ALUMNI SHOULD PLAY KEY ROLES IN VARSITY DEVELOPMENT -
Prof. Daramola

Alumni of universities should be encouraged to play key roles and contribute to the development of their alma mater. The Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology Akure, Professor Adebiyi Daramola stated this when the newly elected leadership of the Alumni Association of the University paid him a courtesy call in his office.

According to him, no serious establishment can go it alone without carrying along all stakeholders. This also affects a university whose products (alumni) are stakeholders who should play significant roles in its development. Prof. Daramola however called on University staff to always maintain good relationship with their students because such good relationship brings mutual respect and benefits. He said "We have changed the orientation in our operations. We always emphasize that students should be treated like younger colleagues because students of today are potential professors and leaders of tomorrow. The fact of the matter is that within years, they will surpass what we have attained as professors. Therefore, we do not maltreat them. We build good sustainable interpersonal relationship".

Speaking further, he urged the officers to expand the alumni operations wherever they may find themselves. Through such initiative, more products of FUTA will be involved in the alumni association. Professor Daramola further said, "Be objective in your operations. Avoid sentiments and politicking. Expand your operations to attract more members. FUTA products are spread all over the world, engage them and we promise you our utmost support and encouragement. Plan to have a programme during convocation period to host fresh graduates so as to get them involved. Make them important so that they can have a sense of belonging".

He said "Anywhere you are working, create awareness for upcoming ones for Industrial Attachment Placement, create opportunities for them to do their Youth Service Year. Through this, you are reinvesting into the young ones and the University. We are happy and proud about the feedback we get from employers of labour about our products. Please do not taint FUTA's reputation, rather build on it locally and globally and keep the flag flying. FUTA is our cherished baby, do not let it die. I am proud to be a Futarian because, so far, I have spent a higher percentage of my time here".

In his response, the new President of the association, Mr. Akin Aina expressed his appreciation to the Vice-Chancellor and his management team for the support the association has received over the years and promised that the Association will contribute its own quota to making FUTA the best brand. Aina
said "We share in your vision in making FUTA the best and taking it to the market place. We are ready to partner with FUTA to take the institution to the market locally and globally. Our members are spread all over the world and we are going to aggressively mobilize our members to make FUTA the best. This regime will try to transform the association. All we need is your continuous support". 

According to Aina, the Alumni Centre will soon be completed and the executive committee is also planning constant donation and financial support to the University.

The Public Relations Officer of the association, Dr. Bolarinwa Bolaji also thanked Professor Daramola for receiving the executive members. He said "We appreciate the University administration for this show of support."

The Director, Advancement Centre, Dr. Peter Aborisade who presented the new officers to the Vice-Chancellor also solicited the support and encouragement of the University's management. This, according to him will make the association viable and increase its branch network.

The National Executive led by the President, Mr. Akin Aina included Mr. Ayinla Musbau (Vice President), Mazi Fabian Ibeto (General Secretary), Mr. Oladimeji Samuel (Financial Secretary), Dr. Bolarinwa Bolaji (Public Relations Officer), Mrs. Bukola Salawu (Treasurer) and Mr. Emma Fambegbe (Assistant General Secretary).