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Special Release

22 December, 2020

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Dear Esteemed Stakeholder in the University of Ibadan,

On behalf of the Management of the University of Ibadan, I hereby write to wish you a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous 2021 ahead.

Globally, the year 2020 has been an admixture of tension, challenges, losses, lessons, and new directions. In its unique way, it has also been a year of gains and progress. However, in the case of the University of Ibadan, and other federal universities in the country, it is the year in which we lost about 10 months of academic activities to the global COVID-19 pandemic and a national strike called by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU). We have also had to contend with the local industrial action called by the Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU) and the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), together with issues that arose from the process of appointing a new Vice Chancellor. However, we must be grateful to God for the opportunity to constructively and collectively deploy the lessons learnt in the last 10 months in a process that will ensure enduring harmony, stability and the progress of our common heritage, the University of Ibadan.

From the ashes of the clogs and the spell of tension of the last 10 months, I see the blossoming of goodwill, peace, mutual love, and remarkable progress ahead. By the grace of God and our collective efforts, tension has been doused, fractured friendships are already healing; and frayed nerves are being calmed. We must, however, realise that peace is a tender living thing. You stifle it and it dies; you ignore it and it withers; you nurture it and it blossoms. In our words and actions, in the many posts on our different media platforms, let us nurture peace, and prioritise the integrity and best interest of our University above all prejudices and other concerns. On the part of the University Management, we will continue to do our part to serve the best interest of all stakeholders and chart the way for peaceful progress and our collective good.

My heartfelt sympathy goes to all our students whose studies have been suspended for many months now. I feel the pain of my esteemed colleagues whose promotions are pending. I share the frustration of all other categories of stakeholders negatively affected one way or the other by the situation in the Nigerian University System, and especially in the University of Ibadan. I pray that the national crisis precipitated by the on-going industrial action by the Academic Staff Union of Universities would be over very soon, that the COVID-19 pandemic would become history quickly, and that all lost grounds would be regained.

The task ahead of us is great, but as a united family of UI stakeholders, we are more than able to record resounding successes. Together, U and I can and will move UI forward. By our collective

will, let us break all barriers; and, despite our challenges, let us raise the bar for UI and consolidate our position among the global best players in the domain of higher education.

Again, I wish you a merry Christmas and a most prosperous new year.

Professor Adebola Babatunde Ekanola, MNAL, fspsp
Acting Vice Chancellor
University of Ibadan