. Late last year, the Faculty of Engineering and Environmental Sciences hosted over 140 participants from various institutions and organizations across Nigeria and West Africa for the 1st International Conference on Engineering and Environmental Sciences (ICEES) with the title “Advancing Technology and Environmental Burdens (Challenges and Sustainable Solution)” between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of November, 2019. Similarly, the Annual International Conference of the College of Education held between 24th and 27th February of this year at the main campus with the title “Disadvantaged Group/Persons and Participation in Educational Systems in Africa: Ensuring Inclusive and Equitable Education for All”.

The University also successfully conducted several in-house capacity building workshops for members of staff and students, and these include the 2-day capacity building workshop for University drivers which held between 24th and 26th October 2019 at the MicCom Golf Course, Ada, Osun State; the 2-day retreat for Principal Officers, Provosts, Deans, Directors, and Heads of Departments/Units between 29th January and 1st of February, 2019 at MicCom Golf Course, Ada, Osun State.

We also partnered with the Centre for Ethics and Self Value Orientation (CESVO) for a 2-day retreat which was held between the 11th and 12th of March 2020 at the Olagunsoye Oyinlola Auditorium on the main campus of the University. The retreat was organized for members of staff and not less than one hundred (100) staff members were trained on ethical conduct and leadership.

### **Naming of Buildings and Streets**

In line with University culture of celebrating excellence and the natural and cultural ethos of immortalizing individuals who have contributed to development, whether they are alive or dead, I am delighted to announce the naming of some monuments in our University. The naming of streets and buildings often provide clear signage and direction cues for members of the University community and the public. The Governing Council, therefore, recently approved the naming of some buildings and streets after three eminent personalities who had served and contributed immensely to the growth of the institution. The road stretching from the College of Health Sciences to the junction of Down-Town cafeteria has been named after Late Oba Okunade Sijuwade as “**Oba Okunade Sijuwade Drive**”; the Administrative Building has also been named after Professor Peter Okebukola as “**Peter Okebukola Administrative Building**” while the Faculty of Engineering Building has now been named after Engr. Rauf Aregbesola as “**Rauf Aregbesola Engineering Building**”.

I am also delighted to inform this august gathering that the Visitor to our University, His Excellency, Mr. Adegboyega Oyetola has executively approved that the road intersecting the Prince Tunde Ponnle Drive from the main gate of the University be named after a prominent citizen of this State, Nigeria and indeed the world, Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali as “**Yusuf Olaolu Ali Avenue**”. This exercise will continue swiftly across all our campuses.

### **Benefactions/Appreciation**

On behalf of the Governing Council, Senate, Advancement Board, staff, and students, we like to express our appreciation to the following benefactors who made financial and materials donations to Osun State University over the last one-year period. First, our greatest appreciation goes to God Almighty, the greatest

Benefactor, and our Creator, who in HIS infinite mercies has granted us a peaceful year since our last convocation, He is forever worthy of our appreciation. We believe that, with HIM, peace has come to stay at this University. So also, I like to thank the people and government of the State of Osun, for giving us a University and allowing us to run it as a University should be run.

Without a doubt, we are a lucky and blessed University, enjoying support from various quarters throughout the year, which in no small measure complements our persistent drive for uninterrupted teaching and learning activities across our campuses. Chief among these is the donation and ongoing construction of a 250-bed Teaching Hospital by our Chancellor, Apostle (Dr) Folorunso Alakija, and her husband, Mr. Modupe Alakija. We acknowledge the fast pace of work on this project and I can boldly reassure this gathering of delivery before the end of next year. We can never thank you enough, Mom. I also like to appreciate Interventions from the Federal Government through TETFund and the NEEDS Assessment Scheme. We also received a gift of books and other materials from various donor organisations and individuals.

We acknowledge with thanks the endowment of ten million naira (₦10 million) by 'Layi Fatona, DSc to fund "Layi & Toyin Fatona" Prize Awards, in perpetuity, in the Department of Geological Sciences, of Osun State University and yearly donation of books/teaching equipment to the Department of Geology. The endowment of two hundred thousand naira (₦200,000) by TPL 'Remi Makinde, *FNITP, PPNITP, RTP, APA* to fund merit award for two graduating students (overall best, and the best student in studio work) in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning is also greatly appreciated. Our sincere appreciation also goes to His Royal Majesty, Oba Akinola Oyetade Akinrera, Latiiri I, Olubosin of Ifetedo, and the Ifetedo Community for the Donation of 20 acres of land to the University. We are indeed thankful for the construction of a befitting motion ground on our main campus in Osogbo, by the management of First Bank Nig. PLC. We also recognize and appreciate the management of Unity Bank for the construction of a befitting motion ground for our students on the Okuku campus, and the recent approval to replicate the same for our students on the Ikire Campus of the University. We also acknowledge with thanks the provision of a motorised borehole jointly funded by the Federal Government of Nigeria, African

Development Bank (AfDB), and Osun State Government at the College of Humanities and Culture in Ikire.

We appreciate Prof. Babatunde Rabiú for facilitating the siting of the Atmospheric and Space Weather Research Facility (ASWeRF) on the main campus of the Osun State University. We acknowledge the recent construction and completion of the building as one of the research facilities of the Centre for Atmospheric Research (CAR), National Space Research and Development Agency.

We also appreciate the good gesture of the Engr. Tunde Ponnle's Scholarship Scheme for Indigent but Diligent Students, UNIOSUN staff Volunteering Scheme, The L. A. Salami Foundation (LASAL Foundation), Osun Development Forum Texas, U.S.A Scholarship Scheme, Mrs. Bola Ogunrinade, Kabfrid Global Services, and MTN Foundation for the scholarships granted to our students.

Our appreciation also goes to the Stabilini Visinoni Limited for their kind support for this convocation ceremony with the sum of one million naira (N1 million). We appreciate NEM Insurance Co. for supporting this ceremony with the sum of four hundred and twenty thousand naira (N420,000), while also acknowledging the receipt of one hundred thousand naira (N100,000) each from Orange Insurance Brokers Limited and Time Building Company. We cannot but continue to thank our indefatigable and selfless Pro-chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council, Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN for his unending contributions and donations to the University.

Mr. Visitor Sir, your dedication to the welfare of the people of the state has again been reaffirmed with your kind and immense support and contribution to our noble course of setting up of a state-of-the-art molecular laboratory as a functional service unit for infectious diseases, with the capacity to run massive COVID-19 tests. We equally appreciate your recent approval for UNIOSUN to host the newly created Herbal Research Unit, which is one of the legacy projects of the Osun COVID-19 Food and Relief Committee. The Committee has also approved about twenty-four million naira (N24 million) for the purchase of a power generating set, an incinerator and other items to ensure the functionality of the Molecular Laboratory.

## **Build More Capacity**

Once again, I say a hearty congratulations to the graduands of today. Today indeed marks the beginning of a new phase of your lives. The past 4-5 years have been with rigorous training academically and morally to ensure that you make this great day, having excelled in character and learning.

Needless to say, the world has greatly changed from what it used to be and it will keep on changing as the days and years go by. It is only those individuals who consciously build capacity by equipping themselves continuously for the times that would take the world. A wise person makes good use of opportunities and so, every chance you get to improve on your skill set should be maximally utilized. Learning never stops, as the day anyone stops learning is the day he or she starts dying. I encourage you all today to keep working tirelessly towards achieving more successes in your chosen fields. Crave to be better and be deliberate about your development. Please, do not join the complaining crowd. Legitimate opportunities are there, they beckon, and it is for you to position yourselves to seize them and make good use of them.

Be proactive in proffering solutions to problems in your immediate environment and by so doing, get actively involved in the growth and development of the world at large; the progress of small communities adds up to make global progress.

Do not be part of corrupt practices at any level but be ready to serve with diligence, honesty, and integrity and be of good conduct at all times. As we send you forth today, step out confidently to keep excelling and do remember that there are no short cuts to success. Forget not your Alma mater, and always be a good ambassador of UNIOSUN and your families. I wish you nothing short of the very best today and always. I pray that all shall be well with you.

Finally, I wish to admonish all stakeholders of this University to join hands with the administration to sustain the gains of the last three and a half years. Osun State University is gradually evolving as a model. We are on the upswing, and nothing is worth drawing us back.

Thank you all for your attention.

**SPEECH BY THE GOVERNOR, STATE OF OSUN, AND VISITOR TO  
OSUN STATE UNIVERSITY, HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. ADEGBOYEGA  
OYETOLA, AT THE 9TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF THE  
UNIVERSITY HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020**

PROTOCOLS:

I heartily welcome you all to the 9th Convocation Ceremony of Osun State University.

I am particularly honoured to be present at this memorable event as the Visitor to this great Citadel of Learning.

As we are all aware, this Convocation is novel in view of the fact that it is the first virtual convocation ceremony of this University and in the history of public universities in Nigeria.

This new normal is an invitation to the University to show leadership in a world looking up to the Ivory Tower for solutions to novelties and daunting challenges.

I congratulate the Council, Management, Senate, Congregation, Eminent Guests, Staff, Students and friends of this Great Citadel on the hosting of this Ceremony.

I also felicitate today's graduands and their revered parents and guardians on the successful completion of their programmes. I thank the parents and the guardians of the graduands for the huge investments in their children/wards and for donating them as assets to the world.

On behalf of the Government, Management of this University and the good people of the State of Osun, I appreciate the University Chancellor, Dr. Mrs. Folorunso Alakija for her consistent efforts in remodelling and repositioning the University and for her kind donation of a world-class Teaching Hospital Complex to this Institution. Her immense interest in our University is unparalleled and much appreciated.

I would also like to commend the University for its selfless efforts in joining the comity of global universities to adopt best practices and for joining the first set of universities to adopt the new normal to its operations through the commencement of virtual teaching, virtual matriculation and now a virtual convocation.

I congratulate the university for forging ahead in spite of the COVID -19 pandemic challenges and their adverse impacts on the economy.

The realities of Covid-19 present new challenges to today's graduands to cope in a depressed economy that is hobbled by huge youth unemployment, among other stifling challenges.

The accompanying new normal presented by Covid-19 is an invitation to the graduands to look inward and put to use the entrepreneurial skills and competencies which the University has imbued in them to be job creators and employers of labour.

The graduands are products and ambassadors of innovation and entrepreneurship which the University stands for in a world in need of thinkers as a solution to its myriad problems.

I challenge the graduands to take up the challenge with courage and be solutions to the unemployment quagmire the nation and the world are grappling with.

At this critical time when the whole world is moving from physical to virtual engagement, the University must continue to bear the creativity and innovation torch for the industry and the society.

I charge the University to lead the society out of the challenges posed by Covid-19 and prepare the world for eventualities that may come in the future.

The resolve of the Government of the State of Osun is to make UNIOSUN the preferred University of Excellence in research and human capacity building in Nigeria, Africa and the whole world. The University must spare no effort to achieve this and be aware that this can only be accomplished when its staff and

students are alive to their responsibilities and are committed to service to humanity.

As a government, we are committed to doing all that is required to achieve this dream. We shall always support the University to ensure that it fulfils its vision and mandate.

I congratulate the parents and the families of all our Graduands who have been found worthy in character and learning to be awarded the various degrees of this great Citadel of Learning. I wish all the graduands a successful and promising future.

Once again, I congratulate the University on this 9th Convocation Ceremony and charge them to continue to stay safe, maintain good hygiene and adopt the new normal for the good health, image and outstanding accomplishments of the University.

Thank you and may God continue to bless UNIOSUN.