

**IT IS ALL IN YOUR HANDS**



**BY**

***KOLADE LUKE AYORINDE***

***VICE - CHANCELLOR***

***KOLADAISI UNIVERSITY, IBADAN***

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**I give all the honour and glory to the Lord God Almighty** who has granted us the grace to hold this third matriculation programme of KolaDaisi University, Ibadan. A lot has happened over the last one year and I think it will interest you to know how we have fared.

Today, we are matriculating a total of 126 students into 12 programmes (Biochemistry, Computer Science, Industrial Chemistry, Microbiology, Accounting, Business Administration, Economics, Mass Communication, Political Science, English and Literary Studies, History and Diplomatic Studies and Law) in the three **Faculties of Applied Sciences, Arts, Management and Social Sciences** and our new **Faculty of Law**. By the special Grace of God, next session, we will be admitting students into the following 12 programmes for which the University has the National Universities Commission's approval: Biology, Chemistry, Cyber Security, Information Technology, Mathematics, Physics with Electronics, Software Engineering, Statistics, Banking and Finance, Marketing, Information and Media Science, and International Relations.

We are trying to be technological in our teaching and learning by introducing use of smart board, multimedia projectors and other e-teaching and learning tools. Our science laboratories have been better equipped and tailored to good learning and research, and our mass Communication studios are world- standard. We are also developing our new Faculty of Law on the path to being a Centre of Excellence by ensuring recruitment of outstanding Faculty staff, provision of a good legal clinic and well stocked library. Our staff and students continue to be outstanding and exemplary.

We are certainly making good progress under the guidance, support and sacrifice of the Founder, Chief Kola Daisi, CON, the Bashorun of Ibadan Land, Members of the Board of Trustees and the Governing Council. All the same, I solicit for the support of you our esteemed parents and friends. Donations can be in cash, buildings, vehicles, equipment, materials, books, etc, or endowment of chairs. Over the last one year, some of our friends have donated generously in cash and kind especially to developing our laboratories, library and the Law Faculty. To these worthy partners, **I express appreciation**. My special thanks go to all teaching and non teaching staff for their support, dedication, understanding and sacrifice.

Since the future development of a country is tied to its youths, Governments at all levels must make the right investments in youth education for therein lies the hope of our country. There are **three ways** the government can do this: **i) increase access to education, ii) ensure higher quality of the education system, and iii) ensure relevance of the education system by making necessary curricula reforms that will transform education and guarantee the fortunes of the youths.**

Presently, according to the World Bank, over 50% of the 200 million Nigerians are said to be poor. Indeed reports from the Brookings Institution said data from the World Poverty Clock showed that Nigeria had close to 90 million people living in poverty. If we are to stop the tide of having over 50 million extremely poor people by the year 2030 and be home to over 25% of the world's destitutes, then our Government needs to revive the economy, create jobs and invest heavily in human capital development. The country needs to advance reforms to mitigate these risks by creating greater economic opportunities. One easy way out of this gloom is to increase access to education by consistently investing in education. Statistics from JAMB indicate that yearly over one million admission seekers fail to get a place in our higher institutions despite the quota of many such institutions being unfilled. For instance, in 2018, the total number of applicants was 1 793 018 out of which only 583 250 got admission into Degree (43 Federal, 48 State and 79 Private Universities), NCE, ND and NID programmes, despite a quota of 380 477 unused. The situation was worse for the 79 Private Universities where out of a quota of 89 524 only 25 697 or 28.70% were used. In 2019, the total number of applicants was 1 989 181 while over 2.1 million are said to have applied for the current year. This unused quota should worry the government that prides itself in making education available to all. That is why you, my dear students, should count yourselves lucky and privileged to be in a University such as this. **It is therefore in your hands what you make of it.**

Private Universities have been complementing the Government's responsibility of training her citizens which should ordinarily be done by the three tiers of Government as well as developing and contributing to the manpower needs of the nation by training youths, employing a sizeable number of Nigerians, and conducting meaningful and

impactful researches for the socio economic benefits of our nation. Our Government has always pontificated that education is the bedrock of development, but fiscal policy and pattern of spending indicate that there is no robust investment or policy on qualitative education to all. The Government must therefore begin to invest more seriously in education so as to make the country a knowledge-based economy. We should give more incentives and support to operators of private institutions and their students. There is need for the National Assembly to modify or review the TETFUND Law to include Private Universities as the huge fund being disbursed by TETFUND is largely derived from the private sector. Also, there is need for the various tiers of Government to institute some form of scholarships or bursary awards specifically for students of Private Universities in Nigeria.

My dear students, I welcome you to our great campus which will be your home, God willing, for the next three or four years. I pray that all your good desires will come to pass in the Mighty Name of Jesus. However, you need to adopt strategies that will ensure success and **it is all in your hands**. I plead with you to be wise and maximise the opportunities you will be presented with. I assure you that you can go beyond your expectations or those of your parents or guardians but for you to achieve this, you must maximise every minute of your stay here. So, start early and make every minute count so you can be a high achiever. Face your studies and shun all forms of distractions. Study persistently and not just for examinations and I guarantee that you will be successful. I charge you to be hardworking, creative, diligent, resourceful, committed, honest and focused in the pursuit of your legitimate set goals at this University. Even the seemingly impossible is do-able if you put your heart and hand to it and trust God. **You can be the best possible** academically, morally, socially, professionally maritally, financialy and in all spheres of life. However, **it is all in your hands and the choice is yours**. So, go all the way out for it. Don't only admire another but put on your thinking cap and be committed to your reason for being here.

A University is not just a place of learning that you just pass through to acquire knowledge. If you do, then you don't know the value or worth of a University and you should probably be shown the way out! You are here to be modeled academically and

morally, and that is the task we are set to do. Our dear parents, **It is all in your hands too** to cooperate with us so we can groom your children properly and help them realise your and their dreams.

My dear students, your studentship of Koladasi University, Ibadan, is a privilege bestowed upon you for the acquisition of the needed academic, professional and moral skills that will enable you go out into the world and be a change agent. It is therefore important that you ensure good behavior on and off the University campus because you can only graduate if you are found worthy in both character and learning. I advise you to familiarize yourself with the rules and regulations of the University as contained in the University Academic Programme and Students Information Handbook. You are to note that the University has zero tolerance for vices and violation will attract strict sanctions. Let me warn you that KDU has no place for smoking, gangsterism, hard drugs and acts of indiscipline including pornography, indecent dressing, sexual offences, truancy, examination malpractices, cheating, fighting, etc. Violators risk expulsion, so beware and note that ignorance will not be taken as an excuse.

This University encourages scholarship and excellence. That's why we introduced the University Scholars Scheme last year to encourage competitiveness and fairness whereby the very best in each programme and level is given some form of scholarship. To be a scholar, a student must not only be the best in the level, but must have a minimum CGPA of 4.50 out of a score of 5.00 and maintain minimum of 4.00 throughout the stay in the University. Last year, three students, (SOLARIN-SODARA, O.O, ELS 4.84, AKIN-LEWIS, O. I. ECN 4.77 and OLADEJO, O. P. BCH 4.82), won the maiden edition of KDU Scholars Scheme. This year I am glad to announce our new set of scholars:

1. OLA-OSOKO Eniola Angel (FAMS/18/024 HDS 4.84), 2. PEPPLA Sophia Tamunosa (FAMS/18/033 MCM 4.68), 3. SALAMI AanuOluwapo Deborah (FAPS/18/050 MCB, 4.88), 4. SALAMI Ayokunle Olubukola (FAPS/17/0015, MCB4.76), 5. ADEGBALA AyoOluwa Joshua (FAPS/18/014 CSC 4.70), and 6 OKERE Anita Kelechi (FAPS/18/054, CSC 4.77). You will notice that female students dominate the University scholars list because the girls probably tend to spend more time in the library and at

their studies. I therefore challenge the males, especially in this third set, to see this as a challenge and sit up. You can be top of the class but **it is all in your hands.**

I encourage you to think very critically about **what you want to be, what you do and what you want to achieve.** These are three key elements that should daily guide your stay in this University. My advice to you is to **aim high** if you want to succeed in life for **you cannot be what you have not conceived in your heart and work at.** You are here to dream dreams. You are here so you can see your tomorrow today. You are here so you can be the best you are destined to be. If you don't have a dream before today, I charge you to do so immediately. Don't associate with dream terminators. Choose carefully who you associate with on and off the campus. Choose carefully where you want to be at and what you do each single hour of the day. There are a lot of prospects for you here, so tap into each of them no matter the challenges and distractions that may come your way. **It is all in your hands. Do things right and do the right things. Have a sense of purpose. Have a sense of excellence. Have a sense of diligence. Pursue excellence, integrity and personal responsibilities.**

Once again I congratulate you and your parents on this historic occasion. Today you have become students of KolaDaisi University with all the rights and privileges. **Your future is in your hands** so I urge you to start well and direct it positively. May your stay here end with testimonies in Jesus's name. Amen. **WELCOME TO THE KDU FAMILY.** Thank you all and God bless.

**Prof. Kolade Luke Ayorinde**

***Vice Chancellor***