



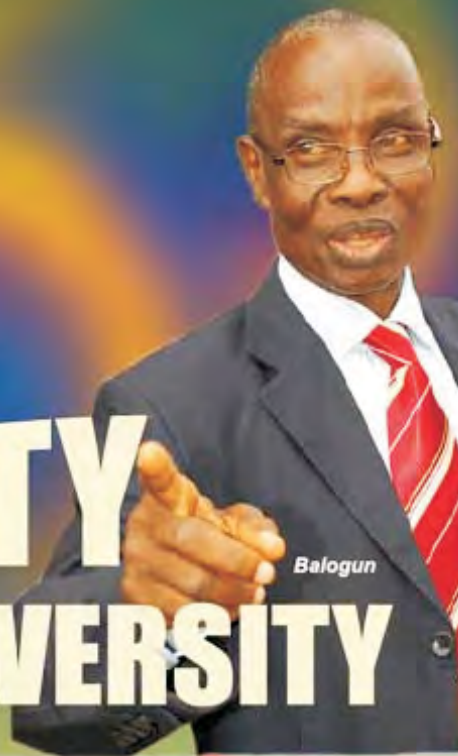
Vol. VI February, 2010

# UNAAB NEWS

NEWS BULLETIN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, ABEOKUTA, NIGERIA



Johnson-Sirleaf



Balogun

## CENHURD: A VARSITY WITHIN A UNIVERSITY



**Council, Management  
Relationship: A Working  
Partnership**

**Liberian President:  
A Well Deserved Honour**

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## FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



**A**bout 60 years ago, Abeokuta lost the chance to have the nation's premier University sited in the city, the neighbouring Ibadan grabbed the opportunity with both hands and what do we have? The University of Ibadan (UI). Indigenes of

University. Today the Centre has found a final abode on the Permanent Site along the Opeji axis of the Odeda Local Government Area.

The CENHURD Village as it is called, landed with a big bang, leaving people spell-bound. Without signposts linking the project to UNAAB, not a few would think it is entirely a new University. The structures are boisterously massive, no details left unattended and essential facilities amply provided. You cannot but agree, "CENHURD Village is a university in a University". Let me quickly add that Ogun State indigenes could soon be agitating for the change in nomenclature from a University of Agriculture to a full-fledged University. They would be right. Their UNAAB has got all it requires for a conventional University. If they cannot have a UI, who say they can't have a UA. Only time will tell.

Wait a minute, UNAAB has done it again! Just last year, the city stood still as two former Nigerian leaders, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo and Gen. Abdulsalam Abubakar (Rtd.) were conferred honorary awards. The University this year is recognising a great Amazon, for her contributions to nation building and commitment to peace and unity of Africa. Her Excellency, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of the Republic of Liberia would mount the podium to receive the Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) of the University. UNAAB rakes in another history, by being the first African University to honour Her Excellency. She accepted the offer with the understanding that UNAAB has a great deal to contribute in the rebuilding of Liberia, particularly in the area of agriculture and youth empowerment. 🇺🇸

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## EDITOR'S SNAPSHOT

**E** editing the Second Edition of the incisive and educating UNAAB News Magazine since the present editorial crew came on board is more challenging and herculean than our first shot, which came out as Vol. V January, 2009.

The reason being that twice we attempted to publish in the previous year, but the die hard posture of our amiable Vice-Chancellor and Publisher, Prof. Oluwafemi Olaiya Balogun for excellence, at all times, irrespective of odds would not let go.

Eventually when "Ogbon and Oye" (Fountain of Wisdom) as the Vice-Chancellor is admirably called by the students gave his nod, we actually have more than enough juicy stories to serve our committed readers fresh and hell hot.

These are not image polishing stuffs for the University as some might easily conclude. Rather they are stories baked in the oven of nose for news, investigation and objectivity.

I recall that when I asked the Editor-In-Chief and my boss in the Directorate of Public Relations, Mr. 'Lasun Somoye what should be the focus of this magazine, the Journalism in him sprang up, "Kola, Post University 21st Anniversary Gains", he retorted.

We swung into action only for us to discover that the gains made barely a year after UNAAB's 21st anniversary celebration are too many. We cast our net and the net cut the LEAD STORY – "CENHURD! "A Varsity" Within A University".

The story is a must read. It is a pull-out showcasing the birth, the growth and the benefits of CENHURD Village. Like CENHURD, the University Governing Council has equally added value to the University within a short period. In this edition, we take you into the enviable partnership world of the Council and the Management.

We also beamed our searchlight on the 17th Convocation ceremonies plus other regulars. Happy reading. 🇺🇸

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# KEEPING POLLUTANTS OUT OF NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES

Just few decades back and yet in this same clime, universities in Nigeria like others elsewhere in the whole wide world, were revered as respectable ivory towers not just for breakthroughs in science, technology and social development researches, their products were respectable scholars, near-magically expected to proffer solutions to virtually all human challenges. Being an undergraduate then was an extraordinary privilege. Such was a time when employers visited the universities, cap in hand, jostling for new recruits. It must be nostalgic, considering how such time flew away.

Paradoxically today, tertiary educational institutions, like most other components of the nation's structures, are experiencing a worrisome dimension such that their products are almost stigmatized as misfits and lacking in credibility. At the moment, a palpable doubt dangles on the ability of the big chunks of graduates produced by Nigerian universities to feel the gap of the much-required manpower bank. The decay is so embarrassingly deep that certificates obtained from some of the nation's institutions are treated with blatant disdain by employers.

It is no more news worthy that tertiary institution students engage in armed robbery, rape, drug running, scams of unimaginable proportions, cultism and other hitherto alien dictions in the nation's academic citadels. Efforts to nip the development had been generally unsuccessful while public fund deployed to combat the hydra-headed monster of juvenile restiveness had amounted to a colossal waste.

Rather than receding, promising young Nigerians are daily fell or aptly put, engage in senseless self-destructive tendencies all in the cause of proving some rash superiority over peers. Just recently, not less than 15 youths were massacred late February this year during reprisal clashes between rival cult groups in Edo State. The nation watches helplessly while her supposed future leaders are being cut down in their prime. Probably, more worrisome should be the fact that the supposed future leaders are steadily gliding from the basic ethos of sound moral upbringing to a more laissez-faire attitude under the guise of cultural integration.

Not a few social scientists had arguably blamed the trend on noticeable societal cum family system failure to inculcate appropriate moral values in her people, particularly the adolescent, over time. Parents were equally not absolved of complacency in the upbringing of their wards and grooming them as worthy heirs of decent cultures.

A probable reason for massive failure at combating the menace by successive executives of tertiary institutions in the country could be their macro-dimensional approach to the issue. To what extent have we considered the possibility of shutting the gates of our tertiary institutions against academic pretenders who should not be allowed to pollute genuine scholars? Such experiment is what the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta is introducing to keep likely pollutants out of the acclaimed citadel of excellence and an epitome of tranquil academic community in the country.

At a time when higher institutions through endless supplementary lists admit over and above approved quota as a way to shore-up on revenue, the temptation is jettisoned in UNAAB such that its tradition of excellence is not covertly sacrificed in an attempt to improve on student population or revenue. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Oluwafemi Balogun is wont to enthuse and warn prospective applicants that the institution will no longer rely solely on JAMB and Post UME qualifications to gain admission into the University.

Such examinations will henceforth be treated as part of requirements for admission while the University shall depose strongly to results of its screening. The exercise would attempt to surmise a psychoanalysis of the prospective student towards inferring into his behavioral tendencies and likely indulgences within the university environment.

It was, therefore, not unexpected when students who qualified for admission into UNAAB for the 2008/2009 Academic Session were further subjected to a screening process that was coordinated by impeccable personalities comprising of a reputable mixture of the academic, security professionals and renowned psychologists; carefully selected from across the country.

The decision of the institution stems from its avowed conviction that universities reserve the mandate of not only imparting education in an individual but also to groom the person to a total man, responsible and responsive to his community. The institution was not ready to compromise the high level of serenity and undisrupted academic calendar it has been enjoying in recent time while it has resolved to uphold its enviable integrity amongst the rank of employers who crave for graduates of the institution.

In maintaining the high ethical standard that has become patent of UNAAB, some painful sacrifices must be borne by both the institution and the larger society. While UNAAB shall be ready to close its eyes to the allurements of a wanton admission process, the society must not be oblivious of the fact that some prospective students parading for admission are mere pretenders that would eventually infiltrate and pollute the assemblage of committed future leaders, hence, they should be prevented.

This stand-off should not be mistaken for an attempt at subscribing to a denial of the right to education by the Nigerian youth, but it is pertinent to note that the higher institutions and the society cannot forever endure with equanimity the callous, violent and wasteful tendencies of some of our spoilt brats who have refused to be placated by incessant appeals to shun cultism and other juvenile rascality. More than ever before, both the higher academic institutions and the society at large should combine forces in ensuring that the dying root of cultism is annihilated. The earlier other tertiary institutions borrowed from the UNAAB experiment of screening out potential cultists, the better the experience for the society. After all, simple logic dictates that we prevent the weed from germinating with the crop. 🍅



## CENHURD: A VARSITY

**A**ge has not altered the axiom positing that “Once there’s a will, there’s a way”. The Vice-Chancellor, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (UNAAB) Professor Oluwafemi Olaiya Balogun is a personification of the above saying of our elders.

Save for the will of the Vice-Chancellor and his able team of Principal Officers, the University Community would still be reeling in shock and at the same time nursing the pains of having to hurriedly vacate its Centre for Human Resources and Development (CENHURD) at Isale-Igbein as spontaneously demanded by the owner of the property, the Anglican Communion, when it’s least expected.

For the benefit of those who are not familiar with the profile of UNAAB, the modern day UNAAB actually started at what is today known as Isale-Igbein mini campus in January 1988. In October 1995, the University moved to its permanent site, Alabata Road, off the Abeokuta-Ibadan highway.

After settling at its permanent site, UNAAB retained the Isale-Igbein take-off campus for the running of its pre-degree programme otherwise known as – Centre for Human Resources and Development (CENHURD). And for ten solid years CENHURD has produced

## WITHIN A UNIVERSITY

By 'Lasun Somoye, Kola Adepoju,  
Stella Kayode, Babs Alabi and Saba Ajayi

thousands of undergraduates for the parent University and who after graduation have been contributing to nation building.

However, like a thunderbolt came the directive of the Anglican Communion asking the university to as a matter of urgency vacate its property not later than 2016 on the ground that it was in dire need of it to house its Seminary. Rather than being jolted by the directive, the Director of CENHURD, Dr. Taofeek Salisu in an interview with UNAAB Newsmagazine crew disclosed that the Vice-Chancellor took the bull by the horn as he immediately set machineries in motion to facilitate a smooth and better relocation.

Having secured the much needed expanse of land, ditto permanent site for CENHURD, putting the much needed infrastructure and facilities therein automatically became a challenge that stared the University leadership at the face.

For one, the project was capital intensive and worst still there was pulsity of fund that was aggravated by economic meltdown. But instead of seeing the intimidating mountain of impossibility, Prof. Balogun looked up to God for divine help. He quickly drafted the University religious leaders cum prayer warriors to the virgin land to pray for its smooth and quick transformation to a befitting University and not just a Centre for Human Resources Development.

The university clerics did not disappoint. The university chaplain, Prof. Christian Ikeobi, and his Deputy, Prof. Wale Dipeolu called on Jesus name like never before. Dr. Taofeek Salisu and the university Imam, Dr. Idris Ayinde equally prayed fervently to Allah to evolve a quick transformation. According to sources, the Vice-Chancellor himself backed their spiritual

Dr. Salisu added that the aforementioned facilities are part of the first phase of the project.

Salisu who was the University's Pioneer Librarian pointed out that the aforementioned facilities which were also to be enjoyed by the host communities would boost their socio-economic life. Checks revealed that CENHURD has taken delivery of a brand new transformer that will lit the academic community and the surrounding villages. Besides, the Resident Architect at CENHURD Architect Malik also confirmed that since UNAAB moved into Opeji village it has added unprecedented value of economic benefit to the villagers. For instance, Malik disclosed that the price of a plot of land has gone up astronomically adding that it would by far be more than that by the time the students move into the campus.

Truly, the villagers have started counting their blessings as a result of UNAAB presence in their midst. Speaking to UNM Crew at Mahuko village, a 62 year old grandmother, Mrs. Aminat Taofeek expressed joy that the citing of CENHURD in their domain, aside boosting socio-economic life would put them in the world map. Speaking in the same vein, a youth leader, Amidu Akeem said CENHURD would definitely change the status of Mahuko from a village to a bubbling town, such that his friends in the cities would no longer berate him as a villager.

Also lending her credence, a middle-age woman who gave her name as Mrs. Sabaina Bukola said that now since CENHURD would populate its environs, her husband would no longer have to travel to the cities to sell his farm produce. Apart from the villagers, one man that is already counting his blessing and is also full of appreciation to the University authorities for bringing CENHURD to his political constituency is the Chairman of Odeda Local government, Hon. Kayode Akintunde a.k.a Azinge. Azinge as is fondly called by his teeming admirers said the citing of CENHURD in his local government is a plus to his tenure though he has no input in the project. He added that the prayer of any leader is to see his or her domain developed because such development would be ascribed to his

tenure.

According to the Local Government boss who spoke to our crew in his office at Odeda Local Government, "It (CENHURD village) gives me great joy and I look at it as a divine intervention that so much things are happening during my tenure in Odeda Local Government. CENHURD village will enhance the economic power of the people living in that area".

A visit to CENHURD village will convince any doubting Thomas that the Centre has indeed come to stay, but there are still challenges which capitally speaking goes beyond the university but are within the easy reach of government.

One of such is the rehabilitation of the deplorable Arakanga/Opeji road or construction of a new road linking the city with CENHURD village. For now, all the link roads are impassable and they've been so for years.

For one, the villagers are predominantly farmers who are in dire need of good access roads to transport their farm produce. Now that UNAAB is helping to open up Opeji with the citation of CENHURD, it is expected of



exercise up with marathon fasting and prayers no doubt expressly answered the petitions of the aforementioned and the entire University community going by the high level infrastructure and facilities so far put in place at CENHURD village, Opeji, Odeda Local Government, within a short time frame of nine months. In early February when the UNM Crew visited the site, virtually the first phase has been completed. According to the Resident Architect, Johnson Maliki who took our crew on inspection tour of the site, the project therein was 90 per cent completed. He explained that but for the need to ensure a thorough job the November 30, 2009 and December 18, 2009 deadline set for the completion and handing over of the project would have been met easily. Architect Maliki however, assured that the exigency notwithstanding, the handing over will be done in the first quarter of 2010.

Speaking earlier in an interview in his office, Director, CENHURD, Dr. Salisu stated that the following structures at the time of the chat, (Tuesday 9, 2010) were nearing completion. They are Two (2) large Lecture Theatres of 1000 seater each, Two (2) Twin structures for Laboratories and Classrooms, Programme Offices, Library, Administrative Block, and Conference Room and electrification of CENHURD village. He stressed that apart from the structures that are now imposing at the new CENHURD village, other facilities that are already on ground are dedicated water pipe, bore-holes.



**University Clerics and members of the University community at a prayer session for the smooth take-off and success of CENHURD Village**

governments at all tiers to compliment the university's effort by providing the much needed basic amenities. And topping the priority list, according to the villagers is provision of good roads. UNAAB has done its best, the rest is now left for the GOVERNMENT. 🇳🇮



## CENHURD VILLAGE HAS COME TO STAY – DIRECTOR

**D**r. Taofeek Salisu is such an interesting personality, with several attitudinal dispositions to many. While some referred him as a Librarian per excellence, others celebrate him as an erudite scholar, a renowned Islamic cleric, community leader or better still, a veteran journalist.

In UNAAB where he was a pioneer Librarian, Dr. Salisu is reputed as the man with the Midas touch. Evidences abound. One of his monumental contributions to the architectural delights on campus is the 'Nimbe Adedipe Library.

Salisu is on the move again, he's about to take the historical delivery of the new but permanent site of the University Centre for Human Resources and Development (CENHURD), otherwise known as the CENHURD Village at the Opeji axis of the Permanent Site.

Dr. Salisu, appointed Director, CENHURD on 1st August, 2007, for a 3-year term, in a chat with the UNAAB News crew of Kola Adepoju, Babs Alabi and Emmanuel Saba Ajayi, x-rayed CENHURD Village, his verdict, 'CENHURD Village Has Come to Stay'. Excerpt:

### Why CENHURD Village?

It has a long history, UNAAB actually started at the mini campus in the town. The property was originally owned by the Anglican Communion, Egba Diocese, but the FG got the property and handed over to UNAAB to use and UNAAB has been there until 1995 when we moved to our Permanent Site. It was actually handed-over to the Federal University of Technology, Abeokuta (FUTAB) then, but UNAAB came up in 1988 as FUTAB was on for just few years before it translated into UNAAB. Then we were here, when the Permanent Site of UNAAB

was being developed in 1995, when we moved to the Permanent Site. The movement was spear-headed by what we call the great trek.



Dr. Salisu, making salient point

### Infrastructure at CENHURD Village

Jokingly, I think it was the Vice-Chancellor that said if we look at the structure that we have at hand at CENHURD Village, we can as well after putting up those structures, apply to NUC to have a private University of Science and Technology which he called Opeji University of Science and Technology which tells you that we have a whole lot of structure that mainly private Universities that have excelled cannot boast of. We have two large lecture theatres of 1,000-seater capacity each and we also have a two twin structure for laboratories and classrooms. We also have what we call Programme Offices, that will accommodate staff of various programmes of the University and of course, you need to be there to see the kind of library that we have. It is real library not the reading room type. There is also the main building which is the Administrative Block that will house all administrative staff, including the Directorate. Also, there is a befitting Conference Room. We are not unmindful of the need to have greens around us. In fact, each of the buildings has been specially landscaped with lawns and courtyards and by the time they are through and you see the landscape you will know →→→Pg.9

## CENHURD Village Has Changed Our Lives.

**E**ven at infancy, the host communities of Mahuko Village and environs in Opeji, have started reaping the gains of playing host to the University's CENHURD Village. They've started dreaming of the transformation of their village into a big town. They shared their joy, aspirations and expectations with UNM crew of Kola Adepoju, Babs Alabi and Emmanuel Saba Ajayi.



Mrs. Aminat Taofeek

**UNM: How long have you been here?**

AMIDU AKEEM: Five years ago.

**UNM: What is your expectation on the completion of the CENHURD Village?**

AMIDU AKEEM: We want government to embark on the construction of roads. Without roads, citing of a school won't yield

maximum dividend.

**UNM: Since when have you been here?**

AMINATTAOFIK: Up to 2 years.

**UNM: What is the name of this village?**

AMINATTAOFIK: Mahuko Ile-Iwe.

**UNM: What is your take on CENHURD Village?**

AMINATTAOFIK: It is a welcome development in every area of our life.

**UNM: Of what benefit is CENHURD village to this community?**

SABAINA BUKOLA: The benefits are endless. I know that the will of God will be done. Our sales will improve and provision of social amenities will receive a boost. 🍀



Mr. Amidu Akeem





## CENHURD VILLAGE: UNAAB Has Buttered My Bread – Odeda LG Chairman

**H**on. Kayode Akintunde a.k.a Azinge is the Chairman of Odeda Local Government, Ogun State. He apparently runs an open door policy, given the endless flow of human traffic, mostly from the grassroots, going in and coming out of his office, on the sunny Wednesday afternoon of this interview.

UNM crew had no problem sitting him down for a chat. We had barely tapped on his secretary's door, that we were ushered into his office.

There he was on his exalted seat in the coveted office and welcomed us with a big smile. He exuded happiness all through the interview, as he cannot hide the joy of the completion of the CENHURD Village by UNAAB, which by divine providence falls within the jurisdiction of his local authority.

He spoke with UNM crew of Kola Adepoju, Stella Kayode, Babs Alabi and Saba Ajayi Emmanuel. Excerpts:

### **UNM: What is your take on the UNAAB CENHURD Village Project?**

Akintunde: They called my attention to it right from the onset. I looked out and said the road is not okay yet and if we are able to do something about it, it will enhance movement. Although, we don't have the resources now to make the road with asphalt but before the dry season ends, we want to make the road motorable than what we have now. Of course, it is going to enhance the economic power of the people living in that area. My attention was also called to numerous people buying lands to erect structures for students and workers. Already, people selling food and other stuffs have

increased in the villages. I think in Mahuko village rents, have gone up even before the project started. It is a good development which we really appreciate. We hope that in a very short time, Opeji area will now be one of our urban cities because with what the university is doing, it is already a city, so to speak.

### **UNM: Local government's intervention in the area of rehabilitation of roads**

Akintunde: Yes, we are going to do that. I am just letting that out now although, if not for the financial meltdown, you would have met something on ground because we have collaboration with the State Government to repair the road and put it in good shape, using the Legacy Road thing. Although, it may not be asphalted but it will be graded with gravels and some other things. That was the plan for this year but because of the financial meltdown, we have not foreclosed it. It may be dusty but we hope to make it free flow for traffic.

### **UNM: What with infrastructural attraction to the area.**

→→→Pg.11



Akintunde

←←←Pg.8 that the CENHURD Village is a village to behold.

### **The state of readiness of CENHURD Village**

The deadline of movement is actually January 2010. But with the way things are going it may not be possible for the buildings to be handed-over in the first week of January as there would still be some things to put in place like the furniture. The laboratory equipment we have at the moment cannot fit into the new laboratory. Then we thought we could move some of the furniture we have here, but they may not be suitable because when we talk of large lecture theatre of 1000 students capacity, we do not have such furniture here and it is like dropping a needle in the ocean to bring out water in terms of what we have and what we would need there. But let me also reassure you that the Vice-Chancellor in his presentation to Council has also made provision in the contract sum for the purchase of some furniture. But as for office furniture, that will not be a problem like the Director will carry his table it is still okay, the Deputy Director's table is still okay.

### **Benefits to Host Communities**

As at now the village is energized, there is power, the cabling has

been done and the 33 KVA power line passing through Opeji, has been stepped down to 11 KVA; not only that, even before construction started on campus, the Vice-Chancellor has approved the installation of a generator and a dedicated transformer. The Vice-Chancellor has also directed that in the next few weeks, there will be water there because the University has a direct and dedicated water-pipe from the Water Works running through our land, unto campus in addition to the bore holes. In addition to that, each building has overhead tank that was installed by the contractors, so we expect that water will flow into the overhead tanks.

### **Roads**

We have an earth-road network that was cleared even before the construction of projects. Contracts for various jobs were given to a consortium of contractors so that there will be no delay. So the place is cleared and as at last week, the Vice-Chancellor has directed and given physical planning unit one or two weeks to clear that place again and start the process of general landscaping as this will add to the aesthetics of the village. 🇳🇮



*The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Oluwafemi Balogun, the Pro-Chancellor, Chief Olakunle Osayemi, members of council savouring the initial progress made of CENHURD*

## Council Management/relationship : A Working Partnership

By Kola Adepoju, Stella Kayode And Saba Ajayi

**T**he Dean of College of Environmental Resources and Management (COLERM), Prof. Toyin Arowolo is a vibrant gentleman of few words. When the sage and erudition in the renowned scholar speaks, you can't but listen to his logical, highly revealing and thought provoking elucidation.

When the University Community converged on the first working day of 2009 at the Julius Amieobi Okojie Lecture Hall for an inter-religious thanksgiving and prayer session to usher them into the new year, the Dean, while leading a special prayer for the yet to be constituted Governing Council, had requested the congregation to pray for a value-adding Council.

While in the spirit, he enchanted for a focussed Governing Council members that can positively partner and add impetus to the maverick administration of the incumbent Vice-Chancellor.

He pointed out that for the Management to sustain the tempo of success, the incoming Council members, must be of like minds. According to him, "the Vice-

Chancellor is wonderful. Without a Council, UNAAB has been flying. In some Universities, nothing has happened in the last one year because they have no council in place like UNAAB. Yet in UNAAB we are forging ahead without the council. Our VC is flying at a jet speed. We are going to pray to God to give us a Council that will be positively focussed, with a mission and vision."

Shortly after the supplication, God answered by giving the University a proactive Council, deeply committed and leaving no one in doubt as to its sense of mission. From the short but highly remarkable tenure of Mr. Lawrence Osayameh as Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council, to the glorious moment of the incumbent, Chief Olakunle Osayemi, UNAAB has been waxing stronger in the delivery of her tripodal mandate of Teaching, Research and Extension Services.

No thanks to the robust rapport and result oriented relationship between the Council and the Management. It is a partnership that works. The synergy is well grounded and deeply rooted in mutual sense

of purpose, an unrestrained collective bargaining and unfettered delivery.

The reason for the symbiotic relationship is not far-fetched. Both the Council and the Management comprise of eminent personalities of honourable pedigree.

Unlike situations in some other institutions, the acceptability that greeted the appointments and inception of office was most heart-warming. Stories abound of some Universities where the constitution of their various Councils ignited and it's still being trailed by crisis of confidence, UNAAB Council was received with warm embrace and ever since it has been a catalogue of harmonious relationship and unprecedented development.

Little wonder, that the noticeable oneness has spurred quite a chunk of landmark achievements, which has been impacting positively on all facets of the University.

According to the Director of Council, Mr Leke Adeboye some of the projects and programmes approved by University Governing Council for Management's