



FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY, OWERRI

Address

DELIVERED BY:

Dr. Shekarau Angyu Masa Ibi CON, LL.D

KUVYO II, THE AKU UKA WUKARI
CHANCELLOR, FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, OWERRI

ON THE OCCASION OF THE:



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**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY
OF TECHNOLOGY, OWERRI**

ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2014
AT THE CONVOCATION ARENA, FUT.O.
TIME: 12:00 NOON



CONVOCATION ADDRESS

Delivered by

His Royal Majesty, DR. SHEKARAU ANGYU MASA IBI CON, LL.D

Kuvyo II, the Aku Uka of Wukari

Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Owerri

Friday, December 12, 2014

Your Excellency, the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria, and Visitor, Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR.

Your Excellency, the Executive Governor of Imo State, Owelle Rochas Anayo Okorocho, OON.

Your Excellency, the Speaker, Imo State House of Assembly,

My Lord the Chief Judge of Imo State,

The Honourable Minister of Education,

Members of Federal and State Executive Councils,

Members of National and State Assemblies,

The Pro Chancellor and Chairman, University Governing Council,

Mr. Vice-Chancellor,

Visiting Chancellors, Pro-chancellors and Vice-chancellors,

Members of Diplomatic Corps, Service Chiefs and top Government Executives,

Deputy Vice-chancellors and other Principal Officers of FUTO,

Members of the University Governing Council,

Deans, Directors, Heads of Departments and Co-ordinators of Units,

Your Royal Highnesses and Majesties,

Members of University, Senate and Congregation,

My Lords Spiritual and Temporal,

Distinguished Guests, Special Invitees and Friends of the University,

Staff, Students and Alumni of FUTO,

Members of the Fourth Estate of the Realm,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am delighted to welcome you to our 2014 Convocation Ceremony. In particular, I welcome with joy our Visitor, the President and Commander in





Chief of Nigerian Armed Forces, His Excellency, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan GCFR. We are also delighted to welcome His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Imo State, Owelle Rochas Anayo Okorocha OON, and other State Governors here present.

In a special way, I welcome our Honourable Minister of Education, Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau CON and the Minister of State for Education, Professor Viola Onwuliri. We congratulate you both on your recent appointments and wish you a very successful tenure of office. In like manner, I welcome other members of the Federal and State Executive Councils here present. Also I acknowledge here the August presence of our Distinguished Senators, Members of the Federal House of Representatives, and Members of State Houses of Assembly.

In addition, we are glad to welcome Members of the Federal and State Judiciary; Members of the Diplomatic Corps; and Representatives of International and Multinational Organizations here present. I welcome also all the key Government Officials from far and near, including especially the Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission and the Chief Executives of various Governmental and Non Governmental Agencies, Departments and Parastatals – too numerous to mention. Our Royal Fathers, Leaders of our host Communities and other important Stake holders in our University system are also very welcome.



As you are aware, we are gathered today to celebrate the combined 26th and 27th Convocation Ceremonies of this University. The reason is because of the protracted nation-wide ASUU Strike of 2013 which robbed us of the opportunity for our Convocation event for that year. Nevertheless we are delighted that our graduates for 2013 and 2014 are here assembled for this combined Convocation Ceremony.

Since our last Convocation event in December 2012 our erstwhile Governing Council, under the able leadership of Engr. Vita Abba, has served out their tenure, thus paving the way for the 10th Governing Council, headed by another seasoned and distinguished Nigerian, Chief (Dr.) Emmanuel Enemu, a renowned and accomplished Medical Doctor. The University is

sincerely grateful to Engr. Vita Abba and all the Members of the 9th Governing Council for their selfless contributions to the development of the University; and most especially for the transformational achievements recorded by this University in the areas of physical Infrastructure and Academic Development during their tenure.

In welcoming the new Governing Council, I am glad to note that they have hit the ground running, as is evident from the rapid promotion of enduring Infrastructural Projects and the steady upliftment of Academic Programmes and various Research and Development Projects in the University since the past year. I should note also the University's significant attainments in the areas of Staff Development and Environmental Transformation, plus some positive social welfare initiatives put in place so far for the benefit of our Staff and Students.

We commend the efforts of FUTO and other sister Institutions, together with the NUC and our Federal and State Ministries of Education, in addressing the challenges of Higher Education in Nigeria. In doing so, we cannot lose sight of the fact that the Universities thrive within the society and the wider environment. To that extent therefore our Universities and other training Institutions require the active support and encouragement of host Communities, catchment States, and other well-meaning University Stake-holders.

Our educational establishments also require a secure, stable and congenial environment for healthy Teaching and Learning; and for Research and Skills Development to flourish. It is therefore pertinent to stress, on an occasion like this, that we all need Peace, Unity, Stability and Progress in our country. This means in essence that our leaders at all levels, and indeed all our citizens, need to come together, in truth and faith, and resolve to make the necessary sacrifices needed for building a truly united and progressive nation. By doing so we shall no doubt leave worthy legacies for our children and generations yet unborn.

Against this background therefore, it is certainly expedient, as we approach an election year, that our leaders should focus more on the future





of our nation, Nigeria; and on issues that will not only unite our people, but also enhance the overall good of the populace. Deliberate efforts should be made to contain and eliminate insurgency, brigandry, cultism and various other forms of criminality and social vices. We should also take bold steps to address the nagging problems of poverty, unemployment, youth restiveness, religious intolerance and ethnic bigotry.

In conclusion, I should thank in a very special way our dear President and Commander-in-Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces, His Excellency, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan GCFR, for his steadfast and unflinching commitment to the promotion of purposeful and qualitative Education In Nigeria. The substantial contributions of various Governmental Agencies like the TETFUND and PTDF in furtherance of this policy need to be sustained and commended, even as we look forward to continued fruitful relationships in the years to come.

Finally I should congratulate all our graduating students and their parents; and hope that the graduands will make good use of the training they have received in FUTO for building a better future for themselves, their families and the Nigerian Society at large. Our Honorary Graduands also deserve commendation for their various roles, contributions and achievements that have earned them the special recognition of today.

On this note therefore, I wish you all a pleasant day and a safe return to your respective destinations at the end of this Convocation Ceremony.

Thank you

HIS Royal Majesty, DR. SHEKARUA ANGYU MASA IBI CON, LLD
Chancellor, Federal University of Technology
Owerri, Imo State, Nigeria.

