

DO NOT DESPISE LITTLE BEGINNINGS

BEING TEXT OF AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE VICE- CHANCELLOR, PROF. WAHAB EGBEWOLE, SAN AT THE UNVEILING OF RESEARCH INCUBATION TEAM FOR CYBERSECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ON 13TH JUNE, 2023

Courtesies,

It is my joy and honour to welcome you all to this epoch-making event. Our agenda as a university is to be a trailblazer and show the world our class in thinking and providing solutions to the problems confronting humanity. This, we have come to demonstrate here today by launching an idea that we believe will germinate and will be nurtured to provide a platform for solving the myriads of challenges currently bedeviling our security architecture as a nation and in turn, revive our economy. I, therefore, salute the courage of the team members for putting this event together.

Today, the world is challenged like never before in history in the areas of unemployment, hunger, poverty, and insecurity. The rising rate of crimes and insurgencies remains a source of concern to stakeholders and scholars. At the University of Ilorin, our desire is to contribute meaningfully to national discourse and join hands in finding lasting solutions to the emerging trend of crime in our society. To do this, we have realized the need to bring on board critical stakeholders

to interrogate the issues and creatively harness potentials in providing platforms and policy framework to address insecurity in our nation.

This project from initial report made available to me is to provide a practical and indigenous approach to national security through effective real-time intelligence gathering by leveraging technology. It implies the need to intellectually investigate the nature and patterns of security issues to proffer and develop appropriate control mechanisms. The solution is expected to come in form of tactical and strategic approach with a view to generating actionable policies and decisions in this regard. The idea is to snowball into a Centre of Excellence capable of serving as the hub of idea generation, documentation and, drive plans for a secured society in Nigeria and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Data intelligence focuses on analysis and interaction with information in a meaningful way to promote better decision-making in the future. This is one of the goals of today's event in addition to providing enlightenment to host community, stakeholders, and critical players in the security sector. Make no mistake; information security is one of the most important issues of the intelligence-led community policing of the 21st century. Heavy reliance on computers by security agencies and their allies for communications, vehicle control, surveillance, and signal processing formed the fulcrum for research of this nature. I am aware we have a long way to go but, be assured of the support of this administration to reach the world from the corner of Ilorin to Nigeria to Africa and the World.

Like a farmer, there is time to till the ground, sow a seed, the gestation period and the harvest time. Now is our seed time and we urge everyone to be partners in making this a huge success. No doubt this little beginning will end up becoming the nucleus of great happenings in Nigeria and go global. We at Unilorin are committed to

exterminating insecurity from our land and this effort is well thought out as the nucleus of that great idea.

I must thank Balogun Fulani for the warm reception accorded our team and his openness to embrace the idea. The same goes for the Head of the Akanbi district, the Daudu of Fufu. It is your project, let us own it together. The Alangwas and Magajis here present, I thank you most sincerely and please note, that this project is grassroots based, we need you to forge ahead. The security agencies here present, the time for collaboration is now. We will do more in continuous sensitization of the public on security, advocacy for a crime-free society and bridging the gap between national security outfits and community leaders via developed security intelligence gathering systems.

To our research collaborators from outside the University, particularly, Oba (Prof) Adekunle Okunoye of KUNOYE of Xavier University, USA. We appreciate your commitment.

In a short time from now, we hope to invite you all again to discuss the success story of today's idea and, the impact on the host community, Kwara State and Nigeria at large. Once again, I thank you, all.

God bless you, all

God bless, Unilorin

God bless, Nigeria