

**VICE-CHANCELLOR’S PRE-CONVOCATION PRESS BRIEFING,
CALEB UNIVERSITY, IMOTA, LAGOS STATE, ON MONDAY, MARCH
4, 2013**

Acting Registrar, Deputy Bursar, Deans and Staff of Caleb University, Gentlemen of the Press

Almost a year ago today, I addressed the press in the countdown to the maiden Convocation of Caleb University, Imota, Lagos State on Saturday, March 10, 2012. Today, we are again on the threshold of the second Convocation ceremony, which takes place on Saturday, March 9, 2013. First and foremost, we thank God for making us attain yet another milestone in the eventful history of this young University, the only bachelor’s degree awarding private University in Lagos State. Next, on behalf of Management, Staff and Students, I thank all stakeholders in the Caleb University Project – the Visitor, Prince Oladega Adebogun, PhD, DSc. honoris causa; the Board of Trustees led by Dr. Christopher Kolade, CON; the Chancellor, Brigadier-General Mobolaji Johnson (Retd), DSc, honoris causa; the Governing Council, led by Professor Fola Tayo, MFR; parents, staff and students, as well as wellwishers of the University. You gentlemen of the press have been most supportive of our efforts at Caleb University. We look forward to a sustained partnership in the years to come

For the record, Caleb University commenced academic activities at the Magodo take-off campus in January 2008 but relocated in record time to the Imota permanent site on November 23, 2009. The beautiful landscape of gently rolling hills and lush tropical vegetation is complemented by the serenity and healthy, clean air suitable for focused study and research. The other major feature of our campus is the iconic architecture, dominated by a Schipol-type complex housing the academic and administrative offices and facilities. Our learning facilities comprise state-of-the-art laboratories, studios, lecture rooms and an e-library. Male and female students are housed in separate halls of residence near the entrance to the campus.

In accordance with our motto – “For God and Humanity” – we are committed to producing men and women who are globally competitive, socially relevant, multi-talented, equipped with marketable literary, technical, entrepreneurial and leadership skills, grounded in faith-induced ethical values, and ready to lead the charge for positive change in our world. We are fired by the “can-do” spirit of the Biblical Caleb who declared: “we are well able.”

Caleb University's unique selling points are: a serene campus blessed with a picturesque topography and nature's gifts of flora and fauna, an ideal setting for study and reflection removed from the madding crowd of the Lagos megacity; emphasis on learning and character; enforcement of rules and regulations for staff and students; competent and motivated workforce, who have been on the Federal University salary scale since January 2011; the Leadership Academy that complements the Chaplaincy and formal curriculum in character building; direct contact with parents, who receive information, including their children's results by text messaging; a decent dress code for staff and students which combines the formal, sports and informal on designated days of the week; and working knowledge of French in preparation for international business and career.

The University offers fifteen degree programmes – Biochemistry, Microbiology and Biotechnology, Physics with Computational Modelling, Industrial Chemistry, Computer Science; Accounting, Banking and Finance, Business Administration, Economics; Architecture, Building and Quantity Surveying - in three Colleges: Pure and Applied Sciences; Social and Management Sciences; and Environmental Management and Sciences, respectively. All of our programmes are duly accredited by the National Universities Commission and two others - Political Science and International Relations - are not yet due for accreditation. Our programmes have also received professional accreditation from NIA/ARCON and ICAN.

We are in the second semester of our sixth, uninterrupted year of operation. The second set of graduands passed out in July 2012 and their formal graduation takes place at the end of this week. On Thursday, March 7, we shall have a one-hour praise and prayer programme to be led by a guest minister. On Friday, March 8, there will be a pre-Convocation luncheon for the graduands. Finally, on Saturday, March 9, the Convocation will take place, consisting of the following activities: a Convocation Lecture delivered by Emeritus Professor Akinjide Osuntokun, OON, FNAL, Former Nigerian Ambassador to Germany, Former NUC Representative in North America (the US and Canada) and current Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council of Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti; conferment of first degrees and award of prizes. No honorary doctorate degrees will be awarded. Of the 287 graduands (compared to 92 last year), **two** – Mr. () and Miss () - emerged in the **First Class**; in Second Class Upper, in Second Class Lower, in Third Class and with Pass degree.

I am glad to announce that with effect from the current academic session, the NUC has approved the College of Postgraduate Studies of Caleb University. We are starting with the MSc degree programme in Architecture but other programmes will be added during the next academic session. This is a major milestone in the development of the University, which is just six years old. The next major event is the University's first Inaugural Lecture to be delivered on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 by Professor Nosa Owens-Ibie, Head of the Department of Mass Communication.

As can be seen, work has commenced on the building complex for the School of Mass Communication named after Professor Idowu Sobowale. The buildings for the University's bakery and water factory will be ready for commissioning within a month.

A modern sports complex will also be developed to provide adequate facilities for the wholesome development of staff and students.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Gentlemen of the Press, we welcome all well-wishers to our maiden Convocation. We hope that friends of the University and all persons of goodwill will join us to celebrate this major landmark in our history and in the evolution of tertiary education in Nigeria. Caleb University is open to mutually-beneficial partnerships. To this end, it is hoped that public institutions and corporate organizations will endow professorial chairs, research laboratories and other learning facilities, which can be named after them if they prefer.

Thank you listening. God bless.

PROFESSOR AYODEJI OLUKOJU

FELLOW, NIGERIAN ACADEMY OF LETTERS

VICE-CHANCELLOR, CALEB UNIVERSITY, IMOTA, LAGOS STATE

4 MARCH 2013

Caleb Varsity second convocation holds Saturday

Caleb University, Imota, Lagos State, will on Saturday hold its second convocation ceremony. The event, which is slated for 10.00am at the University's multipurpose hall, will be for 231 graduands drawn from 11 departments under the three colleges in the University.

Speaking with journalists at a press conference to herald the second convocation of the University, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ayodeji Olukoju, disclosed that eight of the graduands with first degrees, 42 with second class (upper division), 139 with second class (lower division), 41 with third class and one with pass will be awarded their certificates.

The Vice-Chancellor further added that the University's decision to issue certificates to its graduands at convocation ceremonies is an opportunity to enable them secure whatever they deserve at the appropriate time, such as employment and admission for further studies.

He stated that the highlights of the convocation ceremony will include the convocation lecture and the presentation of awards and prizes to deserving graduands.

Olukoju stressed that the University's second convocation lecture, with the theme, 'Political Realignment, Elections and Democracy in Nigeria', will be delivered by Professor Emeritus Akinjide Osuntokun, the former Nigerian Ambassador to Germany, former National Universities Commission's Representative in North America and Pro-Chancellor/Chairman of Council, Ekiti State University.

The Vice-Chancellor pointed out that the convocation ceremony will be another milestone in the history of the University, which took-off in 2008 and "as at today had continued to enjoy the National Universities Commission's full accreditation status, thereby confirming our core objective of ensuring the production of quality graduates who would contribute positively to national growth".

Olukoju noted that the administration's effort to build a University that can produce graduates with entrepreneurial and leadership skills grounded in faith-induced ethical values, and ready to lead the charge for positive change in the world was already yielding results, especially with the recent take-off of its College of Postgraduate Studies