

ADDRESS OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN, PROFESSOR WAHAB OLASUPO EGBEWOLE, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 11TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES SOCIETY OF NIGERIA HELD ON TUESDAY, 7 NOVEMBER, 2022, AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN AUDITORIUM

PROTOCOL

SANGUIS FAMILIAM NON FACIT (Family is more than Blood)

It is no coincidence that the 1st event this university is hosting since I assumed responsibility as the Chief Executive Officer has its theme evolved around Family. Family is an essential fabric of society and I have taken the liberty to title my welcome address from the Latin phrase (as I am a keen admirer of the language), *Sanguis Familiam Non Facit* (Family is more than Blood). This is borne out of the notion that it is not enough to conceptualise family within its nuclear or extended blood relation because it reduces its essence. In our sojourn through life, we meet more people based on jobs, connections through conferences of this nature, schooling, travels and even travails.

At some point, we realise that these connections share our ideals and become pivotal to our personal growth and development. As a member of a family, one is expected to express love to the members, be kind and courteous towards them, and be loyal to its ideals. The art of becoming *familia* with people we meet is not cast in stone, *homo sapiens* develop variety of reasons to feel comfortable with their connections. However, these connections are not solely determined by blood, hence, family is not limited to blood relations. The conception of family here is that of a knitted group that enjoins one another to do good and forbids one another to do evil. A group that is loyal to the vision of its existence and strives towards its development.

The importance of family was brought to the fore with the challenges faced with terrorism, banditry, kidnapping, ritualism and insecurity, in general. It is often argued that these challenges result from the relegation of the family as the pillar of development. I posit that the family concept presents the nation with a viable option of resolution to the current malady. It is understandable that to attain sustainable development, we must reinvigorate and rebuild the family structure to serve its basic function of nurturing individuals into functional members that will be committed to building and sustaining our society.

For us in the University of Ilorin, we are better by far because we embrace the essence of family. My vision of 1:10:500 for this university is anchored on embracing all spheres of this university as a family. Thus, I consider this conference and its family theme to be timely and relevant to this university community and the nation as a whole.

That your association brought the 11th conference to the University when the 11th Vice Chancellor is in office is very instructive and portends positively for our two institutions, your Association and our University.

At this juncture, in recognition of the calibre of the attendees and the stature of the organisation, I wish you a blissful, engaging and productive deliberation within the familial ambience of University of Ilorin. I enjoin you to enjoy the serenity and cool environment of our campus. As you might have seen, ours is a campus like no other as we are **BETTER BY FAR**.

Thank you for your attention.