

UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN, NIGERIA



**REMARKS OF
THE VICE-CHANCELLOR,
PROF. WAHAB EGBEWOLE, SAN
AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE
UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT
BOARD
ON FRIDAY, 10TH JANUARY 2025**

Protocols

I want to warmly welcome you all to this significant occasion of the inauguration of our Advancement Board. Today marks a pivotal moment in our institution's journey, one that highlights our commitment to fostering innovation, building lasting partnerships, and driving sustainable growth for the future of our university. It is, therefore, with immense pride that I appreciate the Chairman, Dr Abdulwahab A Ibrahim, FCA and members of the Board for agreeing to serve our University in this regard.

I am aware of the immense pressures on the time and resources of the Chairman and the external members of the Board and I know it is out of love for our University and absolute commitment to service to Allah and humanity that they all agreed to take up this assignment on behalf of our University. I pray that Almighty God will continue to sustain you all.

The membership of this Board was carefully chosen by putting into consideration the values of integrity, excellence, courage, and commitment, among others. We equally chose the external members from the body of our alumnus to demonstrate that we have the capacity to deliver. This is especially important in light of the fact that 2025 is our golden anniversary. The Board actually represents a convergence of talent, expertise, and dedication. Comprised of leaders from diverse sectors—academia, industry, government, and beyond. The Advancement Board will serve as a bridge between our university and the broader society we are committed to serving. Your role is to provide strategic guidance, innovative ideas, and invaluable networks that will propel our institution to new heights of excellence.

Our vision as a University is to strive for excellence and to be a global leader in education, research, and community engagement. We aspire to produce graduates

who are not only skilled but also equipped to make meaningful impacts in their respective fields. The University Advancement Board will be instrumental in helping us achieve this vision by:

- **Strengthening our Resource Base:** Identifying opportunities for resource mobilization, partnerships, and endowments.
- **Enhancing Institutional Visibility:** Advocating for our university on national and international platforms.
- **Driving Strategic Initiatives:** Offering insights to guide our priorities in areas such as infrastructure, academic excellence, and community development.

In some specific details, the terms of reference as approved are:

- i. Develop strategies to enhance the University's Fundraising and Partnership Initiatives;
- ii. Identify and pursue opportunities to expand the University's influence and impact;
- iii. Oversee and support fundraising campaigns, sponsorships, and other resource mobilization efforts;
- iv. Identify and cultivate relationships with potential donors, corporate sponsors, and philanthropic entities;
- v. Foster strong relationships with alumni, community members, industry leaders, and other stakeholders;
- vi. Promote initiatives that build goodwill and strengthen stakeholder trust;
- vii. Monitor the effectiveness of advancement strategies and campaigns; and
- viii. Ensure alignment of advancement activities with the University's vision, mission, values, and goals.

Let me seize this opportunity to recognize the efforts of everyone who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make this inauguration possible. I deeply appreciate the members of the Investment Committee who came up with clear guidelines on

how the Board will be operating. Your dedication is deeply appreciated, and the University will continue to appreciate your efforts as the Board progresses in its assignment.

As we embark on this journey together, let us remember that the work of advancing our university is not the responsibility of a few but a collective endeavor. It requires vision, resilience, and collaboration. I am confident that, with your support, we will achieve remarkable milestones that will define the future of our institution and the communities we serve. I urge you to come up with your workplace and the key performance indicators on a quarterly and annual basis so that we can collectively measure how we are fairing as a Board.

Before concluding this short remarks, I wish to reiterate that this is the kind of activity that the Alumni Association should be engaged in as it is a way to give back to the University that produced them. The Alumni Association is not supposed to be bickering over positions or fighting over pecuniary benefits for themselves. Any Alumni Association worth its salt should look for ways to assist the University and not create issues for the University or bring out the University in negative light.

In concluding this remarks, let me reiterate my faith in this Board in repositioning our University and ensuring that our systems and processes are improved upon. I look forward to the injection of the private sector approaches to how we conduct the affairs of the Board for the ultimate benefit of the University.

Once again, I appreciate the sacrifices that will be made by the Chairman and members of the Board and plead with the statutory members of the Board to take the opportunity of the mixture in membership of the Board to ensure that processes are simplified and made to work efficiently.