

Covenant Clinches Outstanding Tertiary Educational Learning Environment and Facilities Award

West Africa's No. 1 University, Covenant, on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, added another feather to her cap by winning the "Outstanding Tertiary Educational Learning Environment and Facilities Award".

A Non-Governmental Organisation, Proudly Nigeria Campaign, presented the award to Covenant at a Proudly Nigeria Conference/Exhibition promotional event held in Abeokuta, Ogun State, tagged 'Proudly Ogun State: Gateway Connect 2018'.

The award, received on behalf of Covenant by a senior faculty in the Department of Chemical Engineering, Professor James Omoleye, was presented by the Permanent Secretary in the Ogun State Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Engr. Jonathan Onajobi, representing the Ogun State Governor and Special Guest of Honour, Senator Ibikunle Amosun.



Vice-Chancellor, Professor AAA. Atayero, Members of Covenant Centre for Research, Innovation and Discovery (CUCRID) displaying the Most Outstanding Tertiary Institution Award won

While speaking on the award, which was one of the nine presented to different organisations, the Coordinator, Proudly Nigeria Campaign, Mr. Michael Abogu, said the nomination process for the awards was outsourced to the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON). "It was dutifully and diligently audited by the SON," he affirmed.

Mr. Abogu, who represented the Founder of Proudly Nigeria Campaign, Olorogun Elkanah Mowarin, said that the Proudly Nigeria Campaign initiative was a child of necessity, because Nigerians had over the years leisured themselves in enjoying imported goods and services in a country blessed with abundance of natural resources. "As a child of necessity, we decided that rather than staying aloof and complaining that the country is being flooded with foreign goods, we should sell this initiative so that people will have the opportunity to grow," Abogu explained.

He stated that it was the first time the Proudly Nigeria event was being held at the regional level and the choice of Ogun State was influenced by her very close affinity to Nigeria's commercial capital, Lagos State.

Governor Ibikunle Amosun, in his Keynote Address presented by Engr. Jonathan Onajobi, said it was his pride to know that Proudly Nigeria Campaign promoted the celebration of local content and services in Nigeria, adding that hosting the event in Ogun State was an acknowledgment of the giant strides made by his administration since assumption of office.

While stating that it was imperative to put the ease of doing business in proper context in the socio-economic development of Ogun State, Governor Amosun noted that governments must ensure fair and open economic development to enhance their ranking in the ease of doing business, for instance, curtailing bureaucratic bottlenecks and corruption. Ogun State's status, he claimed, had evolved from being a largely civil service state to industrial hub of Nigeria.

He pointed out that his administration had at inception set about realising some cardinal objectives, which included affordable education, efficient healthcare delivery, increased agricultural productivity, rural infrastructure development and affordable housing. "As government, we are bound to create an environment to unlock the potential of our people.

We undertook urgent reform to attract businesses to our dear state. We can now boast of improved business environment," said Senator Amosun.

As one of the award beneficiaries, the governor expressed his appreciation to Proudly Nigeria Campaign for considering him worthy of being honoured with the "Most Business-Friendly Governor of the Year 2018 Award".

The Keynote Speaker, Dr. Stephen Oluwatobi, had in his lecture titled, 'Role of State Government and Organised Private Sector in the Provision of One Hundred Percent Local Content of Goods and Services in Nigeria, with a Spotlight on Ogun State', said that any individual desirous of self-sufficiency would have to look at a business that would earn him/her profit and the State Government had to create value that would earn it money.

Dr. Oluwatobi, who is the Deputy Director, Commercialisation, at the Centre for Research, Innovation and Discovery, Covenant, said that the real potential in Ogun were the young minds who formed about 60 percent of the state's population, and every sector of the state's economy was built on the might of the people. He stated that individuals should be allowed to own contents and resources as the crux of local content was the people.

The Keynote Speaker canvassed a deliberate utilisation of human and material resources and services, adding that government, the organised private sector and individuals must contribute their quota to achieving success on this score. "We can make things happen while using our own minds," he emphasised.

On what the government should do to achieve one hundred percent local content, Dr. Oluwatobi said that it must provide infrastructure that would make doing business easy, provide access to capital, give smooth access to market, and come up with favourable policies.

The exhibition featured participants from different sectors of the economy in Ogun State such as education, manufacturing, agriculture and services.

At the Covenant stand were various products in security, energy, agro allied and home use. The Ogun State Governor's representative, Engr. Jonathan Onajobi, while examining the products, said that Covenant had lived up to her reputation of being innovative. He said that through her pacesetting role in entrepreneurial education, the University had given Nigerian youths the opportunity to be independent through self-employment thereby reducing the burden of employment provision on the government.

"I think the direction the country is going now is to actually train people on how to be innovative. So, we want to encourage Covenant University to continue in that direction. Well done and more grease to your elbow," said Onajobi.