

GODFREY OKOYE UNIVERSITY GETS ROBUST WINGS TO FLY:

A Thank-You Speech of the Vice Chancellor on the Occasion of the Commissioning of CHIEF DR. EDWARD
NNAJI E-LIBRARY

PROTOCOL

On behalf of the management, the staff and students of Godfrey Okoye University, I welcome you all to this unforgettable ceremony marking the official opening of our e-library, the most modern and beautiful e-library in Nigeria. As I reflected on the shape and sense of this ceremony, a beautiful song by Michael Johnson entitled "Give Me Wings" sprouted in my literary landscape and spread its greenish foliage like trees in summer:

*He asked her, "What gifts can I bring you
To prove that my love for you is true?
I want to make you mine forever
There's nothing on this earth I would not do"*

*She said, "Anything I've wanted
You have given willingly
So now there's only one more thing I need"*

*If you love me, give me wings
And don't be afraid if I fly
A bird in a cage will forget how to sing
If you love me, give me wings*

*He walked over to the window
He silently stared into space
Then he said, "Well, I just want to protect you
'Cause this world is a dangerous place"*

*She put her arms around him
She said, "I know you mean well
But there are lessons I must learn for myself"*

*So if you love me, give me wings
And don't be afraid if I fly
A bird in a cage will forget how to sing
And you can trust me, so give me wings*

*She said, "Up above the clouds
You can see forever
And I know you and I can learn to fly together"*

*If you love me, give me wings
Don't be afraid if I fly
A bird in a cage will forget how to sing
And you can trust me, so give me wings*

*If you really love me
Give me wings*

Each time I look at this e-library, its wing-shaped form, its inspiring pictures, magnificent furniture and computers with all e-learning facilities, I nod my hairless head and smile. I often catch myself in my soliloquy muttering these words: Yes we've got wings to fly.

With this e-library our beloved friend Senator Gil Nnaji has, through National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), given this university and students wings to fly. There are no better wings to fly into all fields of human knowledge, into hidden caves and crevices of ancient knowledge and wisdom, into the archives of past and present scientific discoveries and inventions, into the hermitage of spiritual leaders and monks, into history of ideas and ideologies, into the world of politics and international relations, than the wings of online resources and internet facilities provided in this library. With this e-library, we've got the wings to fly. And we will fly. Echoing the words of Winston Churchill, I dare to say: we will fly in the air. We will fly on the land. We will fly under water. Yes, we will fly.

I thank the facilitator of this project, our distinguished Senator Gil Nnaji. I recall vividly my first meeting with him in Frankfurt on my way back from Austria. We talked about Godfrey Okoye University and the need to empower our people with opportunities for development, which computers and the internet offer. During our brief chat, I was convinced that I had met a politician who could be quite different from the others. He did not drench me with a waterfall of promises but rather listened and nodded his head. He simply said he would do something without any further specifications. Before this e-library he had donated 100 laptops to the university and 20 desktop computers for our library with solar panels and inverter to power them.

Senator Gil Nnaji is certainly not a man of many words. What name are we going to give a man who does a lot and says little? Senator Nnaji is not "ekwueme" because he does not even say what he does. Like Christ he allows his words to speak for him.

Little wonder he always enjoys special divine favours in his political life. Distinguished Senator, we thank you profusely. We love you! Go on! God is with you!

My gratitude goes to NITDA for a perfect finishing of this project. I noted the hawk-eyed supervision and control of the whole project. You ensured that there was no form of cutting corners in any part of the project. I thank the Director General and his team for a job well done. I promise you that Godfrey Okoye University, this **God's Own University**, will ensure that your vision in accomplishing this project is fully realized. To this end we have already asked our foreign liaison officer, Ms. Meggy Kantert, to draw up a plan for the administration and maintenance of this centre. Also we have invested about seventeen million naira to provide a befitting road network around the centre. This is our expression of gratitude to you for this wonderful project. You have given us wings to fly and we will fly high and long! God bless you!

Furthermore, I would also like to thank our friend, Mr. Donald Eketé, popularly known as Eketeson, who worked very hard to ensure the accomplishment of this project. I also thank his wife and family for all their support.

Also my gratitude goes to Mr. Patrick Nwajiaku, the consultant and contractor who executed this project. Patrick's creativity with an awesome sense of beauty is fantastic and admirable. He is indeed a great bloke. Patrick, you are a true son of the Catholic Church. May God bless you!

I would also like to thank his Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. C.V.C. Onaga, not only for his presence here today but also for inviting his priests and the people of God to attend this ceremony. My Lord, thanks a million times for your fatherly love and care.

In addition, I thank members of staff of our university who worked very hard to help the contractor to finish this project on record time. I thank especially Sr. Prof. Gloria Njoku, Arch. Matthew Aniakor, Mrs. Pat Allison, Mr. Martin Ifediora, Miss Nkem Okeakpu and all the priests working in our university and institute for making this project a reality.

Finally, thanks to all of you for being here. All the organs of the Church are fully represented. Thanks to you all. Since we have been given wings to fly, your solidarity and prayers will motivate us to soar to enviable heights. Thank you all and God bless you!

Rev. Fr. Prof. Dr. Christian Anieke
Vice Chancellor