**DEAN’S ORIENTATION ADDRESS 2017**

**AN ADDRESS BY THE DEAN, SPGS, PROFESSOR PATIENCE OSADEBE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE ORIENTATION EXERCISE ORGANIZED BY THE SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA FOR 2016-2017 POSTGRADUATE INTAKES, HELD THIS DAY, MAY 16TH, 2017, AT THE PRINCESS ALEXANDRIA UNITY HALL AND THEATRE**

The Vice-Chancellor, University of Nigeria, Professor B.C. Ozumba, ably represented by Prof Charles Igwe, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration)

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. James Chukwuma Ogbonna

Other Principal Officers of the University here present

Members of the University Governing Council here present

Associate Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies, Prof Nelson Ogbonna

Prof Clifford Odimegwu, Visiting professor from the University of Witswatersrand

Other invited speakers and resource persons

Deans of Faculty and Directors of Institute here present

Heads of Academic and Administrative Units

Distinguished Professors/ Academics

Our Old and New PG Students

Lions and Lionesses

It is with profound pleasure that I welcome everyone to this orientation programme for our fresh post-graduate students. I welcome especially our new post-graduate students admitted in 2016/2017 session. I recognize that some of you might have passed through this University at a different level before now. Notwithstanding, as far as the new admission exercise is concerned, you are fresh students and we heartily welcome you to the University and to the School of Postgraduate Studies. This orientation exercise is envisioned to be a very strategic engagement for you, as it will afford you very useful opportunity to hear and know from the word ‘go’ information that will be helpful in acquainting you with the university system in your short sojourn here.

You have passed through a rigorous admission process to be here. We urge you to keep it up and not relent. Having chosen to be a post graduate student at this time, deploy all available resources at your disposal (material, spiritual and psychological) to make a good success.

John Miller has been quoted as writing: “your living is determined not so much by what life brings to you as by the attitude you bring to life”. This underpins the point that in life, your attitude is more important and impacting than your aptitude. Set goals for yourselves. Experience has shown that goals people prayerfully set for themselves usually play out. Some few years ago in this auditorium, a young man who won the prize as the best-graduating student of the session was given opportunity to make a speech. He testified that what was happening that day was a realization of the goal he set immediately after his admission. He purposed he would make a first class (like his brother) and would be the best graduating student. Things turned out exactly like that.

You are coming in at a time the university is repositioning its post-graduate studies towards international best practices, including prompt graduation. There are now timetables for your lectures, for your course works and for your project defence (for masters’ students). For most departments, you have two semesters (one year) to do your course work and 6 months to face the project and round up in 18 months.

Today, we have organized a very rich package of lectures, talks and addresses from some university functionaries. The guest speaker, Professor Clifford Odimegwu is a renowned visiting professor from the University of Witswatersrand, South Africa. The secretary to the School of Post- graduate studies will enlighten you on some of our rules and regulations which you must know aforetime in order to walk in the light of them. A rich entrepreneurship package of various skills you can acquire in addition to your studies in your disciplines will be showcased by Prof (Mrs) Stella Madueme, Director of University General Enterprises LTD and the HOD, Department of Economics. The university Librarian , Prof (Mrs) Chinwe Ezeani will give you hints on the library resources available for your research; certain aspects of the discipline you need to succeed here will be highlighted by the Servicom Director, Professor Chike Ofuebe; The Dean of Student Affairs will educate you on some student matters you need to know. A host of other University functionaries will also be speaking on other aspects of University activities. Pay attention and get the most out of today. In this 21ST century, competence and leadership are rated not just by knowledge, but also by skills, attitudes, values and behaviours. So ensure that the University passes through you in these areas as you pass through U.N.N.

I am pleased to inform you that the University has provisions for reward of excellence in form of prizes and awards. There are cash awards for good research published in good impact factor journals. These things can be yours if you purpose and work towards them.

We are grateful to our visionary Vice-Chancellor and his administrative team for their approvals and support that have made this occasion a reality.

Once again I welcome all of us and thank God for journeying mercies granted to those who came from Enugu and other places. The Good Lord will take you back safely at the end of the programme, Amen.

Thank you.

Prof (Mrs) P.O.Osadebe, FAS

Dean, SPGS