UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS
NIGERIA

SPEECH
BY
THE VICE-CHANCELLOR,
PROFESSOR RAHAMON A. BELLO
AT THE
2012/2013 DISTANCE LEARNING
INSTITUTE MATRICULATION
CEREMONY
ON THURSDAY, 20TH MARCH, 2014
IN THE UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Research), Professor Babajide Alo
The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Management Services), Professor Duro Oni
The Registrar, Dr. (Mrs.) Taiwo F. Ipaye
The Bursar, Mr. Lateef A. Odekunle
The University Librarian, Dr. (Mrs.) Olukemi A. Fadehan
The Provost College of Medicine, Professor (Mrs.) Folasade T. Ogunsola
Chairman, DLI Management Board, Professor J. D. Olowokudejo
Director, Distance Learning Institute, Professor Olufunke Lawal
Dean of Student Affairs, Prof. O. Amund
Deputy Director, Distance Learning Institute, Dr. M. P. Kuton
Institute Secretary, Mr. O. Adeyemo
My Dear Matriculants,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen
Gentlemen of the Press

It is my great pleasure to be at the 2012/2013 matriculation ceremony of the Distance Learning Institute, University of Lagos.

Matriculation is one of the highly treasured traditions of a university. It serves as:

- a forum to formally present and declare you as *bona fide* students of the University.
- a ceremony to fully integrate you into the academic community.
- to afford you the opportunity of seeing and knowing the Principal Officers of the University as well members of the Institute Management Board.
- the ceremony to mark the commencement of a series of activities designed to introduce you to the Open Distance Learning system and ensure that you derive the greatest benefits from the resources available in the
Institute. Indeed, it is a milestone in your academic career and development.

I am aware you have completed an academic session and the ceremony could not hold earlier. Nevertheless, it’s better late than never.

Dear Matriculants, I congratulate you for this great opportunity to be offered an admission to acquire a University degree through the Open and Distance Learning Mode of the University of Lagos, the University of first choice in Nigeria.

A total of 6,360 applications were received for the 2012/2013 admission exercise into the Distance Learning Institute, but only 3,548 of you have been able to scale through the hurdles of admission and registration processes. I am delighted to announce to you that we are matriculating a total of 3,548 into the existing programmes of the Institute consisting of B.Sc. (Business Administration), B.Sc. (Accounting), B.Sc. (Economics), B.Sc. (Public Administration) B.Sc. (Education/Mathematics), B.Sc. (Education/Biology), B.Sc. (Education/Chemistry and B.Sc. (Education/Physics).

I congratulate the DLI Management Board, DLI Management, Staff and students of DLI for the giant strides in academic development of the Institute.
We have remained focused and committed to the philosophy and values of the founding fathers of this University since its inception in 1962/63 and also to the current societal needs and global relevance.

The guiding principle of this University has been to make meaningful impact on the developmental needs of the nation through the provision of quality university education.

Let me assure you that you will derive maximum benefits from the various courses being offered in the Institute, if you pursue your academic studies with necessary vigour and commitment. You are enjoined to shun examination misconduct and other deviant vices of any kind. This University expects you to serve as shining models of exemplary behavior and dedication to academic excellence.

I am delighted to let you know that the Institute has incorporated its active website into Unilag Website. Also, a 500 capacity seater E-Learning Resource Centre has been situated within the Distance Learning Institute and a E-library is being incorporated into the Library Services of the Institute. These facilities are specifically designed and constructed to facilitate the E-Learning processes and procedures.

Rigorous efforts are on-going on writing, editing and reviewing of all lecture modules with particular attention to quality of content and mode of delivery.
Many of these modules have been uploaded on DLI Website for your benefit. Many more are in process. This is being complemented by employment of competent academic staff who would be trained as ODL facilitators to inter-face e-learning, and thereby reduce face-to-face interaction with students.

At this juncture, it is of paramount importance to note that it used to be that the basic requirements to be a literate citizen were reading and writing skills, but literacy now extends beyond into digital and media literacies that include skills needed to use various technologies effectively. For example, using a computer, basic Web skills to navigate and seek out information online, produce and author content and contribute constructively to a conversation in a digital community are critical not only for jobs and career advancement, but also for individuals to fulfill basic needs, get equal access to opportunities and become active participants in modern society.

Furthermore, the Open and Distance Learning mode places great emphasis on your total welfare through the introduction of a strong learner/student support system. The various initiatives mentioned above are, among others, aimed at effecting the necessary streamlining and restructuring towards achieving the pure Distance Learning mode of education delivery in all its ramifications.
We are working hard to consolidate our gains and be more competitive through the application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) through strategic self-efforts and partnerships/collaboration at both local and international levels.

Dear Matriculants, let me assure you that the University will do all it can to make your studies stress-free. You are also strongly advised to ensure that the high standard, for which this Institute has been noted over the years, is not compromised through deviant practices in any form. As mature students, this University expects you to serve as role models both in learning and character. Let me also inform you that the University has zero tolerance for examination misconduct for which deterrent measures have been put in place, including electronic monitoring. Please say NO to examination misconduct, drugs addiction and cultism.

I would like to acknowledge the immense cooperation that this administration continues to receive from the DLI student leadership and I look forward to an equally wise counsel, responsible and mature leadership during the current academic session.

May I seize this opportunity to thank all members of the DLI Management Board, DLI Management Committee, staff and adjunct staff, module
writers/reviewers, course coordinators and supervisors in the Institute and in the participating faculties and departments, for their commendable contributions towards the successful team work and the progress recorded so far in the Institute. I sincerely congratulate you all and enjoin you all to keep up the good work.

Once again, I congratulate you all warmly on this unique occasion and wish you a most successful academic endeavour in the University of Lagos.

Thank you.

Professor Rahamon A. Bello, FAEng.
Vice-Chancellor