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ADDRESS OF THE CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**PROF. DR. JOSEPH IKECHUKWU CHIDOBEM**



*Address of the Chairman Board of Trustee on the First Convocation of GO University*

Your Excellency, Barr. Sullivan, Iheanacho Chime, Executive Governor, Enugu State,  
Your Excellency, Rt Hon. Alhaji Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, Speaker of the House of  
Representatives,  
Hon. Members of the National Assembly and the Federal Executive Council,  
Your Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Callistus Valentine Chukwuma Onaga, the Catholic  
Bishop of Enugu Diocese and Proprietor of the University,  
Your Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Anthony Okonkwo Gbuji, Emeritus Catholic Bishop of  
Enugu Diocese,  
Your Lordships, Visiting Catholic Bishops of other Dioceses,  
Hon. Speaker, Enugu State House of Assembly, Barr. Eugene Odo  
Members of State Executive Councils and State Houses of Assembly,  
The Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission, Professor Julius Okojie,  
Members of the Board of Trustees, Godfrey Okoye University,  
The Pro-Chancellor, Godfrey Okoye University, Prof. Dr. Christian Nwachukwu  
Okeke,  
The Vice Chancellor, Godfrey Okoye University, Rev. Fr. Prof. Dr. Christian Chikelu  
Anieke,  
Visiting Pro-Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors of Sister Universities,  
Members of Godfrey Okoye University Governing Council,  
Heads of other Tertiary Institutions and Parastatals,  
Principal Officers of Godfrey Okoye University,  
My Lords, Spiritual and Temporal  
Chairmen and Members of Local Government Councils,  
Your Royal Highnesses,  
Learned Professors and Members of the Godfrey Okoye University Senate,  
Deans and Directors of Godfrey Okoye University,  
Heads of Departments of Godfrey Okoye University,  
Academic and Administrative Staff of Godfrey Okoye University,  
Academic and Administrative Staff of the Institute of Ecumenical Education,  
Members of the Fourth Estate of the Realm, Parents, Guardians and Students of  
Godfrey Okoye University  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Godfrey Okoye University, I, with absolute  
reverence to Almighty, deep gratitude and humility, welcome you all our very



distinguished personalities to the Maiden Convocation Ceremonies of our University. I express a very special welcome to His Excellency, Barrister Sullivan Iheanacho Chime, Governor of Enugu State, our Proprietor, the Catholic Bishop of Enugu Diocese, His Excellency, Most Rev. Dr. Callistus Valentine Chukwuma Onaga and His Excellency, Rt. Honourable Aminu Waziru Tambuwal, the Honourable Speaker, Federal House of Representatives. We are indeed immensely grateful that Your Excellencies have continued to honour us with your distinguished presence at every very important occasion in our University despite your very tight schedules.

I also welcome other distinguished personalities, our cherished parents and guardians and indeed all proponents of the education sector especially tertiary education who have assembled here today to celebrate with us the tremendous joy of our Maiden Convocation Ceremonies.

Your Excellencies and distinguished guests, the events of these Maiden Convocation Ceremonies climaxing in today's activities bear eloquent testimonies that Godfrey Okoye University is indeed a truly Catholic Diocesan University, with very high capacity for greatness and the first of its kind in Africa. We remain resolute in our resolve to project Godfrey Okoye University as a springboard to transform the character of our universities and uplift our country to a truly knowledge-driven twenty first century modern nation. We are confident that with unwavering commitment, sacrifice and absolute trust in God we shall emerge triumphant.

Among the compelling obligations of a university is to produce high caliber manpower worthy in character and learning. For Godfrey Okoye University, the attainment of noble character and competence as indispensable components of training will not be compromised. The Board of Trustees, Governing Council, Management and staff are propelled to discharge their assignments with diligence because we realize that many of the famous universities in the world are faith based private universities. We are also confident that with our visionary and dynamic Visitor, an inspiring, experience and proactive Board of Trustees, a charismatic and focused Chancellor, a diligent, responsible and



resourceful Governing Council, an ebullient, imaginative and innovative Management, an intelligent, purposeful and honourable Senate, a competent and motivated Staff and an increasingly enhanced conducive academic environment GOU will stand out and remain as a true centre of academic and service excellence. The strong passion with which each level of authority has vigorously pursued its mandate in a truly harmonious interplay has been clearly demonstrated by the timely First Convocation ceremonies of our University.

The modest progress that has been attained thus far culminating in today's event would, of course, have been impossible if we had not had on the Board of Trustees, Governing Council and Management, the caliber of men and women entrusted with the governance of our University. Each of them has brought distinct gifts of remarkable values, which have enriched all our decisions. Indeed, these are men and women who have put service before everything else. Their sacrifice of time and energy truly evoke nothing but our gratitude and admiration. I personally thank them for the support they have given me. This has simplified the task of an otherwise very difficult job.

For Godfrey Okoye University to sustain the current efforts, justify the trust and investments of the Visitor towards her continued improvement, it becomes imperative that the Mission and Vision of GOU determine the criteria by which materials are selected, goals outlined and strategies adopted for the fulfillment of the expectations of the stakeholders of GOU. Let me assure you that the mission of GOU which is to impart quality education aimed at inculcating in our students strong personality that will ensure the promotion of religious, cultural and epistemological dialogue is being vigorously pursued.

There is currently no national challenge that knowledge cannot solve, and we do have a large reservoir of knowledge that our universities can contribute to resolve our national challenges. What is required is dogged sacrifice and understanding. We must do all we can to make our universities provide an appropriate reward for their beneficiaries, and the optimum thrust for national development efforts.



We appreciate that one of the major constraints threatening our University from attaining greatness and sustainability is funding. To enable us confront this obvious intimidating challenge, the Board of Trustees, Governing Council, Management and Senate unanimously embarked on an aggressive Capital Project Campaign to solicit for and secure critical funds and resources to execute Capital Projects for the University under the distinguished Chairmanship of a great friend of the University, Rt. Honourable Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, Hon Speaker, Federal House of Representatives. I am indeed delighted to acknowledge that the response to the GOU Capital Projects Campaign has catalyzed our progression towards sustainable accomplishments.

We use this unique opportunity to again express our deep gratitude to all those who have strongly encouraged us with notable support. Prominent among them are; His Excellency Barr. Sullivan I. Chime who approved the construction of an access road to our Permanent Site, His Excellency Rt. Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, Speaker House of Representatives who in addition to serving as Chairman of GOU Capital Project Campaign generously undertook the construction of a State-of-the-art University Auditorium at our Permanent Site Ugwuomu; Honourable members of the Federal House of Representatives led by Honourable Ogbuefi Ozomgbachi, who in strong solidarity with the benevolent contributions of Rt. Honourable Tambuwal, readily undertook the construction of the University Cafeteria, Chief Nnamdi Abba who has undertaken the construction of the University Lake Resort and Prof. Julius Okojie Recreation Centre at an estimated cost of six hundred million naira (N600,000,000.00); the Catholic Women Organization (CWO) Enugu Diocese who are currently constructing a modern Female Hostel at the Permanent Site among other generous donors. We also extend our gratitude to our collaborating Universities in Europe, the United States, South Africa, and within Nigeria who have entered into robust linkages with us in our collective efforts to enthrone academic excellence. Distinguished guests, please permit me to use this golden opportunity of today, to humbly and passionately appeal to all of you, our very cherished friends and stakeholders to make more generous donations and commitments to our genuine efforts to provide academic and service excellence.



Distinguished guests, let me at this juncture sincerely congratulate all our graduands on the successful completion of their various programmes, and on their being found worthy both in character and learning as a result of which they are today being admitted into the community of pioneer Alumni and Alumnae of this University. We share with your parents and guardians the joy of these attainments and charge you to be worthy ambassadors of this great University. As you receive your well deserved honour, I convey to you, our very warm felicitations and urge you to thread the path of honour and virtues alike to enable you render excellent service to our great fatherland in particular and humanity in general.

I congratulate all the staff of the University who worked diligently to produce these young graduates being presented to the world today as men and women adequately groomed in GOU, with magnificent prospects for a successful future. I congratulate even more specially their teachers and supervisors, who painstakingly guided them towards the realization of their aspirations. I also congratulate their parents and guardians who provided these graduates with the appropriate financial and moral support that enabled them to succeed.

I have reserved special congratulations to our Honorary Awardees for the recognition and honour being bestowed on them today. It is a thing of pride to be so selected for this rare honour by a University. These eminent citizens of our country have distinguished themselves most creditably in their chosen careers and vocation with outstanding devotion, diligence, commitment and sacrifice for the progress of our people. These illustrious and patriotic great men are His Excellency Rt. Honourable Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, the Honorable Speaker of the Federal House of Representatives, His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Anthony Okonkwo Gbuji, the Emeritus Catholic Bishop of Enugu Diocese and founder of GOU and Dr. Emmanuel O. Egbogah, former Special Adviser to Mr. President, on Petroleum Matters. We urge them to continue with the good work which has earned them their well merited recognition.

With immense appreciation and humility, I thank again as always with profound gratitude everyone who made today's occasion possible especially His Lordship,



Most Rev. Dr. Callistus Valentine Chukwuma Onaga, the Catholic Bishop of Enugu Diocese, for his forbearance, encouragement and love in my current assignment. Your Lordship, this Board and I solemnly pledge that we will not disappoint you, but will continue to make you proud. I will most assiduously discharge my responsibilities with dedication and sagacity and sustain good working relationship with all stakeholders in the development of our GOU. We are full of optimism that under the leadership of this Board, Godfrey Okoye University will certainly become a University where excellence is a cherished norm.

Your Excellency, the Proprietor of the University, Your Excellency the Enugu State Governor, Your Excellency Rt. Honourable Speaker of the House of Representatives, Your Royal Highnesses, My Lords, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I welcome you all once again to the University and thank you for sharing with us the ecstasy of our First Convocation.

God bless you all.

**Prof. I. J. Chidobem**

Chairman, Board of Trustees  
Godfrey Okoye University

HIS EXCELLENCY  
MOST REV. DR. C. V. C. ONAGA