

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS AT THE INAUGURAL MEETING WITH THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND UNITS

TOGETHER WE CAN MOVE THE MOUNTAIN

Delivered on 2nd March 2023/9th Sha‘ban 1444 AH

As-Salam alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuhu,

What a joy it is to stand before you today as the 4th substantive and 1st female Vice-Chancellor of this esteemed institution. I extend a warm welcome to each one of you to this significant gathering.

Fountain University stands as a beacon of academic excellence, moral integrity, and community development. It is a privilege to assume the role of chief executive of this prestigious institution and I am resolute in my commitment to enhance its glory. My focus lies in continuous development of the institution and I am willing to build upon the foundations laid by my predecessors to propel Fountain University to greater heights both national and global scenes.

As a legendary footballer rightly said, “No individual can win a game by himself.” Teamwork is not just a choice; it is a necessity. Your unique strengths, experience and perspective as heads of various units shall be the building blocks of this administration. Your cooperation and dedication are essential elements that will breathe fresh air into the institution at large.

Strategic Focus Areas

1. Curriculum and Scholarship

- a. Improved teaching, laboratory, and learning facilities.
- b. Increase in staff involvement in external grant activities.
- c. Provision of diverse learning resources for enhanced education.
- d. Enhancing employability through soft skills, entrepreneurship, and global competitions.

2. Student Enrolment

- a. Enriching existing programmes and introducing demand-driven ones.
- b. Introducing academic and professional programmes.
- c. Fostering collaboration with NASFAT schools to boost enrolment.
- d. Raising awareness of the university's potential and strengths.

3. Digitization and Internationalization

- a. Improving ICT facilities and infrastructure.
- b. Upgrade of the university website.
- c. Establishment of an innovation hub to foster creativity.

- d. Facilitating more linkages and collaborations with global institutions
- e. Develop a smart campus through digitization and internationalization.

4. Staff and Students Development and Welfare

- a. Promoting vibrant staff development.
- b. Staff training in pedagogy, online learning, and ICT-driven teaching.
- c. Support staff development through pursuit of higher degrees, conference and workshop participation.
- d. Enhance student welfare through sports and recreation development, as well as improved living conditions.

5. Funding

- a. Boost revenue through internal fund generation and prudent management.
- b. Explore new sources of income through income diversification in forms of endowments, gifts and donations.
- c. Strengthening existing university ventures and exploring new opportunities.
- d. Attract funds from agencies and grants opportunities
- e. Engaging alumni for financial support.

6. Community Service

- a. Strengthen academic-industry relationship for impactful research.
- b. Introduce community-based schemes for staff and student involvement.
- c. Promote public lectures, research days, and community engagement through town and gown synergy.
- d. Build bridges between industries, NGOs and towns.

7. Governance

- a. Govern FUIO with exemplary academic leadership and ensuring open and transparent administration.
- b. Adhering to due process, accountability and transparency.
- c. Enhancing the university's image, public perception, and ranking.
- d. Foster an all-inclusive governance system.
- e. Ensure a stable and peaceful academic environment.

Conclusion

Collaboration and teamwork are paramount for our success as a university. The road ahead may be challenging, expectations high, and obstacles numerous. However, with your support and unwavering dedication, we will navigate through it all. As Steve Jobs wisely said, "Great things in business are never done by one person; they are done by a team of people."

Let us embark on this journey together with a spirit of teamwork and collaboration. Together,

we can move mountains. We will foster an environment for academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, and high moral standards. Our students will be encouraged to think critically, creatively, and engage with the broader world.

Thank you all for your presence and rapt attention. Together, let us do justice to our motto: “Fountain leads, others follow.”

Professor Olayinka Ramota Karim
Vice-Chancellor