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***“DISCIPLINE AND INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIP AMONGST POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA”***

**A SPEECH**

**Presented by His Excellency, Macben Otu Idam, the Governor, UNN-Odili Postgraduate Hall, on July 11, 2018 At the Margaret Ekpo Convocation Arena, University of Nigeria, Nsukka; at the School Of Postgraduate Studies Orientation Programme For Postgraduate Students admitted in 2017/2018 Academic Session in Nsukka And Enugu Campuses.**

***Protocols!***

Greetings! Great Super Lions and Lionesses!

I would like to congratulate you once again for your decision to study in the first indigenous university of Nigeria, University of Nigeria, Nsukka where the nation’s potentials do brood in the nest. I am doubtless about our dreams coming through.

* **Discipline**

A common quote goes thus *“Your level of success is determined by your level of discipline and perseverance.”* Discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishment. Mental self-control, effective communication, and perseverance are key factors propelling the wheels of most developed nations like the Great Britain and the United States. The acts of interpersonal relationship and discipline among postgraduate students are core tenable virtues that ought not to be acquired only but should be reflected in our daily livings especially those of us who are resident in the postgraduate hall where people of different culture, religion, habits, and ideas from all walks of life blend. For many, this opportunity has been somewhat invaluable as learning in the academic milieu gets even tastier in the hostel.

Nonetheless, postgraduate students have found these virtues as refined necessity even as we keep to,

and hold tenaciously with pride, the Codes of Conducts of postgraduate students by those that are resident and those not resident in the Postgraduate hall. The merits and the need to uphold rules and regulations need not be overstated. However, the love with which old postgraduate students hold the rules are quite exemplary and worth overstating, especially for the freshmen. This has been evident in the archetypical leadership qualities been expressed in the hall government, both among the leaders and those being led. We therefore challenge you to do better than us!

* **Interpersonal Relationship amongst PG students**

It is germane to note that communication is a form of art that is crafted throughout our living and we cannot be more productive as a single broom stick if we had chosen to take a walk away from the communal responsibility of other bonded sticks of a broom. However, as we bask in adulation with our shoulders and heads raised up in personal achievements, it is worthwhile to keep at heart, the words of ***Erich Fromm*** “*Authority is not a quality one person 'has,' in the sense that he has property or physical qualities. Authority refers to an interpersonal relation in which one person looks upon another as somebody superior to him.”* The reward for a good work is usually more work!

More so, it is evident that the postgraduate school is tenanted with Nigerian-cum-foreign students, diverse creed, faith, temperament, and ways of life. These have been respected unanimously without any cynical preference of one over the other. Rather, than being a source of division as evident in some ugly ordeals happening in some parts of our country - Nigeria, these varieties have been and will hopefully continue to be used as foci for exchanged knowledge, unity, peace, improvement, and love among all the academia in UNN, the PG hall, Nigeria and Africa at large.

Finally, to enjoy good health, to bring true happiness to one’s family, to bring peace to all, one must first discipline and control one’s own mind. Without industry and discipline, it will be practically difficult to be a top professional in our various disciplines. Nobody gets to the top alone. Just as President Goodluck Jonathan met Namadi Sambo in the NYSC camp and they blended years later to lead our country years later, feel free to network with friends from different gender, creed, departments, and faculties. As you satiate your sights with soft green hills around the school, do not forget the act of self-discipline towards time management; you shall prudently navigate through your studies and extracurricular and other non-clandestine activities while successfully engaging in your research enterprise.

***Moving a little away from the premise of my speech today; I have come with these few words for us:***

* **A leap to the echelon of our existence**

I earnestly believe that, one day, we shall all rise to challenge the status quo of our existence.

**Think about that problem that matters the most to you!** That one issue you really need resolved to make this world a better place and open your eyes. That is the core of my message!

When we first came to the University of Nigeria, our only objective would have been to become successful; live out our dream so that one day we can, through our successes, be happy, be better people and fix a nagging problem. Each and every one of us seated here have a problem we all care about and yearn to fix… all of us, we care about prosperity for everyone, to go beyond ourselves to make this world a better place, we want to unify this world, that is who we are. Many people are probably pondering that’s fine…but that could alsobe nonsense and vanity. It also could be impractical, because you need to find in the world that which has never been done before, what are we talking about? We must unite to confront the common problem of our posterity.

There is no place in this world, some will say, where people have been unified like that but what if I say there was a place like that where people are

one? There is a village in India called Shani Shingnapur. And in that village, as I read, not a single house has a door and that is because the villagers firmly believe that there is no need for borders, nor barriers, nor discrimination. There are all one, and that is why, in that village there has not been a theft nor a robbery nor a single incidence of violence. So, my dearly beloved colleagues, I ask all of you, what if all of us can use our education and research enterprise to create a world just like that village? They say that dreams are not the ones we have when we go to bed, hell no! Dreams are the ones that do not let us go to bed, like the one that Martin Luther King Jr. had. That was a dream! Let’s take a detour from bedtime dreams.

The same way I know that everybody over here, just like myself, also have dreams; I must say, without prejudice, that our most common dream should hope to create a world where we are all one. I’m not going to say, “Let us go out there and earn the most profit.” I’m going to say,***“Let us go all out there, and earn prosperity for everyone.”*** I’m not going to say “Let us go out there and just earn the six figures.” I’m going to say, ***“Let us, en bloc, take away six of the world’s biggest problems.”*** That is our identity, that is who we are!

Suffice it to say that, the turf of life is getting tougher and the current raging so greatly; but only the strongest and the most diligent species like I and you can navigate successfully in this race.

Behind every severity lies an opportunity…open your eyes to these opportunities.

From the bowels of despair should come this realisation that just as my mind had helped drag me through those depths of hopelessness and failures of the past, so could it pull me out of them and position me at the echelon of greatness. Each and every one of us, when we dig deep enough, can find this inner strength to get through life’s toughest times and deepest holes. If we want to be here today, despite the challenges day in and day out, who we are and the depth of our determination is what is going to elevate us to become people that posterity will look up to and forever remember.

Every time we are knocked down, let us remember this; “It doesn’t matter how many times we get knocked down, it is about how many times we get back up that truly determines the quality of our life.” We shall continue to shoot in the moon, if we miss, we shall end up in the stars.

Can we imagine if we look at success not about the materialistic possessions that we can take from this world, but rather what we can give back to this world that makes it a better place than what we found it.

There’s just one thing all men have in common; no one’s life is guaranteed. I think that life is not about the amount of days that we live on this Earth, but it’s about what we fit into those days that allows us to live remarkable lives.

Every one of us, every single day, is blessed with the air that we breathe, the opportunities that we have. I challenge you every single day to get out of that bed and do something that your future self would be proud of.

Lastly, “our legacy will be we all, not only getting good businesses with high profit margins, NO! ***WE ALL SHALL ENGAGE IN THE BUSINESS OF DOING GOOD!***

I am optimistic that our legacy will be engraved and extant in the hearts of our successors and posterity, I wish to express my intense gratitude for your good audience.

**God bless the UNN-Odili Postgraduate Hall!**

**God bless the University of Nigeria Postgraduate Students!!**

**God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria!!!**