



# Covenant University Newsflash

A weekly update of News and Events in Covenant University June 27- July1, 2016

## 11th Convocation: Dr. Oyedepo Urges Federal Government to Invest in Education

The Chancellor, Covenant University, Dr. David Oyedepo, has urged the Federal Government to change its value system and invest in education, which he called the intellectual laboratory of any nation and the engine that propels the economy.

Dr. Oyedepo made the call on Friday, June 24, 2016 in his paper titled, "Towards the Rescue of a Nation on the Brink of Intellectual Bankruptcy," delivered at the 11th Convocation Ceremony of the University. He observed that without a formidable intellectual base, it is not likely that any society would move forward.

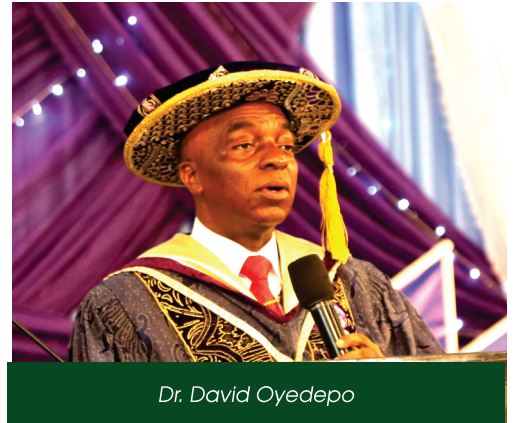
"If the society continues to neglect her schools, it could not educate her citizens. Consequently, the political landscape would be littered with illiterate politicians and the society would be incapable of gathering and maintaining a reasonable database for national planning and other

developmental programmes," he explained.

The Chancellor equally observed that the secret behind the development of the advanced nations is quality investment in education. He cited examples of Israel, Singapore and Ireland, adding that lack of good education would contribute to many social ills, including crime, prostitution and the break-down in law and order.

Dr. Oyedepo, who is also the Chairman, Board of Regents of the University said that though Israel is just 0.2% of the world's population (6 million people), it has produced 108 Nobel Prize Winners in all the categories. "Out of every five Nobel Prize Winners is a Jew," he hinted.

"Many a time, one is tempted to ask, 'why is the Israeli nation so powerful?' Dr. Oyedepo asked but quickly provided the



Dr. David Oyedepo

answer, "Israel has the highest ratio of university degrees to the population in the whole world. In proportion to its population, Israel has the highest number of start-up companies in the world second only to the US in absolute terms

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## 11th Convocation: "Be Mindful of the Company You Keep" Vice-Chancellor Advised Fresh Graduates

The class of 2016 of Covenant University has been advised to be mindful of the company they keep which is able to determine what accompanied them in life. They were also told to maintain good character in order not to lose everything.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Charles Ayo gave the advice during the 11th Convocation Ceremony tagged, "The Release of Eagles 2016" at the University campus on Friday, June 24, 2016.

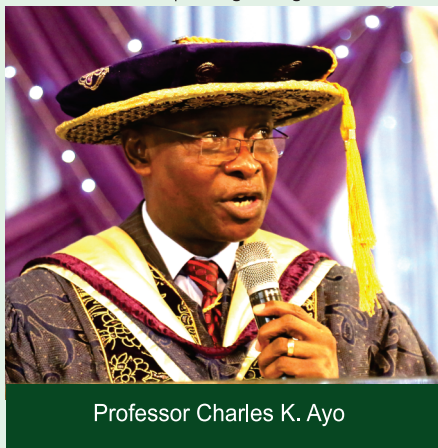
Professor Ayo said, "Please remember that managing success is a difficult task. Be mindful of your identity. A lot of persons desire to see what you have seen, hear what you have heard and tread where you have trodden but never had the privilege. Eagles don't flock,

they soar. Be mindful of the company you keep. Remember, the companies you keep determine what accompanies you."

The Vice-Chancellor also used the occasion to reel out the strategies engaged by the University in the last four years to achieve the level of success it attained in a speech he titled, "Celebrating the Faithfulness of God upon the University." "To the glory of God, by His divine and faithfulness, we have instituted strategic goals that have distinguished us as clear leaders among the comity of universities not only in Nigeria but in Africa in general."

Some of the strategies, according to him, include compulsory internship for all students to gain industry experience; additional certifications in ICT, Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Foreign Language; monthly Town and Gown seminar series in all departments to bridge the gaps between theory and practice; establishment of industry Partnership Directorate to drive product commercialization.

Others are introduction of mobile learning system for improved external and internal efficiency; elastic budget for overseas conference support and international exposures and establishing of the 'Dreamers Initiative' to raise thinkers,



Professor Charles K. Ayo

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## Professor Gana Advocates Skills Acquisition to Boost Graduate Employability

To make Nigerian graduates employable, emphasis has to be laid on skills development programmes to equip them.

This was the submission of the former Nigerian Minister of Information and Orientation, Professor Jerry Gana, on Friday, June 24, 2016, while delivering a Keynote Address at the 11th Convocation Ceremony of Covenant University, Ota.

Professor Gana who spoke on, "Improving Graduate Employability and Global Competitiveness: A Review of Nigeria Higher Education Delivery," emphasised that skills acquisition is the most powerful key to making Nigerian graduates more employable by both the public and private sectors of the economy.

"We must place great emphasis on skills development. The driving force of the development process in the world today is 'know-how,' not mere education with certificates," he explained.

Professor Gana, who is also the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman Governing Council of the University of Lagos (UNILAG) pointed out that know-how is a product of skill acquisition. "While talent may be a gift, skill must be sought after and acquired," he added.

"Those with skills are most likely to be people of ideas and creativity, especially in their area of expertise. Therefore, the way to go to make Nigerian graduates more employable is to soak

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## CUCRID Facility Poses Challenge to Faculty – Chancellor

The Chancellor and Chairman Board of Regents of Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Dr. David Oyedepo, has expressed hope that the new ultra-modern Covenant University Centre for Research, Innovation and Discovery (CUCRID) will wake up the potential in the institution's lecturers, otherwise known as the Faculty.

Dr. Oyedepo made this wish at the commissioning ceremony of the CUCRID building, which was part of the events held in commemoration of the 11th Convocation Ceremony of Covenant University.

The Chancellor, who described the unveiling of the imposing edifice as the celebration of versatility of the brain power, said its construction wholly by Nigerians shows that creativity and ingenuity is not the exclusive preserve of a particular race.

"We are celebrating versatility of the brain power," he said. "We are equally endowed across all races; it is just the lack of adequate engagement of such brain power that has kept us down.

"My joy is that Covenant University has proved that Africa has same right to create.

### 11th Convocation: Dr. Oyedepo Urges Federal Government to Invest in Education *Contd. from Pg 1*

and has the highest average living standard in the Middle East. The per capita income in year 2000 was over 17, 500 USD, exceeding that of the UK," he informed the audience.

The Chancellor also noted that education was the 'real constant' in solving the nation's complex equation of economic growth and development. However, according to him, it is not just education but what he called 'right kind of education' which he said Covenant University was out to provide.

"This is the crux of our vision and mission in Covenant University which is to help provide the right kind of education as

There is no foreign input of any kind, no overdraft from any bank. We are introducing sound management ; and as people enter the facility, we wish that the potential of our faculty will come alive."

The whole essence of CUCRID, explained Dr. Oyedepo, is to bring together men and women who are committed to success and not intimidated to solve societal problems. People from the most developed nations, he added, must come and look for something at CUCRID.

"With places like this springing up all over the country, I believe Nigeria is ready to spring," the Chancellor stated before going on to formally commission the

entrenched in our mandate, founding philosophy and core values among others. Our strength as an institution is in our emphasis on personal discipline and integrity, which we believe are fundamental requirement for all agents of change.

"Today, by the grace of God, we can boast of a disciplined and well-groomed student body on a campus most conducive for living and learning, the Covenant brand of graduate, such as are being released to their world today. This is our mission and we shall continue to march with gusto and great tenacity, towards the total realization of this noble course," he p r o m i s e d ■



Dr. David Oyedepo cutting the rope for the commissioning of CUCRID Building

building and dedicate it to God.

Earlier on in his remarks, the CU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Charles Ayo, described the construction of the CUCRID building as symbolic, particularly in furtherance of the university's vision of being among the top 10 universities in the world by the year 2022.

"We are four years into the vision and have already made very significant progress," he said. "We must appreciate our dear Chancellor and the Board of Regents for finding it worthy to endow a facility of this magnitude. ■

### 11th Convocation: "Be Mindful of the Company You Keep" Vice-Chancellor Advised Fresh Graduates

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solution providers and entrepreneurs among the students.

All these strategies, the Vice-Chancellor said, has won awards and recognition for the University. These include the African Private University of the Year (2015); special Congressional Commendation from the US Legislative Black Caucus for pioneering excellence and innovation in tertiary education in Africa (2016); one of the top 10 universities in the 2016 IBM Watson Analytics Global Competition; number 2 university in Nigeria and 3 in West Africa as well as number 1 in Web Repositories in Nigeria and West Africa (2016) among others ■

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Professor Jerry Gana

them with high quality learning which emphasis skills not mere certificates. Skills

acquisition programmes should be offered in all universities," he advised.

The Keynote Speaker cited examples of countries which placed emphasis on skills acquisition, which according to him was as high as 70% in Germany; 80% in Japan and 92% in South Korea, but only 23% in India and less than 10% in Nigeria.

He stressed the need for the nation's education system to de-emphasise paper certification and focused on know-how and skills, noting that there is a world of difference between reading to pass exams and studying to have knowledge and acquire know-how.

The former Minister also argued that academic programmes must be related to

the needs of the society. He said, "Irrelevance of academic programmes to the needs of the national economy constitutes some of the problems affecting the Nigerian university system. Whereas knowledge for its own sake may be valuable, the question of relevance greatly affects the rate of employability. Many of our academic programmes are totally irrelevant to the developmental needs of the economy."

Moreover, Professor Gana advised that for Nigerian universities to be in the league of the world-class universities, the challenges of poor access or low carrying capacity, poor staff-students ratio and quality control as well as poor linkages between academic programmes and essential needs of the national economy must be addressed. ■