



Covenant University

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THE RELEASE OF EAGLES 2009

A KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY PROF. 'DIBU OJERINDE,
REGISTRAR/CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
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BWARI, ABUJA

AT THE SPECIAL CONGREGATION FOR THE AWARD OF
FIRST AND HIGHER DEGREES AND PRESENTATION
OF PRIZES AT THE 4TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY AT
COVENANT UNIVERSITY, OTTA, OGUN STATE

FRIDAY, 19TH JUNE 2009.



PROF. 'DIBU OJERINDE,

Registrar/Chief Executive,
Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB),
Bwari, Abuja

Profile of Professor Dibu Ojerinde

Professor Dibu Ojerinde was born in Igboho, Oore-lope Local Government Area of Oyo State

He was educated at Wesley College, Ibadan (TC II - 1964), Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo (NCE-1968), University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University) (B.Sc 1973 & M.Ed 1975) and Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, U.S.A.(Ph.D 1978). He became a Professor in October, 1986 and has been renowned as an examiner and administrator.

Professor Ojerinde has scored many firsts; he is the first Nigerian Professor of Tests and Measurement. He was pioneer Director, Monitoring and Evaluation, National Primary Education Commission (NPEC), 1990 - 1991, first Director/Consultant, Centre for Educational Measurement (CEM), Federal Ministry of Education 1991 - 1992, the first Registrar/Chief Executive, National Board for Educational Measurement (NBEM), 1992 - 1999 the first Registrar/Chief Executive, National Examinations Council (NECO), 1999 - 2007 and the first Registrar/Chief Executive Office to introduce online application into the conduct of Examinations in Nigeria and indeed West African Sub-Region.

Professor Ojerinde belongs to several professional bodies both home and abroad. He is the Vice President of the International Association for Educational Assessment (IAEA). He is a member,

Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA).

A widely travelled man, Professor Ojerinde has attended International Conferences in U.S.A., London, Hong Kong, Swaziland, Singapore, Mexico, France, Canada and some African countries.

Taking into consideration his pedigree, Professor 'Dibu Ojerinde was appointed as the Registrar/Chief Executive of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board by Mr. President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR. The appointment took effect from 19th of April, 2007. He is the Oluomo of Igboho Land. He loves reading and playing golf.

Professor 'Dibu Ojerinde is married and blessed with four (4) children. He loves reading and playing golf.

COVENANT UNIVERSITY ANTHEM

We're a Covenant Generation
Pursuing excellence
Redeemed to reign
Learning to lead

We are bound by an oath
Obeying rules to rule
Making Kings of youth
Flying high on covenant wings

Wisdom's call for change Inspired on fire
With courage
Marching on in grace

God's own arrow Shot for glory.

Covenant generation arise
Light and knowledge to shine
Glorious foundation stone
Leadership skills to show

Departing from knowledge
To empowerment Legalism
To realism

Wisdom's call for change
Inspired, on fire
With Courage Marching on in grace

God's own arrow
Shot for glory.



THE RELEASE OF EAGLES

Protocols

1.0 Introduction

I am greatly honoured to be invited to this memorable occasion and enthused by this topic 'The Release of Eagles'. I am also delighted to learn that three batches of Eagles have been turned into the world of work. Our society is privileged to have the category of these youth of diverse skills, disciplines and professions. Today marks another day of the take-off flight for exploits.

The Britannica concise encyclopedia describes Eagle as a large, heavy-beaked, big-footed birds of prey belonging to the family Accipitridae, found worldwide. Eagles are generally larger and more powerful than hawks and may resemble a vulture in build and flight characteristics, but they have a fully feathered often crested head and strong feet equipped with great curved talons. Most species subsist mainly on live prey, which they generally capture on the ground. Eagles have been a symbol of war and imperial power since Babylonian times.

The question of whether great leaders are born or made may arise. The fact is, great leaders are born but great leaders are also made. Some people who were born leaders may have been fortunate enough to possess these characteristics when they

went to school.

Some believe that leaders are born. Others believe that leaders are developed. I believe that people are born with certain leadership characteristics. The characteristics they are not born with can be developed. Some of these characteristics we can get from the Eagles. By observing and studying this matchless bird, you can pick up on leadership characteristics to help develop you and your future.

2.0 Congratulatory Messages

Let me seize this opportunity to congratulate the parents of these lucky graduands who through thick and thin were able to sponsor their children to their graduate and undergraduate levels. Today is a memorable day in your life for witnessing and reaping the fruit of your labour.

To the graduands, the eagles, I give kudos to you for applying the principle of deferment of gratification. Your endurance, patience and courage is paying off. I salute your courage. Now, we can look back and sing like the Psalmist in Psalm 126 “When the Lord turns again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream... For they that sow in tears shall reap in joy.... An accolade for you!

To the university, I salute your numerous contributions to the development of education in Nigeria. Apart from the academic programmes which are best among equals, the infrastructural development and facilities here are terrific.

The Chancellor of this great citadel of learning, Dr. David

Oyedepo deserves a pat on his back for his vision, creativity and astuteness in pursuing this goal of producing eagles for the benefit of Nigeria in particular and the entire mankind worldwide.

Felicitations to the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Aize Obayan for her visionary, progressive and pragmatic approaches to both administrative and academic programmes of the university. So, what a man can do, a woman can do, even better.

For the Senate, our country in particular and mankind in general owe you a deep appreciation for your heartfelt commitment to your duties, responsibilities and job schedules. Worthy of note is your creative excitement and cheerful cooperation with the ideals and vision of the founder of this great institution.

The Living Faith Church Worldwide aka Winners Chapel and World Mission Agency (WMA) should be applauded for their support and cooperation to achieving this great feat. Yes, the university has produced the third set of eagles.

3.0 Four major leadership characteristics of Eagles

It is not easy to be eagles, and it is even more difficult to produce eagles. Eagles have the following characteristics among others.

3.1 Visionary

Just like the eagle, all leaders must have vision and be proactive. The eagle's eyes can see great distances. They can also look directly into the sun without being blinded. You, leaders of tomorrow must have vision and be proactive. You must have a

vision that guides and leads you towards your goals in life. The vision must be big and focused. A big, focused vision will produce big results. Where there is no vision, the people perish (Proverbs of Solomon).

3.2 Hard work and diligence

You will never see an eagle eating meat that it did not kill. An eagle is not a scavenger. It hunts for and kills its own food. It hunts for the prey while it is warm and alive. You as leaders must go where the action is. You must go where you hunt down and find lively people to grow your career and vocation. You cannot afford to be a liability; you must do something with your hands and not be slothful.

3.3 Using challenges as stepping stones

As storms approach, lesser birds head for cover, but the mighty eagle spreads its wings and with a great cry mounts upon the powerful updrafts, soaring to heights of glory. The eagle uses the storm to lift him to these great heights. Leaders use storms (challenges), they don't run from them. To leaders, storms are tools used for their development. If you faint in the day of adversities, your strength is small (Prov. 24:10) therefore, you must be resolute and determined.

3.4 Teaching and Training others

The eagle is known for its ferocity, yet no member of the bird family is more gentle and attentive to its young as it is. At just the

right time, the mother eagle begins to teach her eaglets how to fly. She gathers an eaglet onto her back and spreading her wings, flies high. Suddenly, she swoops out from under the eaglet and as it falls, it gradually learns what its wings are for until the mother catches it once again on her wings. The process is repeated. If the young is slow to learn or cowardly, she returns him to the nest, and begins to tear it apart, until there is nothing left for the eaglet to cling to. Then she nudges him off the cliff. In summary, by studying the eagle, you can be born with and also develop leadership characteristic of duplicating yourself.

3.5 Aiming high

Eagles select the tallest trees of the forest, the topmost crag of the mountain, and pairs live in solitude, hunting and feeding singly, whenever possible carrying their prey to the nest so that the young may gain strength and experience by tearing at it and feeding themselves. There is an enemy called “average”, you must avoid it.

4.0 The first Biblical reference to the eagle referred to the right bird.

“Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself” (Exodus 19:4).

This reference to the eagle is to that wonderful power of flight that enables a bird to hang on as if frozen in the sky, for long periods appearing to our sight immovable, or to sail and soar directly into the eye of the sun, seeming to rejoice in its strength of flight and to exult in the security and freedom of the upper air.

Isaiah 40:31 is another flight reference; Jeremiah 49:16 refers to the inaccessible heights at which the eagle loves to build and rear its young; Jeremiah 49:22 refers to the eagle's power of flight; Ezekiel 1:10 recounts a vision of the prophet in which strange living creatures had faces resembling eagles. The same book (Ezekiel 17:3) contains the parable of the eagle.

Eagles are differentiated from other birds of prey merely by their large size, more powerful build, heavier head and bill, more direct and faster flight.

Due to the importance and invisibility of eagle, eagles have been used as natural symbols such as the coat of arms of Russia, the state emblem of Karnataka, India, coat of arms of the town Bergen Terbhjt, the great seal of the United States of America, coat of arms of Poland. It has also been used by many nations as a national symbol. For example, the coat of arms of Albania, Austria, Czech Republic, Egypt, Ghana, Germany, Mexico, Nigeria, United States, etc.

Eagle's impressive size and fearsome beauty have long been symbols of royal power and have appeared on coins, seals, flags and standards since ancient times.

The eagle is a sacred bird in some cultures and the feathers are often used in various ceremonies to honour noteworthy achievements and qualities such as exceptional leadership and bravery.

5.0 Difficulties of Candidates seeking admission

Over the years, there have been upsurge in the number of applicants into Nigerian universities with existing few vacancies. It is therefore a survival of the fittest game to be admitted into the universities.

Table 1 below attests to this fact for the past six years.

Table 1: Population of Applicants viz-a-viz available vacancies from 2003-2009

Academic Year	Admission Quota (carrying capacity)	No. Application	No. Admitted	Remark
2003	82,756	1,043,361	108,148	10.40%
2004	82,756	962,133	125,673	13.10%
2005	91,362	1,030,670	107,161	10.40%
2006	149,033	893,259	106,304	11.90%
2007	155,533	1,028,988	129,525	12.59%
2008	183,420	1,172,313	175,358	14.96%
2009	183,420	1,184,759	No adm. yet	

You belong to the lucky 10.40% Nigerians who gained admission into Nigerian universities in the 2005/2006 session. It is glamorous that you have made the best of the opportunity.

It is not easy gaining entrance into Nigerian universities and particularly Covenant University. Covenant University has increased the window of access to Nigerian Universities by a reasonable percentage.

6.0 The Race is not over

From the window opened by Covenant University, you all here have benefitted tremendously but the race is not over until it is over.

I am sure that your great institution must have told you that the race is just beginning. You are going into the competitive world of everything, work inclusive.

I assume that all of you will have to be called to serve the Country on National Youth Service Capacity. The period of service is a transit between school and the real world. After NYSC, some of you may find your way to graduate schools, some to real work, others in search for daily bread.

That is when the race begins.

The race to pass at the graduate school,

The race to get full appointment,

The race to perform even at work and

The race to marry.

The people you meet at school or on the street, even at the Youth Corps Programme will become your associates forever. Your good may come through any of them. We can never know through whom our good will flow. Therefore, you need to respect everyone you meet on your way. Everything is given by God. Any worthwhile unfoldment must be attributed to the grace of God.

7.0 There is Hope

Let me open it to you, that it is not as hopeless as the various

speakers, during passing out retreats would have let you know. The place does not make a man, but a man makes a place. What one becomes depends on the mindset of the individual. I can assure you that God our creator makes a way where there seems to be no way. He cares for the sparrows. Be hopeful, when there is hope there is life. Be optimistic and enthusiastic about life. You should be channels of hope for others.

Albert Schweitzer once said: “In everyone's life, at some time, our inner fire goes out. It is then burst into flame by an encounter with another human being. We shall all be thankful for those people who rekindle the inner spirit”

Never give up on your goal and purpose in life, never quit for a winner never quits and a quitter never wins. Furthermore, remember, tough times never last but tough people do.

8.0 Contributions of Private Universities to educational development in Nigeria

Until recently, the Government has largely been responsible for the provision of education in Nigeria. Growing evidence has shown that private participation in education can improve effectiveness in developing countries in a cost-effective manner and without compromising equity.

Private Participation in higher education can bring to the education sector high performance standards and private sector skills that will help to address the problems plaguing the

education sector. This is true as can be seen from the example of developed countries that have had a long history of higher education.

The proliferation of private tertiary education in Nigeria should be embraced since it is bound to decongest the already congested public institutions, stimulate healthy competition in the quest for quality and keep lecturer/student ratio at acceptable levels. The involvement of private participation was premised on the successful experiences from other parts of the world notably from countries such as Brazil, Japan, Korea, South Africa, etc.

To date, there are thirty five (35) Private Universities in Nigeria. Since its inauguration on 21st October 2002, Covenant University has created a niche for itself as one of the best Private Universities in the country, one that can compete favourably with World Class Universities. Its motto of “promoting Mental Productivity” is apt since its graduates are found in all spheres of life. It is thus a reference point to other universities in Sub-Saharan Africa. The institution has produced choice graduates that are extra thinkers and managers.

It is highly commendable that Covenant University has these features among others: Better monitored environment; conducive environment for learning (the university is seating on a 108 hectares of land); 24/7 uninterrupted electrification; proper sewage and drainage system; well equipped libraries

and e-library (The school has the largest book-based library in the nation's tertiary institution); staff motivation, etc.

The Challenge

Your hopes for university education have been fulfilled by Covenant University. The question now is, what do you hope to give back to Covenant University? Do not forget your Alma Mater.

9.0 The Proposed Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) with Effect from 2010

The Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) is determined to alleviate the sufferings of candidates seeking admissions into tertiary institutions and further give opportunity for more people to have access to tertiary education in Nigeria.

Consequently, with effect from 2010, the Board plans to combine the Universities Matriculation Examination (UME) and Monotechnics, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education Matriculation Examination (MPCEME) into one form of examination called Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME). The introduction of UTME has an array of opportunities and advantages such as:

- i. Reduction of the cost and the time of preparations, examination administration and processing of admissions of candidates for the Board.
- ii. For parents and candidates, it will reduce the cost of

registration by paying only for one examination instead of two separate examinations.

iii. It will assist the tertiary institutions to harmonize their academic calendar in such a way that admissions would be conducted and concluded early and at the same time.

iv. With the introduction of B.Tech in the Polytechnics, there will be the removal of existing dichotomy between University and Polytechnic graduates.

v. There will be increase in enrolment for Polytechnics and Colleges of Education.

vi. It will give all candidates equal opportunity since they all come from the same background i.e. from secondary schools and also use the same syllabus from WAEC or NECO.

vii. The spectrum of choice of institutions will expand from the current two (2) to six (6)

viii. Access to tertiary institution is improved: More candidates will have the benefit of tertiary education instead of staying at home for 1 year.

ix. Improvement of Technology and Vocational Education (TVE) and Teacher Education: More teachers will likely be produced to enable the realization of the MDGs on education

and EFA goals.

The Following Procedures will be followed

- i. Harmonization of UME and MPCEME syllabi
- ii. Harmonization of UME and MPCEME brochures
- iii. Review of the existing online registration details
- iv. Review and harmonization of UME and MPCEME answer sheets
- v. Review and harmonization of the entry requirements
- vi. Inspection and Validation of examination centres
- vii. Review and harmonization of the list of existing examination officials and documents for test administration
- viii. Review and harmonization of the list of existing examiners for test development
- ix. Review and harmonization of policy and technical committee meetings on admissions
- x. Sensitization of the students, public and other stakeholders.

10.0 RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE JOINT ADMISSIONS AND MATRICULATION BOARD (JAMB)

In the last two (2) years, the Board has been able to record the following feats. They are as follows.

10.1 Registration Procedure Improvements

- i. Ensuring strict adherence to registration deadline
- ii. Reduction of time required to process registration data with e- registration
- iii. Significant reduction in the Board's operational cost since Optical Mark Reader (OMR) sheets and other registration materials are no longer printed.

10.2 Improvement in Examination Administration

- i. Abolition of Special/Standby/Checking centres which have been found to contribute to examination Malpractice
- ii. Introduction of the use of bags instead of metal boxes to carry examination materials.
- iii. Creation of additional examination towns and custodian points for easy distribution and retrieval of examination materials.
- iv. Upward review and prompt payment of allowances of examination resource persons and examination officials
- v. Retrieval of examination materials immediately after the examination day to forestall any post examination malpractice.
- vi. Answer sheets have been modified to make them user friendly.
- vii. Enlargement of the membership of the examination watch group whereby all tertiary institutions including Covenant

University take part in monitoring JAMB examinations.

10.3 Prompt Release of Results

The results of the 2007 Universities Matriculation Examination (UME) were released and posted online within three weeks of the examination. While that of 2007 Monotechnics, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education Matriculation Examination (MPCEME) released and posted online within eleven days.

The 2008 UME results were released within 11 days While that of MPCEME was released and posted online within one week of the examination. The tempo was sustained and improved upon as promised as the 2009 UME result was released within six days after the examination.

The release of most candidates results eliminated the problem of unscannable scripts. Candidates no longer need to bombard the gate of JAMB all in the name of one result or the other.

Online original result slip and admission letters commenced with the 2008 admission year for candidates offered provisional admission.

10.4 Synergy with NUC and NYSC

A tripartite meeting of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), National Universities Commission (NUC) and the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) was held in April 2008 to review the 2009/2010 UME/DE brochure. This harmonises admission requirements and ensure that universities run

accredited courses only.

10.5 Harmonisation of Remedial Programmes:

Institutions have complied with the directive of the Federal Ministry of Education that remedial students should be made to sit for the UME or MPCEME instead of going on to programmes directly.

10.6 Confidence

Confidence has now been restored into the operations of JAMB. The public is more at alert and it is believed that JAMB has woken up. The clamour for the scrapping of JAMB has come to a halt. My staff can boastfully and openly claim that they are from JAMB. I am also a proud motivator of the good people of JAMB. They are just wonderful and proud of their jobs.

11.0 Closing

A sage once posited the law of CAUSE and EFFECT by saying that

Every action generates a force of energy that returns to us in like kind... what we sow is what we reap.

And when we choose actions that bring happiness and success to others, the fruit of our karma is happiness and success.

It is obvious that the converse is also true. Hence, I commend you to this saying

As you go into the world, may the Lord give you the light of his

wisdom, to dispel the darkness of your mind, and to heal your mental continuum. God will nourish you with this goodness, that you in turn may nourish all beings. With an unceasing banquet of delight.

In Jesus Name (Amen).