

**CONIUNCTIM BENE GERERE POSSUMUS
(TOGETHER WE CAN SUCCEED)**



**Text of the address by Prof. Wahab Olasupo EGBEWOLE, SAN
Vice-Chancellor, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria at the VCHC meeting on
Friday, October 28, 2022**

Protocol

I greet you with joy and deep sense of humility. Today's meeting is unique and historic for us as we bring back memory to reflect deeply on the issues and plans to move this University forward. I am sure a number of us here are familiar with the tradition of having VCHC as the clearing house and serving as the sound board for the management. We will be relying on your robust and objective contributions on all matters for consideration. As I have said repeatedly, my only friend in this journey will be and is – UNILORIN. Hence, I have titled the short address with a popular latin phrase "*Coniunctim Bene Gerere Possumus*" deriving my inspiration and love for latin words being a member of the Faculty of Law where our second language is latin. The English translation is simply put "*TOGETHER WE CAN SUCCEED*".

As mentioned in my address entitled "The Sun Rises Again" on Monday, October 17, 2022 on the occasion of my formal assumption of office, I emphasized on creating a SMART University in our drive to attain global reckoning.

For the purpose of this gathering, let me focus briefly on Adaptive Capacity and Team Building as critical tools in achieving the envisioned SMART University. The reality of the present time requires change at all levels for institutional benefits. We must see beyond personal interest or aggrandizement if we truly love this university as professed. We have just returned from 8-9 months industrial action. As you are aware, what lies ahead of us are enormous tasks in this ever changing academic and administrative landscape and, the governance of our University to creating solid take-off plans. I have no doubt in your readiness, resourcefulness and will-power in making the tasks easy to achieve.

Good managers succeed, great managers redefine their definition of success by embracing fresh opportunities, mastering new skills, and leading cross functional teams. We have to focus on achieving all, regaining all and daring all odds with strong determination to succeed. No horse gets anywhere until it is harnessed. No policy, no plan, no vision can be actualized without your support and, avoiding anyone whose intention is to derail the targeted progress; no room should

be created for recklessness or indiscipline. Once the goal is set, every key player will be educated, motivated and encouraged to the extra mile in order to attain the goal and indeed, meet the deadline, all dead cells are bound to come alive!

In this five years journey, we will have to evolve into a more cohesive unit, a strong university with culture of greatness as one and only option available. As a team, we will have to reactivate the uniloin of decently dressed community, secured environment, top-notch researches and collaborations that once placed us ahead and preferred by many, functional linkages and internalization for which many will always want to associate with us, serene and green campus which symbolizes our love for nature and peaceful co-existence. I look forward to seeing a Faculty of Management Science engaging the public and the university in best practices with respect to policy on best practices; the Faculty of Engineering and Technology with undoubted ideas, innovation and solving problems in the areas of electricity generation, our students projects must focus on solving identified problems, there should be partnership that works and beneficial to the system with our Works Department; we should have a Faculty of Communication and Information Sciences than can develop softwares, train young people in coding and other IT skills for modern day survival; with the expanse of land that God gave us, the Faculty of Agriculture should be ready to take up challenges on production – food, livestocks and even offer consultancy to those who so wish to invest in farming; the engagement between town and gown vis-à-vis faculty of education should be robust as a servicing unit to train digitally compliant teachers, we must contribute to curriculum review that can accommodate our present day needs and desires; Faculties of Life and Physical Sciences, expectedly, should be in the forefront of scientific ideas and patenting, our research laboratories should do more in terms of outputs; what we currently have with the faculties of Arts, environment sciences and veterinary medicine should be source of IGR for this University. Same for the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Science. We will need to activate the institute of legislative studies under the watch of the Faculty of Law to further give back to the society; our Centres must get their mission right and function accordingly. Our IGR units must have targets set for them and deliver on such mandates instead of the present state of affairs where they rely on handouts from the University.

I have been challenged by messages on the state of our Postgraduate programmes and, the need for urgent reforms and to streamline unit in line with global ideas. We shall collectively look at

this in the coming days (we use to have policy statement on our PG programme- the Maleté declaration!). The PG School should come up with a revival, review and re-engineering of the Declaration.

As a University already in the focus of all, we must create long term value with efficiency being the key force driving the University and shaping her future. Institutional success is highly dependent on efficiency/management expertise. Everyone from the common man on the campus, workers' unions and top functionaries must come to terms with comprehensive understanding of challenges and opportunities associated with running of businesses of the University, security of lives and properties, idea generation and creating an enabling environment for research breakthroughs if we must make the mark. It does not stop with the Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Deans, Heads of Departments, Level Advisers, Registry, Library and Bursary Unit, everyone must contribute, everyone must learn fast, everyone must do his / her part.

I appeal for your unflinching support and cooperation towards making the sun to rise again. For the purpose of emphasis, we shall pay due attention to staff and students' welfare in the form and magnitude expected.

I am aware that work is almost completed on the revised conditions of service. When this is out in no distant time, it is my hope that it will be to the benefits of all and the advancement of our institution. I urge all to be law abiding, be diligent in our duty posts and ensure that the overall interest of the system is not sacrificed on the altar of nepotism, indolence and, or any form of bigotry. We are an this together and it is a win/win for us all.

Consequently, our desires should be on partners in progress given our sacrifices at different times. In spite of the challenges ahead, we all have common goal of building a great institution.

My agenda is clear, creating a SMART campus in terms of innovations, creative thinking, harnessing our abundant human and natural resources, our expectations and outputs. It will require dramatic attitudinal change in reducing over bearing effect of redundancy or share mediocrity as everyone takes responsibility and participate in the day to day running of the University affairs. My dream as will be rolled out for 2023-2027 is "Shuttling to the Space". We are going on a cruise with no restriction with yearly well defined research theme. We are poised

at having globally recognized scholars and ground breaking research outputs. Having a world-class registry and digitalized environment to my mind is attainable. The success of this agenda and my dream is in our hands, collective wisdoms and commitment towards ensuring the actualization of a truly, better by far university. I believe strongly that, together we can, together we must and together we shall succeed!

I thank you all for your attention.

God bless University of Ilorin