

**ADDRESS OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR AT THE SIXTH MATRICULATION
CEREMONY OF CALEB UNIVERSITY, IMOTA, LAGOS STATE, FRIDAY 14
DECEMBER 2012**

Management and Staff of Caleb University, Parents, Matriculating Students, Friends, Wellwishers, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Proprietor and Visitor, Prince Oladega Adebogun, PhD, DSc. *honoris causa*, Chairman and Members of the Board of Trustees; Chancellor, Pro-Chancellor/Chairman and Members of the Governing Council, Management, Staff and Students of Caleb University, Imota, Lagos State, I welcome you all to our sixth matriculation ceremony. This event is not a mere routine; it is, indeed, a significant rite of passage in the life of every University student. I, therefore, felicitate with families and friends, and heartily congratulate the matriculating students, who have just attained this important milestone in their lives

Today, a total of 279 students took the matriculation oath across three Colleges: Environmental Sciences and Management (51); Pure and Applied Sciences (53); and Social and Management Sciences (175). For the record, the University was licensed by the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2007 but academic activities commenced only in January 2008. The University relocated from its Magodo, Lagos Take-Off Site to the permanent site at Imota, in record time, in November 2009. We have already produced two sets of graduands, with our second convocation scheduled for March 9, 2013. I am happy to report that our products are proving their mettle both locally and globally. A striking illustration of this is our pioneer best graduating student, Mr. Eric Tope Bakare, a First Class Honours graduate, who has just completed his mandatory national youth service in our Department of Industrial Chemistry. He has been admitted into the same Department at the University of Ibadan for the Master's degree programme as the best student in the entrance examination into the programme. Miss Enobong Essien and Mr. Jubril Atanda, to cite two examples, are pursuing their postgraduate studies in Industrial Biotechnology and Architecture, respectively, in European Universities. One of our students, Miss Esther Miracle Adebayo won the highly competitive scholarship of the Total Oil Prospecting Nigeria PLC. These examples underscore how Caleb University has maintained high academic standards.

Understandably, we have consistently been given a clean bill of health by various regulatory bodies - the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), the National Universities Commission (NUC) and various professional bodies. All our programmes are duly accredited by the NUC. Our Accounting programme has four-year ICAN full accreditation while our Architecture programme has three-year NIA/ARCON full accreditation (one of only two private

Universities in Nigeria with that distinction). As we speak, we are awaiting NUC resource verification and approval of our College of Postgraduate Studies and the MSc Architecture and BSc Physics-with-Electronics programmes.

Our new students who have been with us since October 2012 would have noticed that we are guided by adherence to high moral and academic standards in line with our vision and mission, and our motto: “For God and Humanity.” I made it clear to them during their orientation and the students’ assembly that they must “Love Caleb and Live It.” By taking the matriculation oath today, they publicly declared their willing acceptance of the terms and obligations of studentship and commitment to the University’s core values, which are grounded in our identity as a Christian faith-based University. Among their obligations are: regular, punctual and active participation in Chapel activities on Sundays and Wednesdays; 80% class attendance before qualifying to write semester examinations; avoidance of examination and social misconduct; compliance with the University’s dress code; obedience to all University rules and regulations; respect for constituted authority; personal liability for their every word or deed; and commitment to projecting the values and positive image of Caleb University. We are ready at all times to make their studentship crisis-free and productive – if they cooperate with all appropriate organs and functionaries of the University. The University does not hesitate to impose appropriate sanctions to correct errant behaviour.

I enjoin our freshmen and women to emulate the Biblical Caleb (Numbers 13:30), who declared that “we are well able,” as they strive to excel and transform their world. As they pass through the University, they must allow the University to pass through them. They should aim to fulfil God’s plan for their lives and resist the temptation to do evil or succumb to self-defeat. May the Lord Jesus Christ grant them divine leading, protection and mercy, and outstanding success as they pass through this University.

Finally, I wish you all a merry Christmas, a blessed New Year and journey mercies to your various destinations.

Thank you for listening and God bless .

Professor Ayodeji O. OLUKOJU

Fellow, Nigerian Academy of Letters

Vice-Chancellor, Caleb University

Imota, Lagos State

14 December 2012