

FROM ELECTION TO IMPACT: A CALL TO PURPOSEFUL LEADERSHIP



**BEING THE SPEECH OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR-
PROF. WAHAB EGBEWOLE, SAN**

**ON OATH TAKING AND SWEARING-IN CEREMONY
OF THE NEWLY ELECTED STUDENTS' UNION
EXECUTIVES**

FOR 2026/2027 ACADEMIC SESSION

Courtesies

It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of optimism that I welcome you all to this important occasion: the oath-taking and swearing-in ceremony of our newly elected Students' Executive Council and distinguished Senate Members of our Students' Union.

Today is not merely the beginning of another tenure; it is the beginning of a new responsibility. Leadership is not defined by the applause that follows an election but by the decisions made after the celebrations have ended. Today, you are not only assuming office; you are formally accepting the trust of your colleagues. You now carry the hopes, concerns, and aspirations of thousands of students who have entrusted you with their confidence.

I congratulate you on your election. More importantly, I congratulate you on accepting the responsibility that comes with it. My congratulations is indeed a challenge that you should not betray the trust entrusted in you by your colleagues.

This is the fourth Students' Union administration since my assumption of office as Vice-Chancellor—from Ologundudu Joseph to Victor Agezeh, to the outgoing Adelu Idris, and now to the 39th President-elect, Mr. Adam Mozeed. I have had the privilege of working with these gentlemen with great satisfaction, and I commend them for their dedication and unwavering commitment to the ideals of this university. They believed in our vision and exemplified our enduring motto of being **Better by Far** throughout their tenure. They kept faith and demonstrated their love for our University and the students they led.

The world in which student leaders operate today is remarkably different from that of previous generations. You lead in an era of instant communication, relentless

social media scrutiny, heightened expectations, and continuous public opinion. Every decision is analysed, every silence is interpreted, and every action is magnified. Leadership today comes with enormous pressure.

Dear incoming executives and distinguished members of the Senate Council, as I welcome and rejoice with you, my first counsel is this: do not allow pressure to become your master. Instead, let purpose become your compass.

I followed your electoral process with keen interest, from the campaigns and manifesto presentations to the lively press night engagements, the debates, and the composure displayed after the declaration of results. These observations have informed my decision to speak to you today on **From Election to Impact: A Call to Purposeful Leadership**.

Leadership is not about reacting to every voice; it is about listening wisely, thinking critically, and acting responsibly. Sometimes the right decision may not be the most popular one. Sometimes leadership demands patience when others insist on haste, courage when others choose comfort, and integrity when compromise appears easier.

Every generation faces its own unique challenges. Yours is to lead in an age where information travels faster than wisdom. Therefore, cultivate wisdom before seeking popularity.

As you begin this journey, I encourage you to think beyond events and activities. Think about legacy.

Every administration is remembered for something. Some are remembered for conflict; others for transformation. Some are remembered for promises; others for

performance. The question is not whether you will leave a legacy—you certainly will. The real question is: **What kind of legacy will it be?**

Years from now, when another group of student leaders stands where you stand today, what stories will they tell about your administration? Will they remember leaders who divided the student body or leaders who united it? Will they remember excuses or solutions? Empty rhetoric or meaningful impact? Legacy is not built on speeches. It is built on daily choices.

Perhaps the greatest lesson every leader must understand is the value of time. Time is the one resource that neither power nor position can replace. Your tenure begins today, and from this moment, the countdown has started.

History reminds us that some of the world's most influential leaders first learned to lead as students. Nelson Mandela's journey, for example, included service on a student representative council, where he discovered that leadership often requires the courage to stand firmly for principle. Great leaders are not defined by the offices they hold but by the values they uphold. Let this office be not the destination of your leadership journey, but its foundation.

Every meeting postponed without reason, every opportunity ignored, every unnecessary conflict, and every delay in making important decisions represent time that can never be recovered. Avoid distractions that consume energy without producing value. The office you occupy is temporary; the impact you create can be permanent.

Power is not a privilege to be enjoyed; it is a responsibility to be exercised. It should never distance you from those you represent. Instead, it should make you more approachable, more accountable, and more humble.

As Vice-Chancellor, I encourage you to build strong bridges with the University Management. We may not always agree on every issue, but we must always remain united by one common objective: the progress of this university and the welfare of our students.

Healthy engagement, respectful dialogue, and constructive criticism are hallmarks of mature leadership. Our doors will always remain open to ideas that advance the interests of our university community. I urge you to become leaders who inspire confidence rather than fear, unity rather than division, and hope rather than uncertainty. The trust has been given to you. It is now your responsibility to justify that trust.

As I conclude, let me leave you with this simple thought:

Leadership is a journey where pressure is inevitable, expectations are endless, power is temporary, time is limited, but character is enduring.

May your tenure be marked by wisdom in decision-making, courage in difficult moments, humility in success, resilience in adversity, and an unwavering commitment to the students you have been elected to serve. On behalf of the University Management, I congratulate each one of you on your inauguration. I wish you a successful, impactful, and memorable tenure.

Thank you, and may God bless our students, bless this university, and bless our nation.