

VALEDICTORY SPEECH
BY
MISS BELLO, IBUKUNOLUWA BUSAYO
ON BEHALF OF THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2013/2014 ON THE OCCASION OF
THE 6TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF REDEEMER'S UNIVERSITY, EDE (8TH
JANUARY, 2015)

Protocols

It is with great pleasure that I stand before you all today to represent the graduating class of 2013/2014 academic session, also known as the *Class of Glory*. We sincerely appreciate all who have made out time to celebrate with us on such a joyous occasion and hope that today will indeed bring joy to you and your household.

It is true that most of us have looked forward to this moment since the very day we got admitted into this university. We, nevertheless, have to admit that graduation is one of those moments that throw us into a dilemma. We are torn between reflections of the past and the prospects of the future. Should we look back on the interesting memories of the past: our times with friends at the back of Tantis, Bethel, Indomie Shop and Suya Spot, hostel gists, RUNSA carnivals, Feast of Praise, morning devotion, lecture room experiences and experiences with hostel porters, Final Year Sunday, the day we wrote our final paper as undergraduates of this university, the three weeks of fun and stress at the NYSC Orientation Camp – or should we put all these aside and look forward to what lies ahead however uncertain it seems?

This dilemma, however, functions as a pointer to the need for us to understand that our past experiences shape who we are today and who we eventually become. The decisions we made as undergraduates have a role to play in our future, but they all are not as important as the decisions we begin to make from today. It is not enough for us to say we came, we saw, we conquered. We must make up our minds to move forward, be visionary and emerge as divine champions even as we go ahead in life. We must decide to face life head-on, take God-guided risks, be the change we want to see in our society and live a life of impact.

In a nation where many youths look forward to the devouring of the national cake, we should arise as bakers of the national cake creamed with integrity, responsibility, entrepreneurship and service to God and humanity. In a generation where it is the trend to break the rules, we must emerge to set the rules by taking charge of our society. Today brings before us yet another opportunity to dream big, think out of the box, show the world that God has made us more unique than our degrees and whatsoever class of result we have obtained from this University. There is indeed more to us than our certificates can declare, and now is the time to begin to unleash it.

As we move out of familiar territories to the vast world, we must bear in mind that a single bracelet does not jingle. In other words, we need others on our road to success. I beg that we stay as friends of one another; always putting all offenses behind us and handling ourselves in love,

humility and maturity. We should also strive to stay connected to God and our families, friends, colleagues, elders and institutions He has blessed our lives with thus far.

In this vein, I would like to specially glorify the Almighty God for making all things work together for my good and for being my source, strength and peace through the years. I will be an ingrate if I do not appreciate the General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God and the Visitor to the University, Pastor Enoch Adeboye, the Chancellor, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the Pro-Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, and all Principal Officers, Deans of Colleges, Heads of Departments, Lecturers, all staff members of Redeemer's University and every dignitary present here today. I want to specially appreciate Professor Akinnawo of the College of Management Sciences, Dr Arogundade (Head of Behavioural Studies Department) and all lecturers and staff of the Department who nurtured me through my years as an undergraduate and who never failed to encourage me, particularly during my tenure as the Student President of the Department. I also want to appreciate the University Library, Chapel of Holiness, Redeemer's University Students Association (RUNSA), Redeemer's University Behavioural Studies Students Association (RUBSSA), Royal Vessels and Joshua's Army for positively influencing me. God bless you all.

I want to express my profound gratitude to my parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. T. Bello, for sacrificing so much for me. I consider them blessed among parents. I also want to specially express my profound appreciation to Redeemer's University because I am a beneficiary of her academic scholarship through my 200 to 400 level. More so, that my brother and I emerged the first set of sibling scholars in the year 2011. I appreciate my brother Bello Oluwayemisi Obafemi, the first sociologist in the family, and my sister, Mrs Kemi Ohi-Ojebuovboh and her family for always being there for me. To my extended family members for your support, counsel, guidance and love every step of the way, I say thank you.

I am also grateful to God for all the wonderful friends too numerous to be mentioned that I made on this journey. I thank God for bringing you into my life. I am indeed indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Kole Funsho, Mr. and Mrs. Yinka Sanni, Mr. and Mrs. Olusegun Omotosho, Early Years Exclusive School, Brainpoint College and the International Banking Center of Stanbic-IBTC Bank for adding value to my life. I would have loved to mention by name everyone who has impacted my life even with a smile but I am fully aware that the delicious food outside would get cold in the process, so I would round off shortly.

It is evident that, just a few years after its establishment, Redeemer's University stands tall among other Universities and God has further crowned her efforts as today marks the first graduation on her permanent site. It is my earnest prayer that all her graduates and undergraduates will do exploits that will further uplift the name and image of the University and Nigeria as a whole.

In conclusion, may God, who has spared our lives to witness this day, cause His glory to continually shine upon Redeemer's University and upon us all.

Class of Glory, Congratulations!

Thank you.

BELLO, Ibukunoluwa Busayo

Best Graduating Student

2013/2014 Academic Session

8th January, 2015