

**FULL TEXT OF SPEECH DELIVERED BY COMRADE ADEPOJU
ZAKHARIYYAH OLUSEGUN (ADEX), THE PRESIDENT, STUDENT UNION
GOVERNMENT, FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC EDE, OSUN STATE ON THE
OCCASION OF HIS INAUGURATION, HELD ON FRIDAY, JUNE 24TH,
2022.**

With great sense of humility, I bring to you solidarity greetings. I hereby acknowledge the Rector, Deputy Rectors, Registrar, Bursar, Librarian, Deans of Faculties, Head of Department, Lecturers, all other Academic and Non-Academic staffs, The Alumni Association, Faculty Presidents, Departmental Presidents, The Members Of Press, Distinguished Guests, and my fellow students. All protocols duly observed.

I am extremely honored to stand before you this morning and I am humbled by your presence. I am at a loss for words to express my gratitude to each of you here today. I can only think of saying "thank you so much from the bottom of my heart." It is amazing being able to stand before all of you and share this special moment in the history of The Federal Polytechnic Ede. I am beyond humbled and honored to be part of this institution. All of you here are sharing the most special gift you can possibly give. That is the gift of your time, your presence, and your support.

As I stand here today I am exceedingly hopeful and optimistic about the future of this institution. To the students and everyone who made my emergence as the Student Union President of this great citadel possible, I'm grateful for the trust you've placed in me, humbled by the task we have before us, and mindful of our union and institution's core values.

Before I delve into the depths of this speech, I want to appreciate the Almighty God for allowing us to all come together in peace to witness this momentous occasion, which represents yet another key turning point in the development of our institution, the liberation of our students, and making the institution a better place for every student.

This day is not just an inauguration day; it is a landmark day that marks another day of victory and the prevailing of freedom, democracy, and equality for students of this institution. This day allows us to reaffirm our commitment and solidarity to the welfare and liberation of students. The Student Union leaders are fully united with the students by the persevering spirit of working

toward a shared objective as intellectual emancipation warriors, not by the faculty to which we belong or the department from which we hail.

Our determination is to always stand up for what is right; for truth, justice, fairness, equality, and compassion at all times. Today, I stand before you, seeking to preserve these values and to give the students a union they can be proud of and a school they can call a home. Our union is a union of inclusivity and solidarity. We would not neglect the students neither will we allow anyone to feel left out.

Nothing good comes easy, and achieving liberation, fairness, justice, and equality for all students cannot be done by the Students Union alone. My fellow students, I call on you all to be a part of this movement, offer us your utmost support, and help us to carry out the responsibility you've placed on us successfully. Greatness isn't deserved, it is earned. We want to carry on in solidarity with the past Students Union leaders who fought valiantly to give the students a school they could call a home. We are not there yet, but we are on the right track. And with the support of everyone of you, we would eventually look back and be proud of this day.

In furtherance, I'll like to shine lights on some key issues facing our dear institution in which we'll like the school management to treat with utmost importance and urgency.

Infrastructure And Security

It is on a sad note that I remark that there are many prominent infrastructural deficiencies in our institution. Many lecture halls are devoid of electricity and many of those connected to electricity have faulty light bulbs and fans. This does not speak of a conducive learning environment as students are forced to learn under terrible weather conditions. Also students cannot read in lecture halls especially during the night due to the lack of functional light bulbs.

Aside the issue of electricity, many lecture halls are in a dilapidated state and requires urgent attention. Damaged furnitures should be repaired or replaced and more furnitures should be provided to accommodate the teeming population of students. We also demand that the school's hall of residence be adequately maintained regularly. Damaged bunks should be replaced, and the faulty fans, sockets, and light bulbs should be repaired or replaced.

It is pathetic to note that some of the school's laboratories are non-functional due to the lack of necessary laboratory equipments and materials. Some laboratory and practical equipments have been found either abandoned, not installed, or overutilized. Faulty laboratories and practical equipments should be repaired or replaced and students should be given adequate protection gears when in laboratories or during intense practicals.

The issue of street lights on campus should also be urgently looked into. Some key areas of the school are usually in pitch darkness at nights, forcing students to take the wrong routes, leaving them at the mercies of unscrupulous elements who might want to take advantage of students. We request that the department of works and maintenance to deal with the supply of light and water for student use in a proactive manner. We are prepared to collaborate with them as a union.

On the issue of security, I want to urge the school's security department to double their efforts in ensuring the protection of lives and property of students. Because our security is in our hands, I kindly ask all students to practice security awareness, always be on guard, and corporate with the school's security personnels. We demand that the management strengthen the school's security team. We demand that the school's security team take greater initiative than before and collaborate with the students' union.

Also on the issue of security, I want to reiterate our stance against all forms of crimes and social vices such as rape, cultism, vandalism, physical violence, theft, harrassment, and threats both on an off campus. The Students' Union's completely frowns at these and sternly frowns at the involvement in any of these abominable acts.

All students who are members of cults are sternly warned to renounce their affiliation with them immediately, and those who want to commit crimes and vices are urged to reconsider their plans in light of the administration's readiness to leave no stone unturned in tackling them. We urge anyone engaging in physical abuse or bullying to put an end to it immediately. And if you don't stop immediately, this students' union administration, led by me, will find you and hand you over to the school authorities for appropriate punishment.

We also send strong warnings to students who consume alcohol and smoke in the study areas and hall of residences. Anyone who wants to drink and smoke should go to the appropriate locations off campus. Always notify the Students'

Union or the school's security personnels if you are a victim of any crime or vice or you witness one.

Students Health And Welfare

Students have hardly received quality healthcare treatment from the school's Health Centre. It is pathetic and inhumane seeing the Health Center filled up with long queues of students who require medical attention. Students are usually given misdiagnosed, treatments are usually delayed, and most times medications prescribed by the doctors are not available at the school's pharmacy. It cannot continue and has to stop immediately. We cannot continue to put the previous lives of our students at unnecessary risks.

We demand that the school's administration increase the number of staff at the school's health center and that the pharmacy be adequately stocked with medications to ensure effective health care and treatment. We also demand that health center employees treat students with the utmost respect as we won't condone any form of abuse, harrassment, or systemic carelessness. We intend to set up a Students' Union Health Committee, whose duties will include keeping an eye on the operations of the health center and documenting complaints from students about it.

On the issue of students welfare, it had been noted that some raucous and randy lecturers are fond of victimizing students, especially famales, who refuse to yield to their sexual advances by failing them or collaborating with other lecturers to fail them. We demand that the school's administration thoroughly investigate these situations of failure. We urge that a well-known disciplinary panel be established by the school's administration so that lecturers who harass female students can be reported and dealt with appropriately.

The school's management is also reminded that it is the right of the students to express their grievances peacefully when the need arises. Hence, on no occasion should students be threatend with arrest, expulsion, or arrested for carrying out their fundamental right. Additionally, we demand that school's security personnels immediately refrain from harassing, bullying, assaulting, threatening, and arresting students over the slightest offence, which has unfortunately been the norm over the years. The school's security personnels are hereby reminded that they are meant to serve, defend, and protect the students, not to harrass, assault, bully, or threaten the students as they are fond of.

Transportation

It is regrettable that our dear institution lacks a viable transportation infrastructure. We have consistently being at the mercy of these commercial bus drivers and motorcyclists. Students receiving lectures at the South Campus of the institution are the most severely affected by this anomaly.

Despite paying for transportation, these students are still forced to pay between their teeth for transportation to and fro South Campus. Aside this the number of available commercial buses are not near sufficient to cater to the teeming populace of the students. We urge the school management to provide more buses to ease the stress of students who sometimes have to trek several kilometres to South Campus or resort to several dangerous means of transportation such as riding cement and sand haulers.

On the ban on students vehicles and commercial motorcycles from entering the campus, we condemn in all totality this unfair, inconsiderate, and inhumane policy. This ban will place an unprecedented and unnecessary financial and physical strain on the students. We demand that the school's management lift this ban and develop other considerate measures to tackle the issues that might have led to this ban.

Staff-Student Relationship

The persistent disrespect and disregard shown to students by lecturers and non-academic staff members in various capacities are well documented and alarming. Students are humans and we demand to be treated with utmost respect and dignity. We want an institution where students and staffs have a cordial relationship.

Students should not for any reason disrespect staffs and staffs are admonished to reciprocate as well. We would like to remind staffs that they are employees of the institution and not God over the students. Kindly endeavour to treat students in the way way you would love your children to be treated.

Independence Of The Students Union And The Involment Of Students Union Leaders In Policy And Decision Making

It is an open secret that the powers of the Students Union is restricted such that the Students Union is effectively limited to be no more than an attack dog on a leash. The Students Union should be given sufficient independence and autonomy in piloting its own affairs. In the spirit of democracy, justice, and fairness, on no occasion should the Student Union be threatened in a bid to suppress the voices of the students or dissuade them to fight for a rightful cause.

We fervently advocate for the inclusion of Students Union, faculty presidents, and departmental presidents in all decision- and policy-making that affects the students. The Students Union should be duly consulted before making any policy or decisions, especially those that affect students. We demand that we be allowed to participate in every students related discussions.

Conclusion

There is no true educational revolution without the liberation of students. May my eyes never see and my feet never take me to an institution where the students are held in silence. I hear the roar of students silence. I sense the rumble of their storm and feel the fury of their revolt.

As we begin another journey to the liberation of students and the institution at large, I urge the students to stand in solidarity with us at times. According to the words of the famous bestselling American Author, Brandon Sanderson, "A man can only lead when others accept him as their leader, and he has only as much authority as his subjects give to him. All of the brilliant ideas in the world cannot save your kingdom if no one will listen to them." We urge you to stay away from acts that could jeopardize our efforts. We are counting on you to make our administration a success and we assure you that we would leave no stone unturned in making this school and union one you can always be proud of.

This union is your union and this school is your school. We are your representatives and we promise to always represent your best interest at all times. As stated earlier, shun all forms or crimes and vices, including examination malpractices and stay away from any acts or activities that could

jeopardize your studentship of this great citadel of learning.

We are all one and this union will always be a union of inclusivity where all students will be granted audience and listening ears, and the welfare, freedom, and best interests of students will always take the front seat.

We would ensure will stand in solidarity with you at all times. We would never remain silent in the face of oppression and injustice. We would fight till the last drop of our blood to defend your honor, rights, and integrity and to protect you from the fangs of aggressors and oppressors. However, I do not assure that our quest to make this institution a better one for you would be a smooth ride. There will be tough times, there will be challenges. Nevertheless, I want you to stay strong and never give up, never relent in the unweaving support and trust you've given us.

I also assure you we will run a government of transparency and accountability. We could welcome constructive criticism and feedbacks, and advice and suggestions on how we can make the Students Union a better union for all. We recognize the importance of freedom of speech and the right to information, therefore we extend an open arm of friendship to all news outlets on campus, the Federal Polytechnic Ede Press Team, independent observers, and external media to join us in this dispensation and carry out their duties with utmost honesty and fairness.

We'll work with the relevant authorities, faculty presidents, departmental presidents, the Alumni Association, and other key stakeholders to ensure that our goal of liberating the students and giving them a school to call home is achieved.

As I round up my speech, I'll like to appreciate everyone present here today. I want you to know it's a massive honour to have you here today and I do not take you for granted. The Rector, Deputy Rectors, Registrar, Bursar, Librarian, Deans of Faculties, Head of Department, Lecturers, all other Academic and Non-Academic staffs, The Alumni Association, Faculty Presidents, The Members Of Press, Distinguished invited guests, and my fellow students. I thank you all for your supports and encouragements. And I wish you all safe journey back to your various destinations.

Finally, I'll like to appreciate Comrade Akeem Habiru Olawale (Kaybright), and Comrade Ayodeji Edward, who proved to be gallant and formidable opponents to me during the elections. You both fought a good fight, and

together we would take this institution to the great heights we desire. I'll also like to thank the former Student Union presidents, most especially Comrade. Rufai Lukman (Siwes). I can't end this without thanking Esiegbe Emmanuel (Yes), Fagbohun Hameed (ASTIVER) and other departmental presidents, Odewale Olaoluwa (Olami) and other faculty presidents, Adeyemi Sabur (Solution) and other powerful stakeholders.

Thank you all and remain blessed.

Aluta Continua!

Victoria Ascerta!

God bless Nigeria

God bless Osun State

God bless The Federal Polytechnic Ede.

COMRADE ADEPOJU ZAKHARIYYAH OLUSEGUN (ADEK)

President of The Students Union Government, 2021/2022
Academic Session.