

**Address of the Chairman of Board of Trustees,
Professor Yemi Osinbajo,
on the Occasion of the 6th Convocation Ceremony of
Redeemer's University on Thursday, 8th January, 2015**

Protocols

We have Started Small and We are Growing Big

I am overwhelmed with joy to witness the first convocation being held here on our permanent site, Ede, Osun State after nine years of our sojourn at the Redemption Camp, Ogun State. Words can neither fully express nor show the depth of my appreciation to our proprietors, the Management, staff and students for their commitment, excellent contributions and unflinching support rendered towards making the relocation of this prestigious institution a reality.

Sacrifices, individually and collectively given towards preparing the ground for the celebration of the sixth convocation ceremony have made it possible for us to gather together to witness the sending forth of this glorious class of royal ambassadors. I also want to recognize the contributions of everybody who worked behind the scene and in the public to realize this dream. We must always remember however, that this project is a work in progress.

It is noteworthy that within a space of two years since the Sod Turning on this permanent site, we have been able to move in as a University. This feat has been possible by the special grace of God and the dogged determination and commitment of our Visitor, Pastor E. A. Adeboye, a strong believer in Redeemer's University. Our Daddy, in spite of his global commitment to the gospel has never failed to generously support this citadel of learning by making sure that she fulfils the role that destiny has bequeathed on her at this special moment in our national development.

You may kindly recall that our Redeemer's University played a pivotal role in safeguarding the health of our nation during the Ebola outbreak. We have received commendations from the Federal Government and International Health Agencies for our role in curbing the highly dreaded infectious disease from becoming a national catastrophe.

In spite of leading other prestigious universities in Sub-Saharan and East Africa to win the World Bank African Centre of Excellence for Genomic of Infectious Diseases (ACEGID) and some other prestigious awards, we have been able to maintain a tradition of not being immodest in order to stay focused on more gigantic future projects.

Our desire is that in no distant future, this University will through research innovation produce the Nobel Laureate winner in Science. This feat is achievable if only we can continue to work towards giving our best and judiciously using the available resources to foster research activities that would produce scientific breakthroughs to solve some of the world's major contemporary problems.

Let me say this, that our history as a University allows us to start small and grow big. We have never been afraid of starting small. The messages of our proprietors' personal experiences have always been that of a generation of faithful Christians who God called out of nothing to something glorious.

The Redeemed Christian Church of God started small like an oak tree to become what it is today, spreading to many nations of the world. The Redemption Camp where we were formerly situated

started small and had its fair share of challenges but through the grace of God has become one of the most habitable, peaceful, and people-friendly modern communities and estates in Africa.

The radical step that transited us to this permanent site was borne out of the quest to obey divine instruction and expand our coast in order to fulfill our ultimate destiny in God. Now that the stake is higher than when we started our journey in 2005, we promise to commit more funds to fast track rapid development on this campus as God provides for us. You can be assured that in the days ahead, your eyes shall continue to see positive and spectacular changes on this campus.

Let me appeal to some of our esteemed stakeholders who may still find it difficult to understand the blessing inherent in our transition to please bear with us. This is a very special moment in our development as a citadel of learning. My prayer is that as we work to solve the challenges facing this university at this teething period, the Lord will crown our efforts with great success.

Remember that God, by design has created us to solve problems and not to be part of the problem. Greatness is never attained overnight. Nations, empires and people all over the world are known to attain greatness through their common resolve to work together towards achieving a common goal. Our own case will not be an exemption. Let us work together towards making Redeemer's University the very best in the world.

To our graduating set, the *Class of Glory*, your time has indeed come, so, arise and shine. Go and be the very best in life. Your passing through this University has made this institution the very cradle of your educational success. Please, always remember to favour her walls and everything therein as you journey towards the top.

May God bless you and cause His light to shine on you. Amen.

Professor Yemi Osinbajo, SAN
Chairman, Board of Trustees (BOT)
Redeemer's University
8th January, 2015