

MAKE IT A BETTER PLACE



**A text of address by Prof. Wahab Olasupo EGBEWOLE, SAN
Vice-Chancellor, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria on the occasion of
Induction Ceremony for Optometry and Vision Science Graduates on
Wednesday, 17th May, 2023**

Protocols

It is with great joy that I address you today as we gathered for the induction of our graduands in the field of Optometry and Vision Science. It is the first of its kind in this University, it is historical and a landmark achievement we have long waited for. It is therefore my honour to specially welcome Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Registration Board of Nigeria (ODORBN) to this epoch-making ceremony. It is your event but more importantly our day of joy as an institution, parents and inductees who could tell the story of our journey better than anyone. When I assumed office as the 11th Vice-Chancellor of this great University, I addressed the audience on Monday, the 17th day of October, 2022 on a subject entitled “The Sun Rises Again”. Dare to my heart is every word of that address and my unwavering commitment towards achieving the dreams and agenda contained therein. Today’s event is an affirmation that the sun is rising already for us as an institution and, to our inductees, whose hopes were almost dashed, your sun has risen! May I therefore seize this opportunity to congratulate you all. It may interest you to know that the world is waiting for you as you are truly better by far in training, patience and resilience. At last, we are listed in the comity of Universities with world-class trained Optometrists transiting beyond academic success into becoming healthcare professionals.

Dear inductees, as Optometrists, I need not remind you again of your foremost role in preserving and improving the vision of people across the globe. Your task of eye care, providing comprehensive vision services, detecting and managing various ocular conditions and promoting ocular health and wellness is second to none. The world needs you, we all need your services! The demand for optometric services

continues to grow, with an increasing number of people seeking vision care. This presents both a challenge and opportunity for you, our inductees. It is a challenge because you will face diverse and complex conditions, and it is an opportunity because you have the knowledge, skills and compassion to make a difference in the lives of those who seek your expertise.

As I ponder on what to address you on, the lyrics of late king of pop, Michael Jackson's song titled "Heal the World" came to mind. Heal the World never made the list of top 100 but end up becoming the song Micheal was believed to be the proudest of. He later founded Heal the World Foundation, a charitable organization, to aid children. 45 child artists would later re-create Jackson's Heal the world and thrilled the whole world. My point is this, you might not have been the first set to be inducted into the profession but heal the world, re-create the profession and make the world thrilled about Unilorin-world-class Optometrists. My interest in the lyrics is this "***Heal the world. Make it a better place. For you and for me and the entire human race. There are people dying. If you care enough for the living. Make a better place for you and for me***". As Optometrists, you will often be the first point of contact for individuals seeking eye care services. Care enough to make it a better service! Your interactions with patients should be characterized by respect, compassion and a commitment to their well-being. Treat each patient as a unique individual with their own concerns, and always strive to provide them with the highest standard of care.

Please endeavour to make it a better profession in all its ramifications. Optometry, like all other fields, is constantly evolving with emerging technologies, research and treatment protocols. It is, therefore, imperative that you remain up-to-date with the latest developments and continue to expand your knowledge and skills as you grow in this career. I will also like to emphasize the importance of collaboration

and interdisciplinary cooperation. As Optometrists, you will be working closely with Ophthalmologists, Opticians and other healthcare professionals. By fostering strong relationships and engaging multidisciplinary approaches, you can provide comprehensive eye care and also contribute to the overall improvement of healthcare delivery.

I am confident you will all make significant impacts in this noble profession. I therefore want you to embrace this great responsibility with humility, compassion and a commitment to excellence.

In concluding, I should remind you of your allegiance to this institution. Be good ambassadors of your alma mater: University of Ilorin. Your education in this University has certified you worthy both in character and in learning, you must therefore justify our investments and expectations, harness every opportunity to give back to the institution that has provided this platform for you.

Once again, I congratulate you and wish you all the very best in your future endeavors. May you embark on a fulfilling and rewarding journey as Optometrists, bringing clarity and vision to those who need it most. To the proud parents, congratulations for investing in these young minds. May they continue to make you proud.

Thank you very much for your attention.