

UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, NIGERIA



WELCOME REMARKS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, PROF. RAHAMON A. BELLO, *FAEng*, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES ORIENTATION PROGRAMME ON THURSDAY , 16TH APRIL, 2015.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Research), **Professor Babajide Alo, *FAS***,

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Management Services), **Professor Duro Oni**,

The Registrar and Secretary to Council, **Dr. (Mrs.) Taiwo F. Ipaye, *MNIM***

The Bursar, **Mr. Lateef Odekunle**,

The University Librarian, **Dr. (Mrs.) Olukemi A. Fadehan**,

The Provost, College of Medicine, **Professor Folasade T. Ogunsola**,

Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies, **Professor L.O. Chukwu**

Deans of all Faculties here present,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Gentlemen of the Press,

I am delighted to welcome you all to this year's SPGS Orientation programme for 2014/2015. The fact that the Orientation programme has become one of the highpoint of our annual activities for our postgraduate students is no longer in doubt. The yearly orientation programme for fresh students has been restructured and repackaged to become one of the major programmes for students in the University's academic calendar. The programme has been repackaged to have the feel also of an "**Open Day or Edutainment Fiesta**" in accordance with global best practices. The theme

for this year's programme **"Unemployment in the 21st Century: Prospects for Creating Wealth"** is not only apt but further underscore the central theme for last year's Orientation programme which was "The Postgraduate Student as an Entrepreneur".

My dear great Akokites, I congratulate you for being the lucky few to have been offered the opportunity of acquiring a higher degree from the University of Lagos. The total number of applicants in the 2014/2015 session is **11,230** out of which we offered admission to **6,247**. Today, after a thorough screening exercise we have enrolled **5,390** students made up of 451 postgraduate Diploma, 2,848 Academic Masters degree, 2,014 Professional Masters degree and 77 doctoral degree programmes. My dear students, gaining admission into the University of Lagos-the University of First Choice and the Nations Pride is not only noble but also glorious. The University is gradually shifting to becoming more of a postgraduate institution than for undergraduates. It may interest you to know that this year, 45% of the graduating students are postgraduates.

The postgraduate programmes of the University encapsulate the vision and mission of the institution. And as a leading institution that produces manpower for industries and other higher institutions in Nigeria and other West African countries, it has maintained a high level of standard and quality assurance.

My dear great Akokites, the University of Lagos is fully aware that if Nigeria must develop and transform into a sustainable economy, Postgraduate Education holds the key. The Departments have been encouraged to design and mount postgraduate programmes capable of addressing the key developmental challenges of Nigeria especially in such areas as electric

power sector, food security, health, innovations, environment and good governance. In this light, the school has just commenced some new programmes, viz: Master of Research and Public Policy in collaboration with the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR) and 12 twelve Universities in Africa, Master of Security and Intelligence Studies in collaboration with the Institute of Security Studies, Nigeria, the Master of Dispute Resolution, Master of Legal Studies, Master of Conflict Management under the auspices of UNILAG-NCMG College of Negotiation; the Postgraduate Diploma in Maritime and Environmental Studies, Postgraduate Diploma Maritime Communication and Navigation under the auspices of Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA)-UNILAG Institute of Maritime Studies. We have also commenced the Doctoral Degree programmes in Quantity Surveying and Public Health. In response to national needs for highly skilled personnel in the Power sector of the country, the collaboration with National Power Training Institute of Nigeria (NAPTIN) is for a Postgraduate Diploma in Power Systems Operations and Maintenance.

I urge you to apply yourself diligently to your studies. We see you as the senior students in the community who should mentor the undergraduates and dissuade them from wrong practices and attitudes. Strive to contribute your own quota, however little, to the good name and image of the institution. The University continues to provide veritable avenues and motivational packages for scholars. The Graduate Fellowship and Teaching Assistantship Awards have been sustained as one of the ways of providing assistance to students by the University through the School. The University through the School of Postgraduate studies also facilitates the release of

bursaries and scholarship to students through timely and comprehensive provision of data and information to the donor agencies.

I warmly congratulate you all on this unique occasion as I wish you a successful academic sojourn in the University of Lagos: the University of First Choice and the Nation's Pride.

Professor Rahamon A. Bello, *FAEng*

Vice-Chancellor, University of Lagos, Nigeria.

Thursday, April 16, 2015