



FUTA NEWS

USE YOUR POSITION TO FOSTER PEACE IN THE UNIVERSITY – DARAMOLA TELLS STUDENTS UNION LEADERS

Leaders of the Students' Union at the Federal University of Technology, Akure have been called upon to use their positions to foster peace and unity among all stakeholders in the University. This call was made by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Daramola while declaring open a 3-day leadership retreat organized for the new executives of the Union held at the Premier Holiday Resort, Igbara Oke. The training is an annual event organized to expose students' leaders to the rudiments of leadership and prepare them for greater responsibilities in the future.

Daramola said "FUTA is committed not only to human resource training and development of its workforce, but also to the training of Students' Union leaders who are involved in the process of governance in our University. Thus, it has become the tradition of the University Management at the onset of a new FUTASU Executive to organize leadership training for the new Students' Leaders. I, therefore urge you to lead in a way that will foster peace, unity and harmony within the system."

Speaking on the management's expectation from the retreat, Professor Daramola said "it is our expectation that at the end of this programme, you would have been positively impacted to lead a 21st Century Students' Union imbued with dynamic academic culture that promotes dialogue, consultation and positive initiatives. I also believe that the retreat will spur you to work in harmony with other stakeholders in the system to make impactful contributions to the building of a strong, virile and high-flying Institution that focuses among other things on academic breakthroughs, cult-free environment, peaceful coexistence, financial prudence and

students' welfare. Daramola reiterated his administration's open-door policy that will always adequately carry students' leaders along on any matter that will have direct impact on their colleagues. He also expressed the expectation that students' executive will reciprocate management's good gesture to justify the confidence reposed in them by their fellow students to achieve peace, harmony and crime-free environment that will further aid teaching, learning and research breakthrough which the University is noted for. He commended the effort of the Students' Affairs Division through the Dean, Professor Kayode Aleso in fostering unity between management and the division and enjoined students to route their suggestions, observations and complaints to management through the Division.

In his address, Dean, Students' Affairs, Professor Kayode Aleso reminded them of the responsibilities attached to leadership. "As new leaders, we want you to note that leadership is a great privilege. A lot of responsibilities come with leadership. It therefore means that as leaders we are not to lord it over our followers, rather we are to represent these followers and protect their interest".

He warned them against rascality saying "the time of hooliganism and vandalization of properties is over. No matter who you are and what your grievances are, the best method of achieving your desire is through negotiation. Students should learn as from now that violence does not pay anybody." Professor Aleso thanked the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebisi Daramola and his team for being always responsive to the needs of the students and running an open door administration which is all-inclusive.

Presenting the lead paper titled Students Unionism: A Potent Instrument for the promotion of FUTA Brand, Professor David Oke of the Department of Forestry and Wood Technology (FWT) said "if a University thrives, the value of its brand will increase. Every University needs a brand and an image that can be trusted and that will differentiate it from the others". Oke who said "University brand is about the public perception and reputation developed in the public domain" urged students' leaders to play active roles in building and sustaining a positive brand for their Institution.

According to him, Students' leaders and students generally can promote the University brand by understanding, expressing and representing the distinctiveness of the brand. This is achievable through every encounter they have in their studentship or outside. "Whether the encounter occurs in the classroom, in an administrative office, through a campus event, online, in person, or on the phone, each experience either fosters or erodes institutional trust" he said. Oke also said FUTA Students' leaders can build the University brand by maintaining good personal and collective reputation, cultivating a culture of excellence, avoiding scandals and negative publicity.

"Some Universities are noted for excellence, while others are noted for rascality. If you mention the name of certain Universities, what come to the mind of people is cultism, examination malpractices, commercialization of degree and the likes, while others are noted for excellence. FUTA is noted for excellence and research breakthrough. This is a good brand which should be sustained. You have roles to play as students and students leaders" Oke added. He said, world class Universities like Harvard, Cambridge, Oxford, Stanford, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Princeton, Yale and others have remained globally relevant because they have sustained their brand and reputation built over the years. "Our Universities in Nigeria can become like them. This is possible if all involved (staff, students and other stakeholders) play their roles positively" he said. Concluding, Oke said "To promote the University brand, every member of the University community must understand the brand promise, live the brand promise, maintain good personal reputation and avoid negative publicity".

He said "FUTA students could embrace hard work, maintain peace and stay out of trouble. FUTA brand would soar to the benefit of staff, student and alumni. The Students Union can make this happen by promoting peace, supporting the weak and encouraging hard work."

Other papers presented are, Conflict Management strategies: Negotiation Skills, Communication and Balancing Commitment by Professor Peter Aborisade; The Role of Students Leaders in Curbing Misdemeanor

and Social Vices within and outside the campus by Mr. Agbelusi Olayinka; The Leadership Tool Kits: Integrity, Ethics and Discipline by Barrister B. J. Adaramola; Engaging in Innovative Leadership in a Recessional Economy by Prof. J. O. Okunlola and Strategies for Building Trust and Shared Vision: An Agenda for Membership Involvement and Commitment by Dr. (Mrs.) Bode-Sawe.