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WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF ENUGU STATE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, PROF. CYPRIAN O. ONYEJI, TO THE 57TH BUSINESS MEETING/9TH ANNUAL RETREAT OF ASSOCIATION OF REGISTRARS OF NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES ON OCTOBER 22, 2014

PROTOCOL

I am extremely honoured to have the opportunity to address you at this auspicious moment when the Enugu State University of Science and Technology is hosting the 57th Business Meeting/9th Annual Retreat of the Association of Registrars of Nigerian Universities (ARNU). This occasion is very remarkable to ESUT because this is the first time since the inception of this University that we are having the chance to play host to this august body. May I, therefore, on behalf of the Governing Council, Management, Staff and Students of this great institution extend our warm greetings to each and every one of you. Equally, I convey the sincere gratitude of the University administration to this Association, for deeming us worthy to be your host.

In a very special way, I wish to acknowledge and welcome home the keynote Speaker in the person of an erudite and distinguished Professor of Materials & Metallurgical Engineering, a one-time Deputy Vice-Chancellor of this Citadel of learning, a former Vice Chancellor of University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN) who repositioned and rejuvenated the institution, a former Vice-Chancellor of Federal University Oye-Ekiti, a diversified and detribalized Nigerian, the indefatigable and performing Minister of Power, Prof. Chinedu

Ositadinma Nebo, CON, NPOM. On behalf of the chairman and members of the ARNU I appreciate you for finding time out of your very busy schedule, not only to grace this occasion, but also accepting to present a keynote address. There is no gainsaying the fact with your experiences garnered over the years in building and transforming organizations and tertiary institutions, this association will benefit immensely from your knowledge expertise encapsulated in your address.

The presence of the NUC Executive Secretary in this gathering is highly appreciated and the University says "Welcome Sir". We highly commend the Commission for the great job being done in ensuring that academic standards in Nigerian Universities are maintained.

The ESUT Community also extends a special welcome to the Chairman of this Association, Dr. Omojola Awosusi. You have been steering the affairs of the association with wisdom and focus, and we believe you will lift the association to lofty stature during your tenure.

It is a well known fact that the administrative efficiency of any University significantly depends on the competence of the Registrar. Therefore, it is my opinion that Universities and indeed the Governments (Federal and States) should actively support this association which is striving 'To promote and sustain sound, ethical and best practices in the day to day administration of Nigerian universities'.

Most Nigerian Universities grapple with a deluge of problems and challenges such as poor or deteriorating infrastructure, poor funding; inadequate material resources; insufficient welfare programmes for staff and students; persistent industrial strife, etc. In the course of this retreat, I charge you to brainstorm on innovative and viable strategies for resolving these problems so that Nigerian Universities would be made to operate at a standard high enough to be included in the list of the first 200 Universities in the world. I have no doubt whatsoever that this body has a pre-eminent capacity to contribute towards the development and growth of higher education in Nigeria. If Nigerian Universities are to make meaningful impact on the global scene, we have to recognize the need for training and retraining of our University administrators. This is because the most critical challenge facing most universities is to develop the capacity for change. In this regard, ESUT has a clear programme of action aimed at exposing our academic and senior administrative staff to international best practices through sponsorships to quality international workshops and conferences.

This meeting places higher responsibility on all of you to contribute in steering robust policy formulation and implementation strategies for the advancement of University education in Nigeria. University education should have the effect of producing a better man, and when that does not happen, we must go back down the line and find out what has gone wrong. Universities


must continually reflect and discover where mistakes have been made in the nation's education policy and re-strategize.

Let me end this welcome address by appreciating this association for working towards fostering good and healthy relationship among Registrars and Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian universities. In ESUT there is a very cordial relationship between the Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar as well as between each of the Principal officers. May I quickly add that I am very disposed to getting engaged in any course that promotes the individual and corporate welfare of members this association.

Once again, you are welcome to ESUT, and I pray that as you came here freely, that you go back safely.

Wishing you fruitful deliberations.

Thank you.



PROFESSOR CYPRIAN O. ONYEJI, *oon*

VICE-CHANCELLOR