

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS TO CONGREGATION ON

FRIDAY, 22 JUNE 2018

Dear Congregation Members,

1. I bring you warm greetings from the Council, Senate and all members of the Management team of our University. The commitment of all members of Congregation to the stability and progress of our University is recognised and highly appreciated. Without our collective efforts, there is no way the University of Ibadan could have achieved the measure of success it has recorded in recent times in the core areas of training, research and community service.
2. At this point, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that we have two Principal Officers who are attending the meeting of the Congregation today, for the first time, in their respective capacities. The first is Mrs. Olubunmi O. Faluyi who assumed office as Registrar of our University on 10 April 2018. She is the third female Alumna to occupy this position. Second is Prof. Kayode O. Adebowale, **mni**, a former Dean of Science, who assumed the office of Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration) on 11 June, 2018. Kindly join me to wish them great success in their respective offices. We also congratulate their predecessors in office, Mr Olujimi I. Olukoya and Professor Ambrose EmilOlorun Aiyelari, respectively, for their successful and impactful tenure of office.
3. Members of Congregation, as you well know, the issue of Finance is very important, and has indeed been at the core of many industrial disputes between staff and Management on the one hand, and between staff and the Federal Government on the other. Since my assumption of office as Vice Chancellor two and a half years ago, the major challenge I have had to face is that of funding. The University Management has been managing the limited resources available to the University, and has had to make some painful but important decisions such as the recent increase in some levies paid by students. Needless to say, some of our core academic activities have also been affected by the dwindling financial fortune of the University. We have not been able to recruit the full number of staff that we require, and that is also why the staff conversion process started more than a year ago has not been finalized. We need to know what financial implications it may have on the University.

4. Let me inform congregation on some of the receipts and payment of the University between 2013 and 2017.

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Table 1: Some Government Grants Received, 2013-2017

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL
	N	N	N	N	N	N
Personnel Cost	11,184,534,541 .25	9,655,335,791. 16	10,923,826,923 .24	10,425,284,475 .22	10,405,140,820 .11	52,594,122,550. 98
Overhead Grant	250,016,700.00	155,299,023.3 7	141,092,270.94	113,325,886.75	92,573,839.43	752,307,720.49
Earned Allowance	2,144,069,600. 00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,731,827,144. 53	3,875,896,744.5 3

5. Apart from the three grants highlighted above, the University received other grants for pension, TETFund project (normal and special intervention), Capital project and revitalization between 2013 and 2017 from the Federal Government. These grants have been used for the purposes intended by government. Government releases for personnel have somewhat remained stable between 2016 and 2017.
6. The shortfalls in salaries experienced in 2016 and 2017, which were later paid by the government, have again resurfaced. The University experienced a shortfall of about 9 million Naira in the May 2018 personnel release.
7. The University is worse hit in the area of overhead grant. The amount released has been decreasing since 2013, yet the University operations have kept expanding. For the information of congregation, overhead grant is expected to take care of all University operations including payment of electricity bills, purchase of diesel, water, cleaning, office expenses, repairs and maintenance, running of offices, among several others. The analysis of the amount received in 2017 shows that the University had about 8 million Naira a month to spend on the services mentioned above, when in real terms, the University spends over 80 million Naira monthly to run its operations. The expenditure profile of the University on some of these services is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Payment for some services, 2013-2017

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL
	₦	₦	₦	₦	₦	₦
Purchase of Equipment, Furniture etc	176,154,345.43	137,054,637.57	51,282,740.91	38,133,890.24	30,240,483.36	432,866,097.51
Electricity Bills	176,691,306.37	220,864,448.29	335,787,432.86	219,736,665.38	340,729,568.04	1,293,809,420.94
Diesel and Engine oil	56,685,582.23	62,509,334.00	38,165,529.00	27,147,764.24	40,564,946.00	225,073,155.47
Cleaning	89,827,828.05	132,608,399.00	149,408,348.45	147,289,309.69	137,595,354.58	656,729,239.77
Office and General Expenses	33,247,779.13	11,839,777.82	17,999,920.50	20,416,218.81	41,500,369.23	125,004,065.49

8. We have just picked out four of the many expenditure items of the University. In order to continue to function as a University, we have had to augment the overhead grant with the internally Generated revenue of the University. The IGR sources of the University are proceeds from the Postgraduate School and the Distance Learning Center, interest on fixed deposit, shop/Ground rent, tender fees, surcharge on honorarium, hiring of Trenchard hall, collection of certificate and so on.
9. Even at this, it has been very difficult to meet the essential services of the University. Indeed, with the introduction of the **Treasury Single Account (TSA)** by the Federal Government in 2016, income that used to accrue from our fixed deposits stopped in 2015 when all university funds had to be moved to the Central account. From interest on fixed deposits alone, the University generated 106,810,973.83, 57,829,355.56, and 36,984,901.72 in 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively. This has since stopped. Table 3 shows the total receipts and expenditure of the University since 2013 and the huge deficit during the years.
10. This picture has made the University unable to fulfill some of its obligations to members of the University community.
11. Nonetheless, we shall continue to manage the resources and ensure that the essential needs are met to a level that our resources can bear. We hope that the situation will improve with time.

Table 3: Total Receipts and Expenditure, 2013-2017

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	TOTAL
	₦	₦	₦	₦	₦	₦
Receipts	17,551,147,256.45	17,634,244,403.92	14,477,644,316.37	14,845,898,821.39	12,691,519,660.27	77,200,454,458.40
Expenditure	17,241,074,809.78	15,277,165,241.94	17,746,467,308.19	13,923,411,965.32	15,461,395,783.50	79,649,515,108.73

12. The full account of the University finances with details, is regularly rendered to the University Governing Council, and committees of the National Assembly that have oversight functions on the University.

13. NEW STAFF RECRUITMENT STRATEGY

Against this backdrop, the University management has adopted a recruitment strategy based on available vacancies arising from staff retirement, withdrawal, resignation, termination and in the event of unfortunate incidence of death. This way, we have been able to keep tab on recruitment without jeopardizing the core mandates of teaching and Research. The committee on Defrosting has been assisting in monitoring vacancies and subsequent recruitment. The recruitments that we have done so far were based on spaces created by staff that disengaged or died. As a result of this strategic management, we have been able to keep our monthly personnel in check.

14. PROMOTION ARREARS

The problem of non-release of funds by the Federal Government for the payment of promotion arrears has also been a long-standing one. I am however happy to report to you that following the submission of all necessary documents by the University as required from the office of the Accountant General of the Federation, we are hoping that funds for the payment of these arrears will be released to us anytime soon.

15. As many of us know, our University is the only one in Nigeria to be ranked by Times Higher Education (THE) among the first 1,000 universities in the world since 2017. University of Ibadan is ranked in the 801+ category.

16. By our collective will and efforts, notwithstanding the obvious challenges besetting us, we can surely achieve our vision to be a world-class institution for academic excellence geared towards meeting societal needs. In this regard, an immediate goal is for us to move University of Ibadan from the 801+ THE category to the 250+ category. With all hands on deck, this is achievable, and I would like to use this

opportunity to encourage all of us, as stakeholders, in the University of Ibadan project to pull all resources and energies together towards the realisation of this goal.

17. Since the Friday, 26 May, 2017 Special Meeting of Congregation with the new Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, the 2017 Convocation Ceremonies and the 69th Founders' Day held in November 2017.
18. Our University experienced industrial dispute that disrupted the smooth running of our academic calendar. Some of the internal stakeholders' groups (namely members of the Senior Staff Union of Universities, the National Association of Academic Technologists and the Non-Academic Staff Union) engaged in protests and industrial actions that disrupted the 2016/2017 academic session. Hence, the session had to be elongated to March/April 2018 while the 2017/2018 academic session commenced on 22 April 2018.
19. No doubt, there will always be issues to address. There will always be challenges before us as an academic institution just as there are always issues and challenges that beg for attention in all phases and spheres of life. However, I plead that we all endeavour to creatively seek constructive means of addressing issues and resolving problems in ways that will facilitate desired ends and at the same time not jeopardise other important interests and goals. As far as the challenges confronting our University is concerned, I implore us to begin to think outside the box and seek new and more effective ways of addressing them.
20. I must tell you that one of the major problems hindering our progress in respect of the realisation of our institutional vision and which also impede our intellectual productivity, global visibility and global ranking is our unstable academic calendar. Indeed, as an institution, we lose a lot more than many of us can possibly imagine. Hence, as much as it lies with us, I solicit our kind cooperation to ensure that the current academic session goes on as scheduled.
21. It is also gladdening to report to you that the effort of the University to provide more on-campus hostel accommodation for our undergraduate and postgraduate students is yielding positive results. Two new hostels located very close to Obafemi Awolowo Hall, with facilities to accommodate both undergraduate and postgraduate students, were commissioned recently under the Public-Private Partnership arrangement. There is the CMF Hostel with facilities to accommodate up to 328 female students and the AOO Hostel with facilities to accommodate up to 80 students. Construction work is on-going for more of these facilities and it is hoped they would be commissioned soon

22. At the same time we continue to do our best, amid all prevailing constrains, to maintain and upgrade hitherto existing students' accommodation facilities. It is in this spirit that the newly restructured **Block I, Obafemi Awolowo Hall** was commissioned on Tuesday, 19 June 2018.
23. Earlier today, we commissioned a block of six Flats along Elliot Close which was built by the Senior Staff Housing Committee. This is part of humble efforts at improving staff welfare.
24. I believe the Congregation will like to note that at the last convocation ceremony (between 13 and 17 November 2017), a total of 9,270 graduands were awarded various degrees of our University: 5,629 were awarded various Bachelor's degrees and 3,238 were awarded various higher degrees (402 got Ph.D. degrees and one M.D). This shows that we have recorded an appreciable progress in our bid to make our University a postgraduate university with an enrolment of 60% of postgraduate students.
25. The University turns 70 years old this year. A Planning Committee has been put in place in order to celebrate this landmark event. All members of the University Community and our other stakeholders are expected to be part of this Celebration of Excellence.
26. I will like to conclude my address on a note of appreciation and encouragement. On behalf of Council, Senate and all members of the Management team of our University, as I thank you, for your constant cooperation towards the realisation of the vision and strategic goals of our University, I also encourage that we all continue to collectively work towards the realisation of the goal to move University of Ibadan from the 801+ category to the 250+ category in the THE ranking.
27. I thank all members of Staff and the entire Management for the continued support towards the implementation of our programmes.

Thank you and God bless.

Idowu Olayinka

Vice-Chancellor, University of Ibadan, Ibadan