**DEAN’S ORIENTATION ADDRESS 2018**

**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 2017-2018 POSTGRADUATE INTAKES, HELD THIS DAY, JULY 10TH, 2018, 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 (Academic)

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

Keynote Speaker, Sylva Essiet

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 joy that I welcome everyone to this orientation programme for our fresh post-graduate students. I welcome especially our new post-graduate students admitted in 2017/2018 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 Post-graduate 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 get information that will be helpful in familiarising you with the University of Nigeria 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, we implore you to 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 university, a young man who won the prize for 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 working on improving its postgraduate education both in quality and quantity for better outcomes. By now about 90% of the sessional admission has been completed and it is expected that departments should have advanced in the first semester lectures. Departments are now required to produce 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 invited speakers and some university functionaries. The Deputy Registrar and 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. You are expected to 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.

A major reform in the postgraduate regulations of UNN entails that at least one publication in an impact-factored journal must come out of a Ph.D work before the student can be allowed to graduate. This implies you must embark on well-designed quality research from the onset. We have also introduced Plagiarism test software known as Turnitin which detects the extent of originality of your written work. You are therefore advised to cultivate the habit of reading and assimilating versed research materials so as to gain sufficient mastery to creatively write in your own words and language

I am pleased to inform about the availability of a new and rich entrepreneurship package of various skills you can acquire in addition to your studies in your disciplines. You are advised to check online and take advantage of that. You never can tell what skill will be used by Providence to put meals at your table

It may interest you to know 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