



President Goodluck Jonathan

Jonathan

SEEKS PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION

President Goodluck Jonathan has advised Nigerian Universities and other Higher Institutions of learning to seek partnership with private sector that can assist the government in funding education in the country.

Dr. Jonathan gave the advice while speaking at the 23rd Convocation Ceremony of the Federal University of Technology, Akure.

The President emphasized that the need to cater for other sectors and the huge amount of money required to fund education have warranted the resolution to seek the cooperation of the private sector as the Government alone cannot provide the funds needed to run Higher Institutions of learning in the country.

He charged Nigerian Universities to produce graduates who would be job creators and investors of liberating inventions that would ensure technological and scientific breakthroughs in the country.

While commending the peaceful running of the University academic calendar, the President lauded the contributions of the Institution to the course of national development.

President Jonathan who was represented by the Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission, Professor Julius Okojie stated that the winning of the World Bank Research Grant of over one billion Naira was a testimony to the dedication of the University to conduct relevant research.

Dr. Jonathan informed that Nigerian Universities will be assessed by the quality of graduates they turn out yearly and the relevance of their researches to national needs.

He enjoined the graduands to be good ambassadors of the University and the country by demonstrating the academic and moral

excellence instilled in them while in the University.

Speaking after the University's Honorary Degree of Management Technology was conferred on him, the former head of National Interim Government, Chief Ernest Shonekan opined that investment in education is investment in the future of the country.

Chief Shonekan appealed to the Federal Government and other stakeholders in education to give attention to the decaying infrastructure in the nation's higher institutions of learning, warning that quality education cannot be acquired with the poor infrastructure and facilities in the country's educational Institutions.

He, however, called on the Universities to focus on development-oriented research and make them available to both the public and private sectors for implementation.

The former Head of Interim Government expressed appreciation to the Management of FUTA for the honour done him and promised to further contribute to the development of education in the country.

Also, the Governor of Ondo State, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko who was awarded with the University's Honorary Degree of Science joined his co-awardee, Chief Shonekan in expressing concern on how educational Institutions are run in the country.

Governor Mimiko emphasized that the Federal Government should look for more creative ways of running the nation's higher institutions of learning so as to meet the purpose for which they were established.

He lauded the University for noticing his efforts at transforming Ondo State and expressed happiness at the honour and development the presence of FUTA has brought to Ondo State and other neighbouring states.