

IT'S ALL WELL THAT ENDS WELL

Text of the Address Delivered by the Vice-Chancellor, University of Ilorin, Professor Is-haq O. Oloyede on the Occasion of the Professional Initiation and Induction Ceremonies of Batch B of the 2008 Medical Graduands of the College of Health Sciences, University of Ilorin, at the New Auditorium of the University on Tuesday, July 22, 2008.

The Registrar, University of Ilorin, Mrs. O. O. Oyeyemi,
Other Principal Officers of the University,
The Registrar, Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria,
The Provost, College of Health Sciences, Professor B.J. Bojuwoye,
Distinguished Guest Lecturer,
The Chief Medical Director, University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital (UI TH), Dr. S.A. Kuranga,
Deans of the Faculties of Basic Medical and Clinical Sciences,
Deans of other Faculties,
Directors of University of Ilorin Directorates,
Chairman, Medical Advisory Committee,

Other Principal Officers of the UITH,
Parents and relations of our Medical Graduands,
Our Dear Medical Graduands,
Invited Guests,
Great Unilorites,
Gentlemen of the Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I stand before you today to appreciate the Almighty God, the Giver of life, for making this day a reality in the lives of our young medical graduands, our fledgling custodians of life. I am also here to felicitate with these great leaders of today and tomorrow who have passed through the academic rigours and professional drillings to achieve the feat we are celebrating today. For all the tracks you had trodden, for all the sacrifices you had made, for all the midnight oil you had burnt, for all the heights you had scaled, for all the depths you had fathomed and indeed for all the horizons you had traversed, today has become a reality and we thank God that *it's all well that ends well*.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, when Aristotle, the Greek Philosopher said aeons ago that “the fate of empires depends on the education of youth”, to me, he seemed to echo the role of the University in assuring the survival of the nation. On behalf of the University of Ilorin, I feel gratified to commend your devotion to the survival of the nation through your commitment to learning, which has made you to be what you are today: cynosures of all eyes. I felicitate with you as you graduate from the *relative* stage of training to the stage of practice, relative because the dynamics of Information Technology have shown that medical training is a life-long process. And as I told your colleagues on March 11, this year, “the world is waiting for you” to make it better that it is, to make life worth living among the afflicted and the despondent, and put smiles on the faces of the hopeless and hapless.

Let me quickly use this opportunity to remind you that life is not about how long but how well and God's time is the best. Success is ultimately not about how soon but how profound. We are living in a world in which high premium is placed on training. It is my own conviction the more training we receive, the better for us as individuals and society. Thus, your staying a bit longer on the programme means that you are better equipped to face the challenges of your profession than those who were

initiated before you.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, it is said that health is wealth. To some of us, life is more than wealth; it is life. This is because tree without fruit, medicine without precaution, power without authority, knowledge without practice and practice without knowledge, just like life without health – all these are meaningless. In other words, health is life and it is based on this conviction that our administration is fully committed to the development of our College of Health Sciences so that it will be the best in Nigeria.

Towards this end, administration has just committed more than ₦300 million to the procurement of laboratory equipment and upgrading of some departments. The reason for our unflinching support to our College is that while mediocrity is costly in other disciplines, it is deadly in medicine because a mediocre doctor is a certified killer. Administration is thus working round the clock to ensure that at the level of personnel, equipment and the quality of graduates churned out, the University of Ilorin College of Health Sciences will remain a College to beat in Nigeria.

It is heart-warming, it pleases me to say, that our College of Health Sciences apart from being one of the fully accredited twenty one Colleges of Health Sciences/ Faculties of Medicine in Nigeria, it is one of the top three that enjoy the highest quota of student intake throughout the country as approved by the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria. As evident on page 12 of *The Guardian* Friday, July 11, 2008 edition, the assertion that you are the best, being part of the top three, is not gratuitous.

I would like to commend the leadership and staff of the College for their dogged commitment to excellence. The College has remained a pride to the University. It is to the credit of the College that the Community-Based Experience and Services (COBES) it started has been replicated by Senate, resulting in the *COBESisation* of all other programmes across the faculties as from the next session. It is our expectation that the College will continue to bring glory and honour to the University.

While the University will not shirk from its responsibility of providing all what the College needs to thrive, one way of further developing our WHO-designated Centre of Excellence is to attract funding from the available sources within and outside the

country. The College may also wish to focus more on the sociology of medicine to enhance the quality of service delivery. All avenues should be fully explored to consolidate the gains of our achievements.

To our esteemed medical graduands, I want to remind you that you owe yourselves a duty, you owe your parents a duty, you owe the University of Ilorin a duty and you owe your fatherland a duty. This duty mainly appertains to service and sacrifice. Service to others has been said to be the rent we pay for the room we occupy on this earth and sacrifice is the making of a man. While this applies to everyone, it is of special importance to a medical doctor and the Hippocratic Oath you are taking is an eloquent testimony to this fact. The joy of being a medical doctor lies in the prestige and honour of being the saviour of life, it does not lie in material possessions. If anyone of you believes that the purpose of becoming a doctor is to become rich, the person is not deserving of the name. Those who are basically interested in making money should not have any business with medical profession, they may just pursue a career in banking or join an oil company. That is why though you will have to live deservedly in comfort, not in luxury. There is a difference between the two and those who train you are good examples of what I am saying: they are not rich but they are comfortable. I think it is essential to get one's bearing right for everything to be all right.

As I told your colleagues some four months ago this same place, you should register with the University Alumni Association and make your own contributions to its activities. I am telling you too that the University needs you in the drive of fulfilling its vision and accomplishing its mission. As it is said, to whom much is given, much is expected. Alumni Associations all over the world play important roles in developing their Universities and ours must not be a difference. The University of Ilorin needs you; make yourselves available. I wish you a life of great success and professional fulfillment.

I would like to congratulate and thank the parents, relations and friends of our graduands here present. It is my conviction that without the roles that you all had played at one time or the other in the lives of these young men and women, they might not have accomplished this feat. I congratulate you and thank you for coming to share this momentous moment with them. I also thank all our invited guests, lecturers and indeed everyone of you here seated. I know you will agree with me that

it's all well that ends well and I pray it shall be all well with you all.

Finally, I wish to thank you all again for coming and I wish to appreciate your kind attention.