

**Address of the Pro-Chancellor & Chairman of Council,  
Pastor Tokunbo Adesanya,  
on the Occasion of the 6<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony of  
Redeemer's University on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2015**

Protocols

Thanking God for the Past, Looking Ahead to the Future

I thank God for making it possible for us to celebrate the triumphant entry of this citadel of learning into Edeland and for joining me in the Convocation House today. At my inaugural speech at the last convocation, we looked forward to the movement of the University to its permanent site.

As at the time, it was a tall order which ordinarily, appeared unrealistic. Given the scale and rate of the changes that have swept through this campus, I want to pay special tribute and salutation to noble men and women, staff and students, strategic partners and friends of the University who gave their resources, endured hardship, supported and made some other personal sacrifices, in spite of their rank and status, for the development of the University. In particular, I would like to single out the leadership role of the Vice-Chancellor. Using the servant-leader style, he has been able to achieve the uncommon success through the grace of God.

Through their contributions, they have earned their place in the history of this University. These people are not ordinary people, they are history makers. Their sterling contributions are not only meant for the headlines, but by design, they should be called record breakers.

I would like to paraphrase and reiterate what our dear Visitor, Pastor E.A. Adeboye, said during his recent visit to the University. He believed that these people's acts should be chronicled for the generations yet unborn and the future generations of students should acknowledge their labour and pains for championing the move to the permanent site and thereby fulfill the mandate God gave to the Visitor about 32 years ago.

Let me at this juncture thank the Management team for its probity, courage and the 'I can spirit' that made this possible. In the face of daunting challenges, it has handled their roles in history well. You may not have a worthy reward from men but I am sure that your compensation in history shall be enduring. Somebody had said that if God wants to bless any man, He normally gives him 'Vision Enablers'. We are happy to have this team set a pace to make this University achieve a dream of 32 years. They are indeed our God-given gifts.

This team has not only gone fast and far to achieve the feat of moving the entire University to its permanent site, it has set a new record among the universities that have had cause to relocate to their permanent sites.

At the Governing Council level, we shall continue to put in place policies that will make this University a destination of choice for students and employees who might be seeking admission or job placements in this citadel of learning.

I want to specially thank our landlord, His Royal Majesty, Oba Munirudeen Adesola Lawal, Laminisa 1, Timi of Edeland, for his passion and commitment towards the realization of this vision. He stood by the University even in the face of fierce opposition from those who could not obviously understand the basis for his support. His support was borne out of his passion to see his fatherland develop to becoming one of the foremost developed cities in Nigeria. This is visionary.

It is our earnest prayer that God will bless you and cause you to witness many great historic achievements during your reign as King. For Kabiyesi and his subjects who made this vision come true, we are eternally grateful to God and to all these great men who God had used to help us.

Let me quickly reiterate our commitment to excellence as a University as we move into the future. We shall continue to train and retrain our staff towards enhancing their competences and skills in order for us to provide sustainable tertiary education to Nigerian youths and those from other nations.

As a University, we shall continue to lead the pack in rewarding excellence in order to attract and retain some of the most talented and highly productive workforce in the world.

What lies ahead of us is far greater than what lies behind us as we continue to race towards a sustainable future. Our past achievements should be the least we could ever imagine. Our linkage with God who is the ultimate source of knowledge and wisdom should differentiate us from other universities in the world. We have no choice than to lead other universities in Nigeria to solve various problems facing this country. The heights that we have attained by leading other universities in winning the World Bank-funded African Centre of Excellence for Genomics of Infectious

Diseases (ACEGID) in the West and Central Africa, among other international awards must be sustained. You may wish to note that through God, we played a major role using this platform, to safeguard the health of this nation during the Ebola episode. Our ACEGID team worked day and night in our laboratory to help kick-out the Ebola virus from Nigeria. Let us continue to set the pace for others to follow.

To our graduands, we have confidence in God that all of you would do us proud. We have trained every one of you to go and impact our nation positively. The time for your training and rehearsals for performance in Redeemer's University is temporarily over, as the stage is now set for your optimal performance in the theatre of life. I have faith in God that you will perform excellently in the theatre of life and that at the end of the day you will do God proud.

To all our well-wishers and friends of the university, may God bless you and make your ways prosperous this New Year in Jesus' name. Amen.

Pastor Tokunbo Adesanya  
Pro-Chancellor & Chairman of Council  
January, 2015