

University of Johannesburg Management Visits Covenant University

A 13-man delegation from the University of Johannesburg, led by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ihron Rensburg, paid a working visit to Covenant University, in a bid to seek out platforms for establishing research clusters.

The Vice-Chancellor of Covenant University, Professor CharlesKorede Ayo and other members of Management, received the team in his Conference room on Tuesday, September 24, 2013.

In his opening remarks, stating reasons for the visit, Professor Rensburg commended the Management of Covenant University for the smart and intellectual components of her programmes. He noted that Covenant University's brand inspired their desire for collaboration.

According to him, *"University of Johannesburg is a product of a merger, we are a young university and we are encouraged by the progress that Covenant University has made. We are encouraged by your ambition, obviously informed by your deep commitment, your doggedness and in fact your emergence out of a deep belief system."*



The two Vice-Chancellors exchanging pleasantries after the meeting



Vice-Chancellor, Covenant University, Professor Charles K. Ayo making his remarks at the meeting

Professor Rensburg, who also chairs' Southern African Regional Universities Association, said they were at Covenant University to hear and learn, directly from the source, what moves, inspires, and drives its ambition, as well as the University is able to capture, influence, and achieve the kind of reverence that the University commands. He stated further that University of Johannesburg was visiting Covenant University to explore, dialogue and learn how both Universities can grow, taking into account their young status.

He further noted that University of Johannesburg also has something that could be of use to Covenant University in her vision of becoming *1 of 10 in 10*.

According to him, *"We have not come to take, but also to give back, as this is what would make the relationship mutual."*

In his response, the Vice-Chancellor of Covenant University, Professor Charles Korede Ayo commended the efforts of the team from University of Johannesburg, for the great work they are doing that have seen the university ranked among the top 4% of universities in the world.

According to him, that was a businesslike approach to doing things and such feat could not have been attained by just folding of arms and wishing. He added

Registrar, Covenant University, Mr. Olumuyiwa Fadugba introducing members of CU Management to the visitors at the meeting

that such model was worth looking into by Covenant University. Professor Ayo told the guests that since Covenant University is running with a vision to be listed among the 10 best universities within the next 10 years, there is the need to explore diverse models.

He told the gathering that the vision of the University is raising a new generation of leaders and as a result, the University, under the guidance and support of its Proprietor-base have been able to be the first on a number of fronts in her short span of existence.



The Professor of Computer Science & MIS informed the august Assembly that the University's abolition of the award of a Pass Degree and the introduction of Entrepreneurial Development Studies as a general course in the University, has become entrenched in national education policy in Nigeria. With this in mind, he posited that though the task might look intimidating, but it is very attainable taking into account the accomplishments of the University.



A cross section of University of Johannesburg Management at the meeting

In the area of research, Professor Ayo stated that Covenant University was birthed out of the desire to bring solutions to certain issues that have plagued Nigeria and the black man, and as such the vision, mission and mandate of the University becomes very crucial in running the race of rewriting the story of higher education in Nigeria.

Making allusion to the words of the Chancellor, Dr. David Oyedepo, Professor C.K. Ayo noted that, 'It doesn't have to be white for it to be right.' According to him, "Looking at the of the challenges we are faced with as Africans, we are all dependent on foreign solutions to sort our issues. It becomes imperative to

ask ourselves, what are we doing as Universities? What are we doing as Research Centers?" He queried.

That is why the passion of the Chancellor is geared towards ensuring that Covenant University should stop at nothing until we begin to unravel the mysteries surrounding the underdevelopment of Africa. It has come to the point that we should not be dependent on the developed world for solutions to the myriads of problems facing the continent, he explained.

The team later visited various Colleges, Schools and Departments in the University and indicated some areas of interest to foster collaborations with Covenant University. Some regions of interest to University of Johannesburg are research programmes in Plant Biotechnology and Botany, Sustainable Building Materials, Green and Healthy Building Technology, Waste Management and Recycling, Entrepreneurship and Human Capital Development, and staff exchange programme involving visiting professors and research associates from both universities.

Present at the meeting were the Registrar, Mr. Olumuyiwa Fadugba, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Dr. Taiwo Abioye, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor AAA. Atayero, Dean, College of Science and Technology, Professor Cleophas Loto, Dean, College of Development Studies, Professor Isaiah Olurinola.

Others are, Director, Center for Systems and Information Services, Pastor Stephen Ogah, Director, International Office and Linkages, Dr. Sheriff Folarin, and members of the Corporate and Public Affairs Unit of the University.

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Director, International Office and Linkages, Dr. Sheriff Folarin directing proceedings at the meeting
