

A VALEDICTORY SPEECH PRESENTED BY ELECHI ONYEMACHI AT THE 23RD CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF FUTO, HELD ON SATURDAY 5TH-MARCH 2011.

Your Excellency, the President, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria and Visitor to our University

Executive Governors,

Members of the Council of Ministers

Members of the National Assembly,

Your Highnesses,

The Vice Chancellor, Federal University of Technology Owerri,

Deputy Vice Chancellors (Academic and Administration),

Visiting Chancellors,

Visiting Vice Chancellors,

Members of the State Executive Council,

My Lords,

Members of the Senate, and the Congregation of the Federal University of Technology Owerri,

My fellow Graduates,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am highly honoured to be standing here representing the graduating class of 2009/10 in this 23rd Convocation Ceremony. Really, looking back and recounting events that took place since 2005, one would realize that the journey has been a difficult and tedious trip. Of course, that is why the journey through life is one that nobody goes through alone. Whatever people may accomplish, those accomplishments were achieved only through the combination of their own personal drive, motivation, the love and support given to them from people around them. Therefore, I must



begin by acknowledging and thanking all those that have been instrumental in bringing us to where we are today.

I thank God for his benevolence and mercy throughout our stay in this prestigious and renowned institution. I also thank Him for giving a fair and clement weather today to celebrate our success in this convocation. My sincere gratitude goes to the Federal Government for establishing this citadel of learning in order to train the citizens of this noble nation. I mustn't fail to thank the Imo State Government for creating the enabling environment that led to the actualization of this vision. My unalloyed gratitude also goes to our dynamic, charismatic, ebullient, goal-getter, great achiever and great leader+--, the Vice Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri, PROF. C.O.E. Onwuliri, *FAS, KSJ, JP* and the Governing Council for finding us fit to be conferred with a degree today from this noble institution. I also appreciate the effort of both the academic and non-academic staff in the various departments whose love, trust, guidance, selfless service and lectures have tremendously helped us to achieve and attain this feat today. I sincerely thank our parents and well wishers for their great support and encouragement throughout our stay in this institution. May God bless and richly reward everyone who has contributed in one way or the other to ensure the realization of our good success today.

In the meantime, permit me to say few words of mine: my fellow graduates, the journey does not stop here for us. We have been given an opportunity to educate ourselves in a university of great caliber, all in an effort to improve our social status and well being as well as that of the wider community. I can only hope that all we have learnt here will certainly help to make a great difference in our lives and especially towards the betterment of our country as a whole. Today, we have been offered a chance to celebrate our success with all our

dear ones. Therefore, I urge all graduands to ensure that the celebration is extended to our communities by making positive impact and contributing greatly towards nation building. To all undergraduates of this great institution, our dear friends, my advice is to remind you that gardens are not made by sitting in the shade but diligence is the mother of good fortune. Bear in mind that success is not achieved on a platter of gold. Therefore, endeavour to work for it by burning your midnight candle and trusting God to perfect your hard work.

I thank every one for your audience. May God bless the Federal University of Technology, Owerri. May God bless Imo State. May God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Thank you and God bless us all.