



FUTA NEWS

FORMER HEAD OF SERVICE PRESCRIBES WAY FORWARD FOR NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES

In order to eradicate the academic, administrative, financial and ethical challenges facing the Nigerian University system and position it to win in the 22nd century, the Federal Government and other stakeholders have been advised to carry out urgent reforms of the System. Professor Oladapo Afolabi, former Head of Service of the Federation stated this while delivering the 2015 Convocation Lecture of the Federal University of Technology, Akure, FUTA. Speaking on the topic “Repositioning the Nigerian University System to Defeat the Challenges of Today and Winning in the 22nd Century” Afolabi urged the Federal Government to begin the plan of granting full autonomy to Universities as a first step in the reform process.

Afolabi who stressed the negative impact of the delay of reforming the system reiterated that one of the most important reforms urgently needed, apart from the quality of staff and students, learning environment and other infrastructure, University business model and thrust, is the funding model that will enable the required autonomy for self-determination in Universities. He explained that self-determination of content, pace and nature of development and competitive remuneration are prerequisites and critical to transforming the Nigerian Universities from locals to global champions in the present and future. He pointed out that Universities had roles to play to put them on the leading edge of the 22nd century’s academic and business worlds and keep them relevant,

particularly in the face of the world's porous information borders. Stressing the roles of Universities further, Afolabi described the education of the masses as key to leading the change to becoming 22nd century Universities and sustaining the world in general. The guest lecturer who opined that the world was already experiencing the infantile stage of the 22nd century advised stakeholders not to get stuck in the present but to look forward to showcasing and implementing the best of the 21st century thinking before the transition. He urged Universities to create new ideas and acquire knowledge that are dynamic, modern and fit for the decades ahead by aligning new directions to their Institutions' core purposes and values.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Daramola in his remark at the occasion, described the lecture as insightful and timely given the enormity of challenges facing Nigerian Universities in the fulfilment of their mandates and explained that the lecture among other activities marking the convocation was to add value and bridge the gap between Nigerian Universities and their place of pride as effective citadels of learning.

The Vice-Chancellor said FUTA had established specialized Centers with specific mandate geared towards the achievement of beneficial outputs in line with its forward looking posture. He added that the University had expanded its horizon to further actualize its core mandate of teaching, research and community development by the addition of the School of Health and Health Technology and the commencement of new courses such as Physiology, Human Anatomy, Medical Biochemistry, Biomedical Technology, Accounting, Economics, Business Administration and Computer Engineering.

Dignitaries from all walks were present at the Lecture including the Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Universities Commission, Professor Julius Okojie and the University's immediate past Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Balogun.