

BAG YOUR DEGREE, DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS



**Welcome address by Prof. Wahab Olasupo EGBEWOLE, SAN
Vice-Chancellor, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria on the occasion of Public
Lecture on Entrepreneurship on Wednesday, May 3, 2023**

Courtesies,

Standing here to address you this morning gives me a special kind of joy and a sense of fulfilment. I have dreamt of today like a student feels on a convocation day. This is in the light of the importance of this lecture to the strategic positioning of our University and by extension, its products for a greater tomorrow. I am therefore delighted to welcome you all to this public lecture. Permit me to specially welcome to our University, my Dear Sister, a great friend of this University and, the Guest Speaker of today's event, Mrs. Kafilat Araoye, the Managing Director, LOTUS Bank Plc. I am sure your love for this University and commitment towards ensuring the partnership that works would have increased significantly since you stepped on our campus.

After more than two decades of being a university lecturer, I have come to realize the priceless possession of right skills and valuable asset of correct attitude in everything we do. To a large extent, these determine the overall outcomes of life. The essence of developing right skills for today's work challenges can therefore not be over-emphasized. This gathering, to me, is therefore critical in raising our consciousness, bring to full awareness our understanding and awake the potentials in us to embrace in full the needed skills for the 21st century as well captured in the theme of this public lecture. Please allow me to copiously refer to Late Sage, Chief Obafemi Awolowo in his Thought on People's Republic "...we find ourselves face to face with the problems posed by the four well-known departments of economic science, namely: consumption, production, exchange and distribution. It is in the effective and successful solution of these problems that man can enjoy the fruits of his labour and benefit from the inherent advantages of (i) division of labour; (ii) exchange of goods; and (iii) the increased productivity and higher standard of

living possible by (i) and (ii). Indeed, it is in the effective and successful solution of these problems that, in a material sense, man can live a full and happy life.”

Distinguished Guests, Colleagues and our beloved students, Chief Obafemi Awolowo is long gone but the identified problems are still with us. The implication of his suggestions as solutions to the problems is that competition is inevitable in changing phases. The measurement of our value will not only be ascertained by exchange relationship but by services offered and increased productivity. While I served few years ago as the Director, General Studies Division (GNS) of this University, I was privileged to introduce annual lecture on Employability of our Graduates. This means that as a university, we have since realised the importance of ensuring that our graduates compete favorably in the labour markets and are globally relevant. At the University of Ilorin, we are determined to create an enabling environment for our students, add value to their education and imbue them with additional skills in the course of their studies. We are presently positioning our University in the world of innovations such that we will ensure our graduates do things differently positively.

Our Technical and Entrepreneurship Centre (TEC) is rated as one of the best in the country but we are not there yet! We want to do more. We want to engage the community more with our services and products. We desire that our students have the modern-day skills to thrive in the present age looking beyond the surface of bagging a degree. In today’s world, every graduate needs excellent communication skill, develop leadership capacity, be creative and display appreciable emotional intelligence to survive. My Dear students, I urge you to take advantage of this lecture and our investments in creating smart campus to be truly better by far upon graduation.

The explosion in technological progress, information advancement and demand for skills in the 21st century has brought a new order. There is no field of learning that can optimally deliver without the entrepreneurial side of the discipline as we speak. Those who cannot see the ultimate may become the slave to the immediate and eventually to the future. Without mincing words, our guest speaker of today is here to do justice on the needed entrepreneurial skills. Since we met, I have always known that University of Ilorin should be her second home and her project. We are intentional with our relationship with the LOTUS Bank. I hope the guest speaker will take this opportunity of her presence on campus to visit our TEC to appreciate work done so far and determine areas of partnership to further build capacity for students and meet up with the mandate of the Centre.

On behalf of the Management, staff and students of this great University, I welcome LOTUS Bank to our campus. In the end, I hope our strategic partnership will expand our scope and become toast of other institutions in the country. While employing the students to maximise this great opportunity, I enjoin you all to pay attention to the issues to be raised in the lecture for further exposition.

God bless you, all.