

**AN ADDRESS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR
IKECHUKWU N.S. DOZIE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 4TH
MATRICULATION CEREMONY OF KINGSLEY OZUMBA (K.O.)
MBADIWE UNIVERSITY IDEATO, IMO STATE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY JUNE 15, 2022**

1.0 PREAMBLE

To the awesome glory of God Almighty, I am most delighted to welcome you all, very distinguished guests, to our young institution, the Kingsley Ozumba (KO) Mbadiwe University Ideato, Imo State with an amazing campus layout and described as the smartest University campus in Nigeria. In a very special way, I most respectfully welcome the Governor of Imo State and Visitor to our University, **His Excellency, Senator Hope Uzodimma** and his entourage comprising top government officials. I heartily welcome members of the academia and our dear parents and guardians who came from different parts of the country to witness this ceremony. I thank God Almighty for travelling mercies and for the special privilege of today's occasion which marks our 4th Matriculation ceremony, where we will formally admit our freshmen and women into the prestigious membership of our university. Today therefore, is another unique day in the history of K.O. Mbadiwe University (KOMU).

2.0 A BRIEF NOTE ON KOMU

The Kingsley Ozumba Mbadiwe University (KOMU) is a **public institution** created by the Imo State of Nigeria Law No. 1 of 2021 to replace the former Eastern Palm University which was established in 2017 and recognized as the 42nd State University and 143rd in the Nigerian University System. This explains why today's ceremony is the 4th Matriculation ceremony in the annals of our university.

The mandate of KOMU is to encourage the advancement of learning in Imo State in particular and Nigeria in general, to hold out to all persons without the distinction of race, creed or sex and to give them the opportunity of acquiring higher education in various fields of study. The

overriding objective of the establishment of KOMU is to expand access to university education in Imo State and Nigeria.

Our vision is to be a globally competitive institution renowned for innovative research and scholarship, world-class education and human resource development to address current and future needs of society.

Our mission is to produce talented men and women with the passion and skills to apply knowledge and technology sensibly to solve the problems of the nation and the global community at large.

At the core of this mission is our firm desire to educate future leaders not just to acquire requisite knowledge and various life survival skills, but leaders with deep passion for humanity in the discharge of their civic responsibilities for the good of society i.e. “developing the complete man – soul, body and divinity”

Our philosophy is driven by a strong determination to produce scholars who are loaded with triple capacity for success, global competitiveness and stardom anchored on our core values of integrity, excellence, teamwork, innovation and collaboration.

3.0 SIGNIFICANCE OF MATRICULATION CEREMONY AND MATRICULATION OATH

By academic culture and tradition, the matriculation ceremony is characterized by the formal admittance of freshmen and women into an institution after they have taken the matriculation oath of good conduct and good behavior. The significance of swearing the matriculation oath is that the student has agreed to abide by the rules and regulations of the institution. Therefore, I will enjoin our new students to internalize, remember, abide and live by the words of the matriculation oath you have sworn. Indeed, let the matriculation oath be a guiding compass as you undergo the rigors of academic training and overall mentorship in KOMU.

4.0 FACILITIES FOR TEACHING, LEARNING AND RECREATION

You can confirm since arrival here a few weeks ago that our facilities are modest and modern to support quality teaching and learning and for

recreational purposes. The classrooms are comfortable. The laboratories are fairly equipped. The hostel accommodation is excellent and perhaps the best when compared with any other public institution in Nigeria as each room ensuite (i.e. with a private bathroom) houses only two-students. The Library is equipped with physical books that are current and the electronic books (e-books) are available and accessible through various platforms including ProQuest, Research for Life and a host of open source learning resources such as OpenLearn, CosmoLearning, Open Culture, Gresham, MIT Open, Open Yale, and Kutztown. Our ICT facilities are modest to support teaching and learning and overall research for development. The university website www.komu.edu.ng is quite robust and very interactive. We have just provided unlimited internet access with download speed of 20 megabits per second (mbps) that is well-regulated and distributed on campus for academic purposes. Furthermore, we are at an advanced stage of deploying our Learning Management System (LMS) platform to support on-line classes by our teachers and Visiting scholars from abroad. We are working hard to rehabilitate our sports and games facilities for healthy development of our students and associated talent hunt. We shall strive to maintain/upgrade these facilities as the need arises and funds are available while I enjoin you to protect and make judicious use of them. With these facilities, I strongly encourage you to participate actively in classes and practical and submit your assignments on time.

5.0 OUR FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

The success of your academic journey in KOMU culminating into your graduation in the next four (4) years depends largely on our faculty (i.e. your teachers). We assure you that University Management with the support of our Governor and Visitor has made conscious efforts to recruit men and women with passion, dedication, pride, and discipline to educate you and who will respect you not just as our student and important stakeholder but as a cherished member of the KOMU family. This applies to our administrators whom you will be contacting from time to time.

6.0 MAIDEN ACCREDITATION OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES BY THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION (NUC)

I am delighted to inform our distinguished audience that we scored 100% in the maiden accreditation of programmes by the National Universities Commission (NUC) conducted in November 2021. We secured FULL accreditation in the following programmes; Biochemistry, Microbiology, Accounting, Business Administration, English & Literary Studies, History & International Studies, Political Science and Psychology and secured INTERIM accreditation in Computer Science, Economics and Sociology. The import of this result is that our programmes are being administered in line with the stipulations of NUC Benchmark Minimum Academic Standards (BMAS). Furthermore, our students are qualified and will be mobilized for the compulsory one-year National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) programme on graduation. To the glory of God, KO Mbadiwe University has fully matured to achieve the mandate of her establishment to deliver qualitative education to our teeming youths and take her rightful place in the comity of Nigerian universities.

7.0 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOURS AND CONSEQUENCES

May I inform you my dear matriculants that the university is a place for teaching and learning aimed at grooming the young ones for self-reliance/self-actualization and for the task of state and nation building i.e. grooming future leaders in all life endeavours. The university is a place that strives to uphold the finest traditions of academic excellence and scholarship and for the fine tuning of moral values of members of the community. It is a place where anti-social behaviours and conduct are not tolerated. Such anti-social behaviours and conduct include but are not limited to the following: **fighting, cultism, examination misconduct, use of drugs and alcohol, smoking, rape, stealing, sexual harassment and forgery**. You must desist from all anti-social behaviours and misconduct as the University Senate shall punish anyone culpable. Always use the Student Handbook i.e. KOMU Academic Regulations for Undergraduate Students as your companion and study it at all times. You must never succumb to unhealthy peer pressures.

8.0 PERSONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

As the popular saying that “cleanliness is next to Godliness”, you must maintain good personal hygiene including regular hand washing. You must also maintain/observe good environmental hygiene by not littering the environment with wastes and defecating in the hostels or surrounding open places. We shall ensure regular supply of running water and waste bins to help you achieve both personal and environmental hygiene.

9.0 RELATIONSHIP WITH HOST COMMUNITIES

We are fortunate to have very friendly and accommodating host communities. The immediate surrounding ones are Ogboko, Obioha, Umuchima, Ogume and Umueshi. We as University Management strive to maintain very cordial relationship with them. I enjoin you to observe and respect their customs, cultures, and traditions. This is very important. By doing so, you will live happily with and amongst them and this will help you focus on the major reason you are here which is to receive good education.

10.0 ASSURANCE TO PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

We thank our dear parents and guardians for the confidence of entrusting their wards into our care. We wish to assure our parents and guardians that your wards are in safe and in good hands as we are determined to give them the very best of not just quality training but comprehensive education that will make them the “whole man” as provided in our institutional philosophy.

11.0 CLOSING REMARKS

On behalf of our Visitor and Governor, **His Excellency Senator Hope Uzodimma** and the entire staff of our progressive institution, I congratulate our dear freshmen and women for choosing KOMU to receive their education and for their formal admittance into our family. I thank parents and guardians for the expressed confidence in our ability

to help them train their wards. I thank all distinguished guests, our host communities, and gentlemen of the press for gracing today's Matriculation ceremony. I wish you all travelling mercies back to your homes.

For our newly admitted students, I urge you to wake each morning with a question, **"what am I doing in Kingsley Ozumba Mbadiwe University Ideato"; why am I here?**. If you can truthfully and honestly answer that question, you are a sure graduate in the next four (4) years. Finally, permit me to end this address by admonishing our matriculants with words of Franklin Benjamin, ***"Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbours, and let each day find you a better man"***.

KOMU. One Team. One Mission. Selfless Service to Humanity

Thank you all and God bless

Professor Ikechukwu N.S. Dozie

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Vice-Chancellor