

**AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. OLUSEGUN AGAGU, THE GOVERNOR OF ONDO STATE, ON THE OCCASION OF INAUGURATION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCILS OF ADEKUNLE AJASIN UNIVERSITY, AKUNGBA-AKOKO AND RUFUS GIWA POLYTECHNIC, OWO, ON WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2008 AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE GROUND, AKURE.**

It is a great delight for me to inaugurate today, the Governing Councils of Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, and Rufus Giwa Polytechnic, Owo, as part of this Administration's steady pursuit of the transformation of the education sector in the State.

At the end of today's ceremony, we would have inaugurated the third in the series of Governing Councils for Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko and the eight for Rufus Giwa Polytechnic, Owo. I congratulate all members on their well deserved appointment.

For years, Governing Councils have provided good platform for the formulation of policies and articulation of same to meet the aspirations of the government, staff and students as well as the society, thereby ensuring growth and purposeful development of a state and the nation at large. Therefore, membership of a Governing Council in this State is a challenge usually reserved for some of the bet hands in the land.

I need not remind the gentlemen and ladies being inaugurated that you are being collectively charged with the general control and superintendence of the policy, finances and property(ies) of the institution and also act in such manners which, in your opinion will promote the interests, objectives and purposes for which the institutions are established.

As men and women of proven integrity, I charge you to let your focus be that of evolving sustainable development, developing enviable standards, promoting welfare of workers and students of the institutions in sustaining cordial relationship with other higher institutions in the country and the international community. The recognition of the Adekunle Ajasin as the best University by the National Universities Commission should spur us to do more in all our tertiary institutions.

I believe that your task will be made less cumbersome if you allow yourselves to be guided by the statues which established the institutions and the clearly spelt out functions of the Governing Councils. You should also not lose focus of the objectives of the institutions in your strive towards entrenching excellence and development in all spheres.

Let me reiterates, once again, that the commitment of this Administration to quality education is total. At all levels, we shall continue to put in place befitting infrastructure, ensure a salvage mission we have embarked upon in the education sector and we can modestly claim that we have rescued the sector from the abyss in which it was plunged.

Let me at this juncture thank members of the immediate past Governor Councils of the two institutions for their meritorious services. The re-appointment of a number of them into the new Councils and in some cases into other government agencies is also a clear evidence of our satisfaction with their service.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is now my pleasure to hereby inaugurate the Governing Councils of Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, and Rufus Giwa Polytechnic, Owo, to the glory of God and advancement of education in Ondo State.

Thank you and God bless you all.