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**Godfrey Okoye University:
Creating Space for Success!**

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The Vice Chancellor's Speech on the Occasion of the 7th Matriculation of Godfrey Okoye University, Enugu

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Rev. Fr. Prof. Christian Anieke (Eb. Austria)

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on Friday, 22 January 2016

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On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the Governing Council, the senate, the staff and students of our university, I warmly welcome you to this 7th matriculation of Godfrey Okoye University. I welcome particularly the parents of the matriculating students for believing in our ability to achieve success in all the courses approved for this university. I welcome all our friends from far and near. I welcome you all my dear matriculating students to GO University.

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Since the birth of this Catholic University in 2009 we have had one target in mind: to create space for our students to achieve success within and outside the university. As the Greek philosopher Archimedes says: "Give me a place to stand, and I will move the world." A university must give students a place to stand so that they can move the world. This is what our university has been doing in the last seven years.

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My dear young matriculating students, your university has created space for your success. Your university will be offering you a place to stand so that you can move the world. This university knows that success is coterminous with a harmonious physical cum spiritual space. This explains why we are building your university with a deep sense of beauty and architectural finesse. Both this Thinker's Corner Campus and the Ugwuomu Campus reveal a sense of beauty and symmetry, which makes reading and research a joyful human action. Your university has got standard and well equipped laboratories to take care of all your practicals. For all those in the Biological Sciences the Ugwuomu Campus with its myriads of rare birds and all shapes and colours of animals will be a welcome setting. Those with an inclination for research on fish will find our two romantic lakes a very good place for research on various species of fish. Already a lot plants have been discovered at our Ugwuomu Campus by a team of our researchers and have since been entered in the world DNA data base. Also for those of you in Mass Communication, GO University Radio, which has been named the best campus radio in Nigeria, has opened its beautiful arms to welcome and embrace you. In addition, since ICT

knowhow is one of the quickest ways of making yourself relevant in the job market, your university is offering you the best e-library south of the Niger. Furthermore, we made ownership of personal computer obligatory for you so that you can develop your own computer skills and do your research without tears. Your classrooms are well equipped to provide the conducive atmosphere you need for your studies and success.

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Besides, your university is offering you a beautiful, clean and serene setting for your academic success. Three things are remarkable about this university: beauty, cleanliness and serenity. As you and I know, all three are needed for academic success. There is no doubt that physical beauty influences our mental landscape positively. A beautiful physical setting will certainly motivate you to do a good job in your studies. Besides, cleanliness they say is next to godliness. This explains why keeping our compound clean is like a religious devotion at EGO University. Many keep expressing their admiration for our impeccable cleanliness. For instance, during a meeting of all university librarians in this university, there was a unanimous agreement among the librarians that our university is the cleanest university in Nigeria. Not only the librarians but also all those who have visited our university have the same opinion that our university is very clean. If cleanliness is next to godliness, it means that we are very godly. **And we are godly indeed!** Our university is God's Own University (as you can hear in our anthem). We believe in prayer and we pray unceasingly. Because we are godly, there is no room for cultism in our university, no room for sexual harassment or any such primitive and barbaric acts that are common in our society. You have therefore a very sound spiritual space for your success. **My dear matriculants, you cannot but succeed!** Besides, the environment is very serene. It is a Christian environment with an infectious tranquility. In such a calm setting, intellectual work goes on uninterruptedly and great ideas are born. You are not distracted by the socio-political chaos that has bedeviled our society. So my dear matriculating students, your university has given you a place to stand and to do your work; so you must be ready to move the world.

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Furthermore, to help you acquire some skills in addition to getting practical knowledge of your field, your university offers you a project month in April. During the month you are expected to have practical knowledge of your field in a place outside the university. The expectation is also that you will gain some practical skills that can help you to employ yourself after graduation. So the question of employability is not for you. Your university will be offering you all the opportunities and skills that will guarantee you employability.

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Also in order to make you very competitive Godfrey Okoye University will help you to travel outside your country, especially to our partner universities in Europe and America so that you can take lectures in the universities and get relevant exposure in your chosen field of studies. After your first year here, you can choose to study for a semester or some weeks in one of our foreign partner universities. I pray that your parents will be able to support you financially to get this important experience of studying outside our country. With this kind of exposure your university will be offering you the best of what is available in your course of studies.

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Furthermore, in the next academic year, this university, with the approval of the National Universities Commission (NUC), will begin its postgraduate programmes. Also the Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Law and Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences will kick off at the Ugwuomu Campus of our university. In addition, the biggest DNA Learning Centre in Africa, which our American friend, Dave Miklos, promised to equip, will be opened at our Ugwuomu

Campus in the next academic year. As you can see, your university is indeed expanding its academic space to ensure your success.

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Finally, this university encourages you to show your talents by identifying with one of the academic, social, religious and cultural groups or clubs on campus. Our world holds great promises for multitalented persons. It is our desire to help you to acquire as many talents as possible to enhance your employability and tremendous success.

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So work hard to make the best use of the opportunities you have here. Remember what I always ask you: If you have the brain to make a first class, why do you want to make a second class upper division? And if you are smart enough for a second class upper division, why do you desire a lower one? Think about these words and let them guide your effort:

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The Real Successes

Real successes are made,
Not dropped aside your door.
They aren't a thought you made one night,
While wishing upon a star.

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Real successes are thought,
To be given to only the great.
They think that they work just as hard,
And they should have that fate.

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Real successes are because,
Of someone making it so.
They fight for it and work real hard,
To make their successes grow.

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Real successes are envied,
And rumored on how they were made.
People can be so jealous,
And even want to betray.

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But you know how real successes,
Are built with hard work and care.
You've made your way to the top,
I'm so proud to see you are there.

(Julie Hebert)

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The Road To Success

The road to success is not straight,
there is a curve called failure, a loop called confusion,
speed-humps called friends, red lights called enemies
and cautions called family.

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But if you have a spare called determination

an engine called perseverance, insurance called faith
and a driver called the lord Jesus Christ
you shall make it to a place called success.

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Growing Ideas

Your mind at peace - lazing around a crackling campfire,
Deep within - a thought of something to which you aspire.
The dawning of a new idea - you feel the spark of a little fire,
Growing bigger day by day - until it's a fully-fledged desire.

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Stoke the coals within - let the flames engulf you like wildfire,
Keep on stoking - never allow the flames of desire to expire.
Seek what you need - don't be shy to ask for help or to enquire,
For lack of information - can force your pursuit to misfire.

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Sink your teeth into your desire - like an unforgiving bloodthirsty vampire,
Exercise your brains - allow your dendrons to rewire.
Mull your mind - work it hard - allow it to perspire,
While gathering information - which you need and must acquire.

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Times will come that will be tough - like treading through a soggy quagmire,
Persistence is the thing - which you will then most require.
Dream stealers will attempt to hold you back - hoping your ideas will backfire,
Believe in yourself - unwaveringly - and stick with people that inspire.

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You'll be amazed at what you can achieve - and what will transpire,
The end result - your pride and joy - for all and sundry to admire.
The castles you've built - the dynasty you've created - what an empire,
The completion of your task - before you lay down and retire.

(Michael Sage)

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Reflect on these words as you embark on this academic journey.

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Dear parents and guardians, I thank you immensely for believing in us. We will certainly not disappoint you. We hope to make out of these children of yours the best you can ever imagine. We count on your support as we strive to make you proud of your children in the next four years. Thanks for attending this occasion. God bless and protect you!

Finally, I thank all our friends from every nook and cranny of our country who are here today for this important ceremony. Thanks very much indeed for all your support. May God bless and protect you as you travel back to your different destinations.

Peace be with you!

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