

A WELCOME ADDRESS PRESENTED BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR OF THE ENUGU STATE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (ESUT), PROFESSOR ALOYSIUS-MICHAELS OKOLIE AT THE FOUNDERS' DAY CEREMONY PRECEDING THE 18TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF THE UNIVERSITY HELD ON FRIDAY, 24 NOVEMBER, 2022 AT THE AMADEO EVENT CENTRE, ENUGU.

PROTOCOL:

- His Excellency Rt. Hon. (Dr.) Ifeanyi Lawrence Ugwuanyi (CON), The Executive Governor of Enugu State & Visitor to ESUT
- His Excellencies & former Governors of the States
- The Chairman of the Occasion & Former Minister of Power, Venerable Prof Chinedu Nebo
- Members of Enugu State Executive Council
- The Chancellor of our great University, His Excellency, Alhaji (Dr.) Hassan Adamu (CON) Wakili Adamawa
- The Pro Chancellor of ESUT, Most Rev. Prof. Godfrey Igwebuike Onah and members of ESUT Governing Council
- The former Members of the University Management
- The Deputy Vice Chancellor and other Principal Officers of ESUT.
- Visiting Vice Chancellors, Rectors, Provosts, and other Heads of Tertiary Institutions
- Members of Senate and Congregation of ESUT
- Captains of Industries
- My Lords, Spiritual and Temporal
- Your Royal Highnesses
- Other distinguished guests
- The National President and Members of ESUT Alumni here present
- The ESUT Ex-Student leaders Association EESLA
- Great ESUTITES
- Distinguished members of the press
- Ladies and gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to welcome our distinguished guests to this epic event. Particularly, I thank the Almighty God for making the event possible and for granting our most distinguished Founding Fathers the Grace and Favour to behold this day. Basically, the Management of our Great University resolved to mark this day and always as a day of honouring our founding fathers and former Management of the Institution. We therefore seize this medium to express our gratitude and appreciate your contributions toward growing and consolidating the values and dreams of the founding fathers.

Our distinguished audience, our resolve to institute this great gathering was orchestrated by our ever-burning desire to 'lead on the plank of appreciation and to seize the medium to interface and harvest glowing ideas that will jump-start human capital and infrastructural development in our University'. It is important to emphasize that the University was founded on the motto: **Technology for service**. This conveys the fundamental goal targeted at creating/developing, nurturing, advancing, applying and deepening autochthonous technological knowledge for dealing with the demands of contemporary society. As a technologically-driven citadel of learning, the expectation was that the institution will drive the revolution in technological re-

invention of the black race and subsequently instigate and stimulate rapid societal transmogrification of Nigeria in particular and the black race in general. Indeed, the institution has grown and expanded to host eleven Faculties and over seventy Departments.

However, the years the institution got infested with the Nigerian anti-development virus and hence deviated from the original mandate. Thus, the University became mired by the following debilitating challenges:

1. Poor funding
2. Lack of critical infrastructure
3. Low need achievement
4. Irregular payment of salaries and emoluments
5. Poor attitude to work and low morale among the staff
6. Unprecedented financial leakages
7. Unprofessional conducts
8. Low global visibility, among several others

Meanwhile, the present Management, on assumption of office, took practical steps to reverse the slide. The following action plans have so far been implemented:

1. Activating and strengthening the capacity of Quality Assurance and Servicom Unit
2. Activating Relevant University Committees for effective service delivery and prompt response to infractions and or breaches of the extant Regulations
3. Strict monitoring and enforcement of discipline
4. Re-introduction of the Committee on Reward for Excellence
5. Prompt processing of Certificates
6. On-going digitalization of students' records with a view to fast-tracking the processing of transcripts and elimination of all corrupt practices associated with the process.
7. Reactivation of inaugural lectures
8. Plugging of loopholes for financial leakages
9. Ongoing efforts aimed at proving utilities on Campus
10. Promotion of fundamental principle of 'Management by Inclusive Participation'
11. Activation of good working relations among the Unions and between the University Management and the Unions
12. Imbuing professionalism, passion, ownership and competitive mind-set among the leaderships at the various levels of the University Administration among other critical breakthroughs
13. On going conduct of Staff Verification Exercise
14. Initiating robust Public-Private Partnerships to boost the financial base
15. Planting of oil palm seedlings
16. Setting up high-powered Committee of Town and Gown for Centre of Engineering and related Departments/Units
17. On-going construction of ESUT Pavilion
18. Staff-Students welfare projects among several programmes

None the less, the above modest achievements are made possible by the support of His Excellency, The Executive Governor of Enugu State, Dr Lawrence Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi, CON. His Excellency has taken special interest in the welfare of ESUT, he not only supported all the efforts of the Management but also provided funds for vehicles, infrastructural development

and more recently provided an ambulance van and funds for the convocation. The Management remain eternally grateful to His Excellency. We affirm that the Management will take the University to the highest intellectual level.

To our present Visitor and former Visitors, we say Thank You for your valuable support; To the past Management we say Thank You and to the Staff we say Thank you for your services. To the Chairman of the Day, we say Thank you immensely. May the Almighty God bless and protect you today and always IJN Amen.

Ladies and gentlemen, I once again welcome you to this great event and wish you all the best in your respective endeavours.

**Professor Aloysius-Michaels Okolie
Vice Chancellor**