

VALEDICTORY SPEECH OF SARUMI, OLUWAFEMI AZEEZ

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Permit me to throw my weight behind existing protocols.

I acknowledge the existence and sovereignty of God, Most High, who has given us this day to enjoy.

It is with gladness, grateful heart and humble spirit that I [**Sarumi Oluwafemi Azeez** with Matric No. **20161631** from the **Department of Environmental Management and Toxicology (Toxicology Option), College of Environmental Resources Management**] assume the rare position of delivering the Valedictory Speech on behalf of all Graduands for this 2019/2020 Convocation Ceremony.

FUNAAB, a world-class citadel of learning, developmental training and research has proven beyond doubt the importance and relevance of formal education on the viability and dexterity of Nigerian youths. These values have been added through regular and periodic lectures, practical sessions, hands-on experience, SIWES, assessments and research works. Consequently, the graduands have shown the ability to learn and unlearn in a bid to attain laudable heights.

As for me, the journey was as rough as the journey of life of an inventor. Early classes, transport tussle, feeding constraints, enforced modest dressing, days of little finances, class of multitudes, impromptu Tests, rigorous Examinations, intense walk through the School premise (as you will not dare cross the University Lawn) under adverse weather conditions, need to study, read, revise and review.

It is worthy of note that this intense schedule was spiced up with extracurricular activities including social events/gatherings, sporting activities, student unionism, friendship and networking, group activities, spiritual activities among others. I actively participated in Football (as a Forward, scoring many goals), Church drills and Services, group works and activities, Fondling (as I was a member of BABA - Bread and Beans Association, Smiles!).

At this point, I'll like to reverence the impact our Lecturers had on every Graduand, coaching and modeling us to attain global academic, developmental and research standards. I also acknowledge the unfeigned effort and relentless support of the **Prof. Salako**-led administration and other non-teaching Staff. In the same vein, I pay homage to all Lecturers in EMT Department for their tutelage and coaching.

Standing here today would not have been possible without the effort of my Parents in giving me the best environ to grow. Their investment in me and my siblings is second to none. My siblings are the best in the world. Sister mii (as she's fondly called), Big Bros, Big Sis, Wifey and Kid Sis

(3 of them are alumni of FUNAAB, Cheers!). Thank you for standing with me through thick and thin.

Big Sis played the John-the-Baptist role in my life, finding pathways to success and easing my journey through same. I love you exceedingly. Ibukun is the best I have got till today.

I also thank God of Ayodele (*through my Father – Rev. J.A Oluwasola JP*) for recreating this feat, as I was privileged to be the Overall Best Graduating Student at Lagos State College of Health Technology, Yaba, Lagos in 2016; where I bagged my Higher National Diploma in Environmental Health Technology.

At this juncture, I implore all Graduands to see this celebration as the aetiology of greater accomplishments in life. The world awaits us to find lasting solutions to inherent problems, as well as foster economic growth and development of the Country and in extension, the Global village.

As an Ex May, **Tai Solarin** taught us that *"We can become whatever we choose to be. No King, No Lord, No Knave can say us Nay. For we believe that man is a potential Doctor or Lawyer or Crook or Dwarf or Giant. Whichever he sets his mind to be. We shall be Giants and therefore we shall work, and work, and work and work. Even if we must work our fingers to the bone, so may it be"*.

In all honesty, we are better equipped and tutored to sweep the world off her feet. I pray that God continually help us, guard us and see us through all of our dealings.

I congratulate the University for breeding and churning out the best set of Graduands ever (Applause). We assure you that we will continue to make you proud and fly the flag of our Institution aloft, as we work towards our vision of *ensuring knowledge generation for global development and the sustenance of an environment friendly society*.

Happy Celebration, with sound and healthy mind, at last! Those who know will understand the essence of 'At Last'!

I remain, Sarumi Oluwafemi Azeez.

Cheers!