



**Valedictorian Speech**  
**by**  
**OGUNSANYA, Fuad Adetoro**  
**Overall Best Graduating Student, 2016/2017 Session**

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The Visitor, His Excellency, Mr. Akinwunmi Ambode, Governor of Lagos State  
The Chancellor, His Excellency Mr. Justice Adesola Oguntade,  
The Pro-Chancellor, Prof Adebayo M. A. Ninalowo,  
The Vice Chancellor, Prof. 'Lanre Fagbohun, (the father of world class students),  
The Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic, Prof. N.O. K. Noah  
The Deputy Vice Chancellor Administration; Prof. Oyedamola Oke  
The University Registrar, Mr. Akinwunmi Lewis  
The University Bursar; Mr. Hassan Adetayo  
The University Librarian, Dr. Oduwale Adebambo  
The Deans of Faculties and Provost of College;  
The Various Heads of Departments  
The Faculty Officers;  
Our Royal Fathers here present and those ably represented,  
All other teaching and non-teaching staff here present;  
My fellow world Class Graduands;  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press,  
Families and friends who have come to felicitate with us,  
All other protocols well and duly observed.

I stand before this distinguished gathering, greatly humbled, to present the valedictory speech at this convocation ceremony, the 22<sup>nd</sup> in the series. I am truly elated to share this piece of myself with you in the most authentic way. My heart is filled with joy and happiness, as I congratulate all graduating students for a job well done. We fought a good fight. Make no mistake about the fact that, the feat we have achieved is lofty and the academic heights attained remarkable. We have completed the academic race in a most noble manner. While we bask in this euphoria, however, it is more important that we reflect on our journey thus far.

Some years ago, we were offered admission into this great citadel of learning, inviting us to embark on a journey towards achieving fundamental knowledge in our various areas of interest. For some of us, we had to settle for courses we did not

plan to study initially. I, for one, had to make a decision on the spot to register for Business Administration when I was told Accounting was not available-Ladies and Gentlemen, look at where that impromptu decision has brought me today.

On matriculation day, graduation seemed so far away. Many of you will agree with me that the journey to securing a degree from this prestigious institution of ours is a rigorous, torturous and herculean task. I can vividly recall the 8:00a.m. classes, late night studies, weekend assignments, impromptu tests and the sounds of “tear a sheet of paper” and how our hearts use to beat because we did not know where to start from. We had sweet-bitter experiences in results. I remember scoring 1 out of 10 in one of the compulsory courses in my second year. Regardless, our unending hard work, resilience, doggedness and tenacity has finally yielded their dividends and made us one of the greatest individuals of substance that the world will ever experience.

My perception about education as a child was about making good grades and coming top in classes but this view changed as I rose through the academic ladder. I have realized that education has more to offer than good grades. This is not to say that getting good grades should not be a priority, as I can proudly say that good grades got me to where I am today. However, the world has progressed beyond just having good grades. Now we need people who can think creatively, innovatively and independently; with the ability to proffer sustainable and pragmatic solutions. I authoritatively say that quality of education that we have received in this Learning Fortress has provided all of these for us. According to Horace Mann *“education, beyond all other devices of human origin, is the greatest equaliser of the conditions of men”* but then education is not just what you have learnt; it is about what you do with what you have learnt.

The Lagos State University does not only provide quality education, but also ensures that students are built socially and academically. As such, we should be grateful to the best state university in Nigeria for consistently providing us with an improved environment to learn from each other, and to think for ourselves. We have started a phase in our lives and there will be many more difficulties and setbacks ahead of us. With persistence, determination, courage and ability, we have been trained by this great institution to tackle all challenges, achieve greater successes and make a difference in our communities. Fold up your sleeves and let us get to work and transform our dear city of Lagos and our dear nation, Nigeria into a better place. I ask that, we uphold the motto of our school 'For Truth and Service' and bring positive sustainable changes wherever we find ourselves.

To the industry, we can boldly say bring it on and we will definitely succeed because we were not just trained to read books and be verbose, rather the skillset acquired during these years of study adequately prepared us to face the job terrain head-on. I know that everyone of us possesses the needed capacity to make significant changes in whatever industry we find ourselves. Therefore, give us the chance to prove ourselves and you will not regret it.

On behalf of all graduating students, I would like to appreciate the Lagos State Government for its commendable efforts geared towards improving the quality of education in the State, especially, the timely and consistent release of funds for grants, bursaries and local scholarships. The Ready Set Work Initiative under the Lagos State Ministry of Education has equipped our graduands with the skills needed to fill the gap between the town and the gown. Our intellectual capacity for the corporate world has been well developed by this initiative.

Mr. Vice Chancellor sir, kindly permit me to share a bit of my story with everyone as I bring this presentation to a close. In the year 1993, I was born into a polygamous family in Ikorodu. As a child, growing with so much promises for the future, I suffered inferiority complex due to the cataract in one of my eyes. In order to prevent this from extending to the second eye, I had to undergo a surgery which was unsuccessful. Sadly, after some time, I was diagnosed of cataract in the second eye too.

This defect went on until I finished secondary school. My WAEC and NECO results were well decorated with F9, it was a poor result. After this tragic experience, I left my parents' house for my uncle's place. My uncle and his wife went helter-skelter to proffer a permanent solution to this major defect. We visited several hospitals, before we were finally referred to University College Hospital in Ibadan in 2011. After 10 months of several tests and therapy, another surgery was carried out and it was a success. The challenge then was how to catch up on lost time. I had to start afresh like someone who had never attended a secondary school but to the Glory of God, I am standing before you all today as an achiever. I did not allow the School to pass through me rather I passed through the school; I was a member of Foursquare Campus fellowship, in 200 Level I was the Financial Secretary BAMSA, in 300 Level I was the General Secretary MASSALASU, in 400 Level I was the Chairman Planning Committee Graduating Set of 2017 and a member of the LASU Debate Society till Graduation. Truly, I am the definition of "When there is life, there is hope".

To my late father, I wish you a blessed Rest in Peace. To my mother, Mrs. Mutiat Ogunsanya (kindly stand up), my uncle and his wife; Mr and Mrs Arowolo (please

stand up too), and Mr. and Mrs. Shomade (they accommodated me all through my days in school), I pray that God Almighty will continue to be with you and spare your lives to reap the good fruits of your labours. Do remain standing.

Mr. Vice Chancellor sir, on behalf of all graduands, we convey our assurances to you that we have internalised our mantra of “We Are LASU, We Are Proud” and this shall provide a guiding rudder as we go forth into the world to be worthy plenipotentiaries of this Fortress of Learning.

With your kind permission, Mr. Vice Chancellor Sir, I will wrap up this presentation by inviting on stage two sets of people to take photographs with you sir. First, my family here present and second, all First Class graduands.

Thank You All!

**OGUNSANYA, Fuad Adetoro**

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**23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2018**