

AN ADDRESS BY THE PRO-CHANCELLOR AND CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNING COUNCIL, CHIEF SENAS UKPANA, OFR, ON THE OCCASION OF THE HAND-OVER CEREMONY OF THE FACULTY OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES OF NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY, ON TUESDAY, 17TH NOVEMBER, 2009

PROTOCOL:

The Vice-Chancellor,
Members of UNIZIK Governing Council,
Principal Officers of the University,
The Traditional Ruler of AGULU,
President-General, Agulu Town Union,
UNIZIK Great Benefactor, Dr. Ifeanyi Eric Okoye,
UNIZIK Faculty Members & Students,
The Media,
Ladies & Gentlemen

1. We are gathered here in the serene Agulu Community in Anambra State to perform and witness a great historical ceremony, the handing-over of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, located at AGULU. The Faculty actually took off from the 2006/2007 academic year, without the certainty of the required infrastructural facilities. The first and second sets of students of the Faculty were sharing facilities with the Faculty of Natural Sciences.
2. We recall, with appreciation, the effort of the former Vice-Chancellor Professor Ilochi Okafor (SAN), who suggested the idea of having the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences located close to the NAFDAC laboratories at Agulu. The idea was generally accepted by the good people of Agulu community, which after due process of consultation, donated this piece of land for the commencement of the project. This generous act of land donation was followed by an offer by an illustrious son of AGULU, Dr. Ifeanyi Eric Okoye, who single-handedly built a gigantic administrative block for the Faculty. Other eminent indigenes of

Agulu followed Dr. Okoye's example, and built and donated classroom blocks and provided other facilities to enable the gradual take-off of the Faculty.

3. Today, we have come to acknowledge and celebrate the enduring spirit of commitment to good causes, patriotism and generosity, amply demonstrated by the Agulu community and her great sons. The Almighty God, in whom we live, move and have our being, will continue to bless you all abundantly.
4. This hand-over ceremony is a historical event in the growth of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, because it marks the visible addition of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences to the physical development of the University. It will herald the timely ^{accreditation of the programmes} approval of the Faculty by the National Universities Commission. Nnamdi Azikiwe University will eternally remain grateful to Dr. Ifeanyi Eric Okoye and the entire Agulu Community for this accomplishment.
5. On the part of the University, we have fulfilled our own terms of the Memorandum of Understanding by providing matching grants, landscaping, water supply, electricity and transformers. We have also recruited academic staff and provided laboratory and office equipment that would enable the Faculty to function effectively.
6. On behalf of the Visitor to the University, President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, GCFR, the Governing Council, Senate, the entire staff and students of the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, I hereby express our sincere gratitude to you, our benefactors for this wonderful gesture. It is our fervent hope that the Agulu Community, in appreciation of this successful cooperative endeavour, is considering positively our request for the provision of additional 15 hectares of land for the construction of student's hostels and staff quarters. With this accomplished, AGULU

will ultimately become a Centre of Excellence for the study and practice of Pharmaceutical Sciences in Nigeria.

7. May we use this occasion to challenge other communities within the catchment area of the University to emulate the worthy example of the Agulu Community and contribute to the physical development of our University. Universities all over the world are built by endowments and cooperative enterprise of this nature. UNIZIK has abundance of land resources for its continuous infrastructural development and consolidation and expansion of academic programmes. We, respectfully, invite Anambrarians in particular, and other Nigerians and corporate organizations in general, to support UNIZIK to achieve its mission of attaining the status of a world class University in the next few years. To God Be The Glory.

**CHIEF SENAS UKPANAHI, OFR
PRO-CHANCELLOR AND CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL**

17th November, 2009.