

**WELCOME REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR AT THE  
MAIDEN COLLEGE OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES DISTINGUISHED  
LECTURE**

The Acting Registrar, Acting Bursar, Foundation Dean, College of Postgraduate Studies, Deans and Heads of Department, Distinguished Lecturer, Staff and Other Stakeholders

History is being made today, July 2, 2013, at the first public event of our College of Postgraduate Studies (COPOS), which was granted formal approval in December 2012 by the National Universities Commission (NUC) to run postgraduate programmes. With deep gratitude to God, I welcome everyone, especially our Guest Lecturer, Professor D.I. Olaleye, to this epoch-making event of COPOS. This university appreciates the sacrifice that he made in preparing this lecture at short notice and his readiness to run a series of complementary workshops.

Permit me to specially acknowledge the pioneering work of the Founding Dean of the new College, Professor S.O. Ajayi, who has combined the task with his role as Dean of the College of Pure and Applied Sciences, Chairman, ICT Committee and Chairman, Committee of Deans. This maiden public lecture of COPOS is one of his initiatives towards branding the new College as a site of globally competitive research and capacity development. Equally worthy of commendation are the Sub-Dean, Dr. C.C. Okoro, the Administrative Secretary, Ms. Oluseye Adegunwa, Members of the COPOS Board of Studies, Deans, Heads of Departments, and the teaching and non-teaching staff for ensuring the successful commencement of activities in COPOS.

For the record, this University was licensed in 2007 but commenced academic activities in January 2008. It has just produced the third set of bachelor's degree holders, the only private university in Lagos State to have achieved that feat. Of the sixteen undergraduate degree programmes offered by this university, thirteen have NUC accreditation (12 full, one interim), while three others, which took off in the last two years, have yet to qualify for NUC accreditation. So far, our products have been doing us proud. Mr. Tope Bakare, a First Class Honours graduate of Industrial Chemistry, our best graduating student in the pioneer class of 2011, undertook his national service in his alma mater and came first in the entrance examination into the MSc class at the University of Ibadan in 2012.

Our Architecture programme, with full NUC and Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA) accreditation, is rated one of the top two in West Africa by industry experts. I ran into one of our products on his way to Europe for postgraduate studies, another was well spoken of during a chance encounter with his employer, Arc. Laoye, and a third meritoriously completed his national service in the Planning Unit of a sister university. Little wonder that Architecture became the first to run a Master's degree programme in COPOS.

The University is committed to supporting and projecting this pioneer programme. Hostels for postgraduate students will be ready before resumption in October 2013. The staff strength will be bolstered when a new Professor, S.A. Daramola, resumes on October 2, 2013. Professor O.S. Okedele, who oversaw the transformation of the programme to what it is today, has also returned on sabbatical from the University of Lagos .

Meanwhile, Senate has endorsed proposals to introduce Master's degree programmes in Business Administration (MBA), Computer Science, Environmental Chemistry and Biochemistry. They are being processed for final approval by Council and the NUC. Senate also endorsed our Memorandum of

Understanding (MOU) with the University of Birmingham, which includes provision for Split-Site PhD training for our staff and students. Our Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Professor Fola Tayo, MFR, was actively involved in the consummation of this partnership agreement. That the initiative for this partnership came from our sister university is a clear indication of the rising profile and credibility of this citadel of learning, research and character development.

For good measure, our lecturers, like our products, have been flying the flag. They are busy completing their PhD programmes (most recently Dr. Lionel Okunye of COPAS and Dr. Bibiana Njogo of COSOMAS), presenting award-winning papers at international conferences (Arc. Ejiga Opaluwa of COLENSMA), publishing star articles in leading journals (Dr. Moses Akiibinu of COPAS) and winning highly-coveted research grants (Dr. C.C. Okoro of COPAS, winner of the Petroleum Technology Development Research Grant). Professor Nosa Owens-Ibie has just returned from another mission as head of an accreditation team to another Nigerian university. Professor S.O. Ajayi serves on the Governing Council of Samuel Adegboyega University, Ogwa, Edo State. Our Vice-Chancellor, recently honoured with a festschrift, is billed to deliver this year's Convocation Lecture of the Nigerian Academy of Letters in August 2013.

Finally, I thank all members of staff for making possible our corporate achievements since I assumed duty here some thirty-two months ago. I request greater commitment as we embark upon the next phase of the university's development from today. I, therefore, challenge every member of staff of this university to work towards full enrolment of undergraduate and postgraduate students into our programmes. As you can see, we are marching on: the landscaping is ongoing, the bakery and table water plant will start production any time from now, work on the new website is nearing completion and the campus-

wide optic fibre wireless internet service will be fully operational before the commencement of the next academic session.

On a personal note, I wish to register the gratitude of my family and friends to everyone who graced the presentation of a book in my honour on June 18, 2013. I pray that the Lord Jesus Christ will honour you all.

I thank everyone for attending this event. God bless.

**Professor Ayodeji Olukoju**

*Fellow, Nigerian Academy of Letters*

*Vice-Chancellor*

Tuesday, July 2, 2013