

BEING TEXT OF THE ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY PROFESSOR SEBASTIAN SEDDI MAIMAKO ON HIS INAUGURATION AS THE 9TH SUBSTANTIVE VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF JOS ON THURSDAY 23RD JUNE, 2016 AT THE SENATE CHAMBERS, BAUCHI ROAD CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY OF JOS

The Chancellor,

Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council,

Members of Council,

The Outgoing Vice-Chancellor,

Principal Officers,

Members of Senate,

All distinguished invited Guests,

Members of the Press,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning to you all.

It is indeed a great privilege to be accorded this unique opportunity to address you on this historic occasion. As I accept this onerous responsibility, I do so with the greatest sense of humility, reverence and patriotic zeal while being fully aware of the extraordinary task before us in charting the course for the attainment of the next level of the University's development.

When the 12th Governing Council of the University approved my appointment as the 9th substantive Vice-Chancellor of our great institution following a rigorous selection process, the significance of the moment was not lost on me because when I offered myself to serve as the University's

Chief Executive, it was with the full realization of the fact that I was aspiring to lead one of the most sought after destinations for training, learning and research in Nigeria. I was also conscious of the fact that several other illustrious and distinguished academics would be expressing similar interest to occupy the respected position of Vice-Chancellor of this great University. That I was chosen ahead of the other candidates does not confer on me the status of being the most knowledgeable, most experienced or even the most excellent among them, but just a function of the Almighty God's abiding grace and mercies which He dispenses to whomever He so pleases. Since it pleases the Almighty to make me emerge at this time, I want to extend a hand of fellowship to all others who, like me, aspired to this very position but to whom providence decided that it was not yet the right time. I will count on your support and boundless wealth of experience in the necessary task of strengthening the academic competitiveness of our great University amidst the difficult socio-economic environment in which we have to operate.

I want to place on record my deep respect and appreciation to all stakeholders of this institution for providing the opportunity to enable me occupy the exalted office of Vice-Chancellor of our dear University. I wish to thank the Visitor of the University of Jos, His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari GCFR, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria; the Chancellor, Oba (Dr) David Victor Folagbade Olateru-Olagbegi III CFR, the Olowo of Owo Kingdom; the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Chief Don Obot Etiebet CON; Members of the University of Jos^{12th} Governing Council; Principal Officers of the University; Senate; Staff; Students and the entire University of Jos community for the confidence and trust reposed in me.

While I salute and acknowledge the contributions of all the past Vice-Chancellors of this great University, the outgoing Vice-Chancellor deserves special commendation for his outstanding leadership qualities, unprecedented achievements, sterling management prowess and exemplary conduct while in office. It is on record that your tenure witnessed the highest number of programmes introduced within so short a period by the University after securing the requisite approval from the National

Universities Commission; twenty-three (23) new programmes in all including Engineering, Agriculture, Veterinary Medicine and Dentistry. A significant number of infrastructural projects were also conceived, constructed and delivered under your watch. Worthy of mention are the Pedestrian Bridge linking the Village Hostel to the Naraguta Campus, reputed to be the longest in West Africa; the Medical College Complex at the Laminga Campus; the Guest Lecturers' Lodge; the Faculty of Arts Building; the Chief Richard Akinjide Centre for International Law and Diplomacy; the Post-Graduate Students Hostel and the Campus Roads network, all at the Naraguta Campus of the University among many others. Be rest assured Sir, that posterity will judge you kindly for your tireless efforts and sacrifice. Similarly, I wish to assure you that I, together with my team, will spare no effort to ensure that all the lofty projects that are yet to be completed, receive the necessary attention they deserve under the new administration to bring them to a satisfactory completion.

This brings me to the main focus of my leadership for the period 2016-2021. The overall agenda of my term in office will be closely linked to the University's Fourth Strategic Plan 2015-2019 which was unveiled last year and christened "Sustaining a Culture of Excellence".

To achieve the University's vision of being a first class institution globally rated, I have prioritized the following:

1. Strengthening industrial peace and harmony
2. Staff welfare and compensation for outstanding performance
3. Funds and projects attraction
4. Preserving discipline and dedication
5. Infrastructure
6. Improving Revenue Generation
7. Information and Communication Technology and Library prowess
8. Campus Security

However, the task of overcoming the challenges facing University of Jos cannot be the responsibility of the Vice-Chancellor alone. I am, therefore sending a clarion call to all my esteemed colleagues - academic

administrative, other non teaching and support Staff, to rally round the new administration and work together as a team. We should be open and communicate honestly to each other for the good of our institution.

I intend to work closely with all stakeholders to ensure that our dear University becomes a leading institution for academic excellence and innovation in Nigeria and Africa.

In conclusion, I wish ^{to} say that I am indeed humbled by the many messages of congratulations that I have received, phone calls, visits etc since my appointment as Vice-Chancellor. This show of love and support has been a source of encouragement and inspiration and has made me more determined than ever before to diligently serve this great institution towards making it a truly world class University dedicated to the advancement of the Nigerian society and humanity at large.

With the Lord as my helper, guide and driving force, and with all your support and cooperation, I am ready with my team to promote and protect the name, brand and image of the University of Jos.

Thank you for your kind attention.

“University of Jos – Performance, Prosperity and Happiness”

God bless you all.

Professor Sebastian Seddi Maimako
Vice-Chancellor, University of Jos