



# **Liberalisation of Ownership of Universities in Nigeria:**

## **Matters Arising**

**Being the Paper Presented as Keynote Speaker**

**By**

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**Professor of Biochemistry, PIONEER Vice-Chancellor,  
Fountain University, Osogbo & Summit University, Offa**

**on the occasion of the Third Anniversary Celebration of**

**Thomas Adewumi University, Oko, Kwara State**

**held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 at the University**

**Auditorium, East Campus Oko-Irese, Kwara State.**



# OUTLINE

- **Opening Statements**
- **Brief on Universities**
- **Evolution of University Education in Nigeria – Federal and State**
- **Evolution of Private Universities in Nigeria**
- **Factors that Stimulated the Emergence of Private Universities**
- **Ownership of Private Universities**
- **Matters Arising in Private Universities – Achievements & Challenges**
- **Summary & Concluding Remarks**
- **Reccomendations**
- **Bibliography**



# OPENING STATEMENTS - APPRECIATION



The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Francisca Oladipo, Ph.D., FNCS, FASI, FPASRC



The Chancellor/Founder of the University, Engr. Dr. J.B.O. Adewumi

THOMAS ADEWUMI UNIVERSITY OKO KWARA STATE

Day 2

# 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNIVERSARY LECTURES

Commemorating 3 Years of Excellence

11 FEBRUARY University Auditorium 16 MAY 2024

**PROFESSOR ADEDIMEJI Mahfouz**  
Pioneer Vice-Chancellor,  
Ahmadu Bello University,  
Pategi, Kwara State, Nigeria  
Anniversary Lecturer  
Topic: Small Steps, Giant Strides

**PROFESSOR OLOYEDE Hussein O.B.**  
Pioneer Vice-Chancellor,  
Fountain University,  
Oshogbo, Osun State, Nigeria  
Keynote Speaker  
Topic: Liberalisation of Ownership  
of Universities in Nigeria: Matters Arising

**PROFESSOR OLADIPO Francisca** FNCS, FAS, FPASRC  
Vice-Chancellor,  
Thomas Adewumi University  
Host



# OPENING STATEMENTS – CELEBRATIONS

Establishment of five (5) faculties

Establishment of 34 programmes

Strides worthy of Celebration

Accreditation of 25 programmes by  
the NUC

The establishment of five year  
strategic plan for the University some  
of which have been realized within  
the first 3 years of the existence of  
the University



# OPENING STATEMENTS – CHAMPION CHANT





# OPENING STATEMENTS – REFLECTIONS

“When you have the key, you don’t cry to open the door”

“Don’t seek to be known, seek to know”

“The depth of your understanding determines how understanding you become”

“If you don’t know what belongs to you, you don’t know what is missing”



# OPENING STATEMENTS – REFLECTIONS

“To be informed is to be transformed; to be uninformed is to be deformed”

“The one who has the facts is the one who makes impacts”

“Only those who mind history make history”

“Everything outstanding has its roots in understanding”



# OPENING STATEMENTS – REFLECTIONS

❑ “Reformation will only happen on the wings of information”

Similarly, the Qur’an says:

❑ “Are those who know and those who do not know alike?” Only the men of understanding are mindful  
Surah 39:9

Also, the Holy Bible has this to say:

❑ “That people perish for Lack of Knowledge”  
Hosea 4:6





# BRIEF ON UNIVERSITIES - UNIVERSITY DEFINED AND EXPLAINED



## DEFINITION

This is necessary so that a common understanding of the term is established.

The term is derived from the latin root word “universitas” (*magistrorum et scholarium*) meaning guild of teachers and students.

**Hamlyn Encyclopedia World Dictionary:** an institution of higher learning with powers to grant degrees.

It has teachers, students, buildings and governing board to oversee its affairs.



# BRIEF ON UNIVERSITIES - UNIVERSITY DEFINED AND EXPLAINED



## DEFINITION

**Merriam Webster Dictionary:** University is conceptualized as an institution of higher learning providing facilities for teaching and research and authorized to grant academic degrees.

Specifically, the University is made up of an undergraduate division which confers bachelor's degrees and a graduate division which comprises a graduate school and professional schools each of which may confer masters and doctorate degrees.

The features of a University may be physically clustered together to form one campus or there may be several mini campuses, all with the collective goal of promoting learning through teaching and research-generated innovations.



# BRIEF ON UNIVERSITIES – CHARACTERISTICS



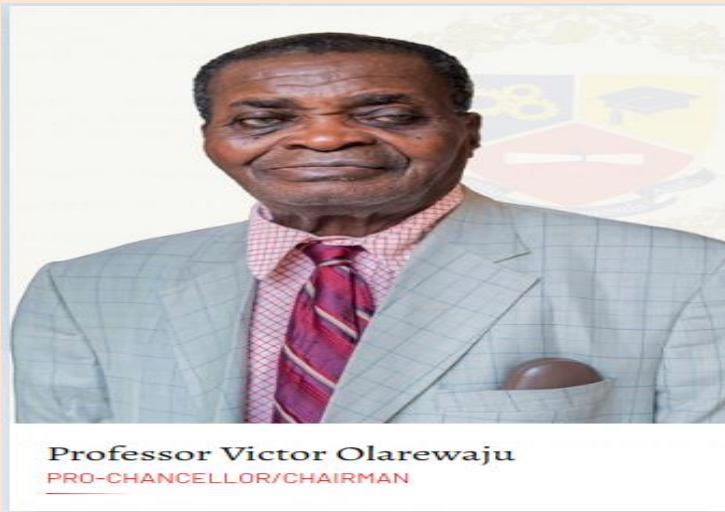
Matured students



Admission process



Examination process



Governing Council



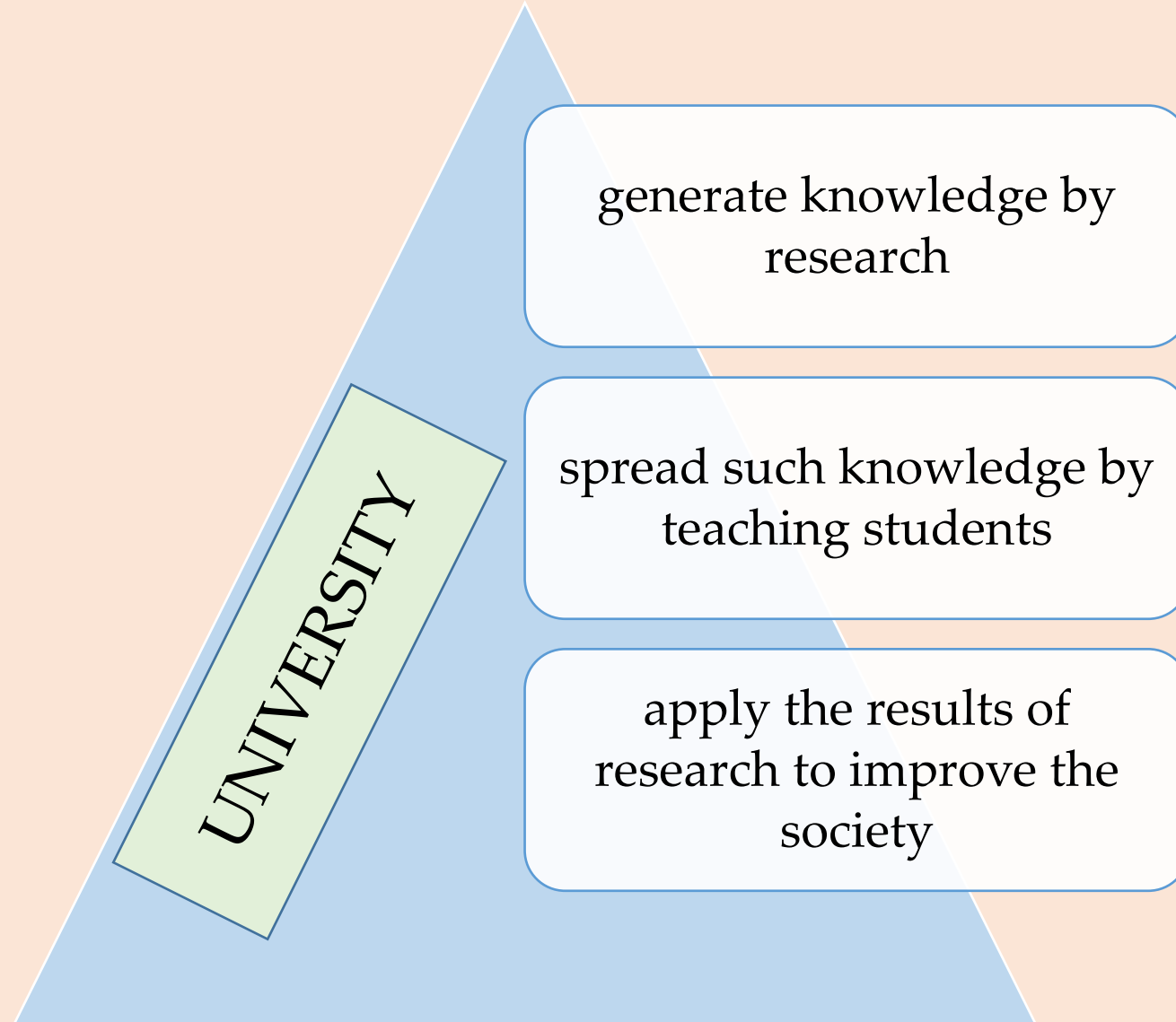
Faculty Members



Administrative Staff



# BRIEF ON UNIVERSITIES – FUNCTION





# BRIEF ON UNIVERSITIES – GOVERNANCE

A large green triangle is positioned on the left side of the slide. Inside the triangle, the word "UNIVERSITY" is written in a yellow, slanted rectangular box. To the right of the triangle, there are three white rounded rectangular boxes containing text.

## UNIVERSITY

takes after that of University of Ibadan which tapped from the University of London

has visitor, chancellor, pro-chancellor and vice-chancellor

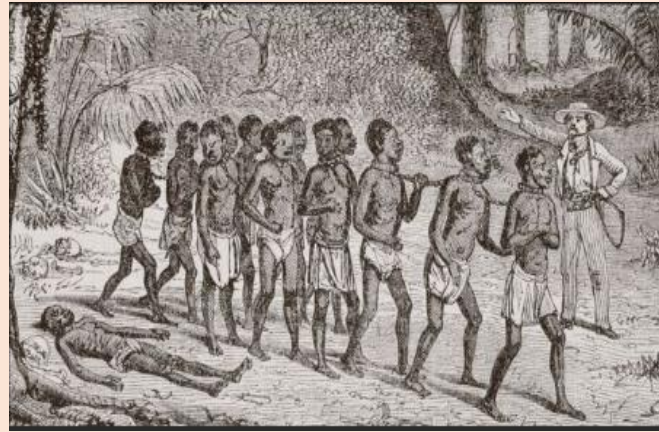
With the establishment of private universities, variety of structures have been introduced to a very large extent



# EVOLUTION OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN NIGERIA



Technician for PWD, Benin



Self-government agitation by returning slaves



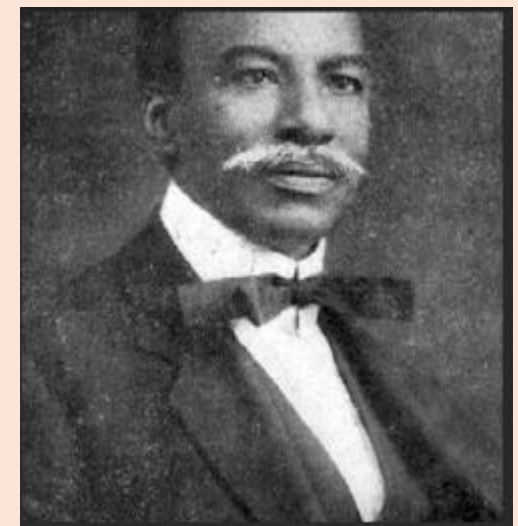
Self-government agitation by schooled Nigerians



Dr. Kenneth Mellanby – Principal, Yaba College (1934)



Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa



Herbert Maucalay 1864 – 1946



# EVOLUTION OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN NIGERIA - FEDERAL

Institution	Establishment Year	Function	Event
Yaba College (later Yaba Polytechnic)	1934	1 <sup>st</sup> post-secondary (tertiary level)	Need to train technicians for the Public Works Department
University College, Ibadan	1948	to train locals beyond secondary education	the Elliot Commission in 1943
Regional universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ University of Nigeria, Nsukka -1960</li><li>✓ Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria – 1962</li><li>✓ University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University) – 1962</li><li>✓ University of Lagos – 1962</li><li>✓ University of Benin – 1970 (Started as Mid-West Institute of Technology, Benin)</li></ul>	production of highly educated personnel to take over the administration of the Federal and Regional Public services	Ashby Commission (1959) due to impending independence



# EVOLUTION OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN NIGERIA - FEDERAL

Institution	Establishment Year	Function	Event
Seven (7) new Universities	1975	To provide for technology & agriculture	oil boom of the 1970s leading to the 1972 Decree on education

## Universities of Technology

University	Year
Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA)	1981
Federal University of Technology, Owerri (FUTO)	1988
Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU) of Technology Bauchi	1988
Federal University of Technology, Yola	1981
Federal University of Technology, Minna	1983







# EVOLUTION OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN NIGERIA - FEDERAL

## Universities of Agriculture

University	Year
Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB)	1987
Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi	1987
Federal University of Agriculture, Umudike (now Michael Okpara University)	1992



**University of Agriculture  
Makurdi**  
Innovation and Service





# EVOLUTION OF UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IN NIGERIA - STATE

Institution	Establishment Year	Function	Event
Six (6) state universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port-Harcourt – 1979</li><li>✓ Bendel State University (now Ambrose Ali University) – 1981</li><li>✓ Ogun State University (now Olabisi Onabanjo University) – 1982</li><li>✓ Ondo State University – 1982</li><li>✓ Lagos State University – 1983</li><li>✓ Oyo State University (now Ladoke Akintola University, LAUTECH) – 1990</li></ul>	To cater for the astronomical increase in secondary school graduates	1979 constitution which placed education on the concurrent list & the advent of Free Education Programme

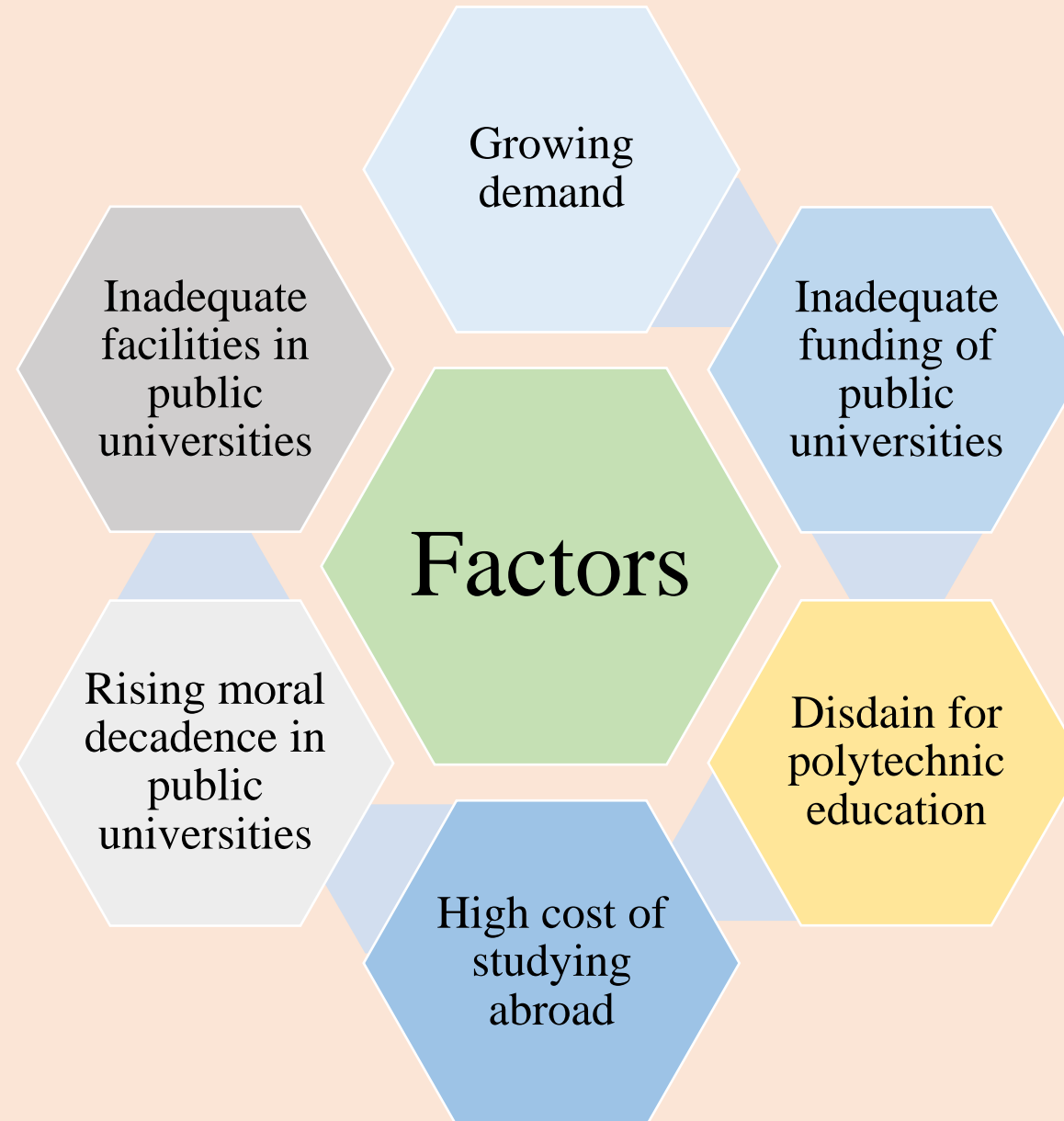


## OWNERSHIP OF UNIVERSITIES IN NIGERIA - STATISTICS

SN	University Ownership	Number of Universities
1	Federally owned	62
2	State owned	63
3	Total public owned	125
4	Private	148
5	Total of all Universities in Nigeria	273



# FACTORS THAT STIMULATED THE EMERGENCE OF PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES





## EVOLUTION OF PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN NIGERIA

- The idea of establishing private universities was initiated by President Shagari (1979 – 1983)
- Effort was thwarted by the then General Buhari-led Military Government
- Federal Government approved the guidelines for the establishment of higher institutions
- as contained in the National Minimum Standard of Establishment of Institutions (NMSEI) Amendment Decree No 9 of 1998.
- In 1999, the Obasanjo-led democratic Government (1999 - 2007) renewed the incarnation and that gave rise to the emergence of the first three (3) private Universities in Nigeria.



Shehu Shagari



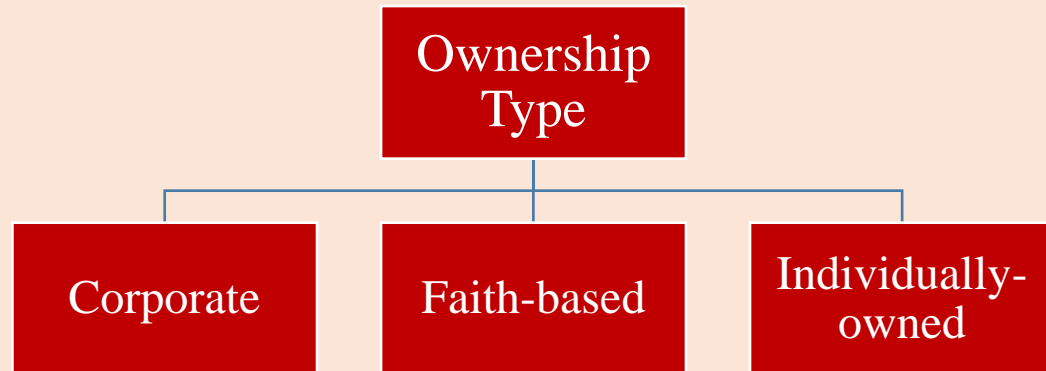
Major General Muhamadu Buhari



Olusegun Obasanjo



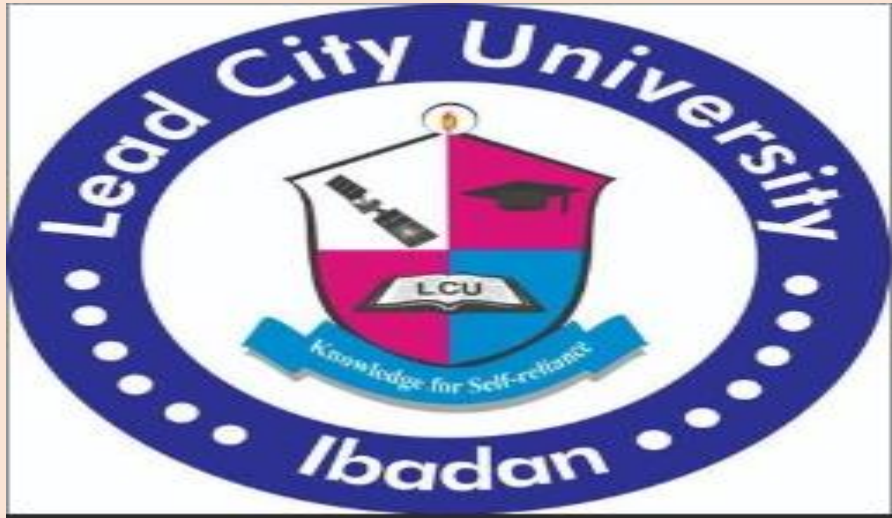
# OWNERSHIP OF PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN NIGERIA – OWNERSHIP TYPES



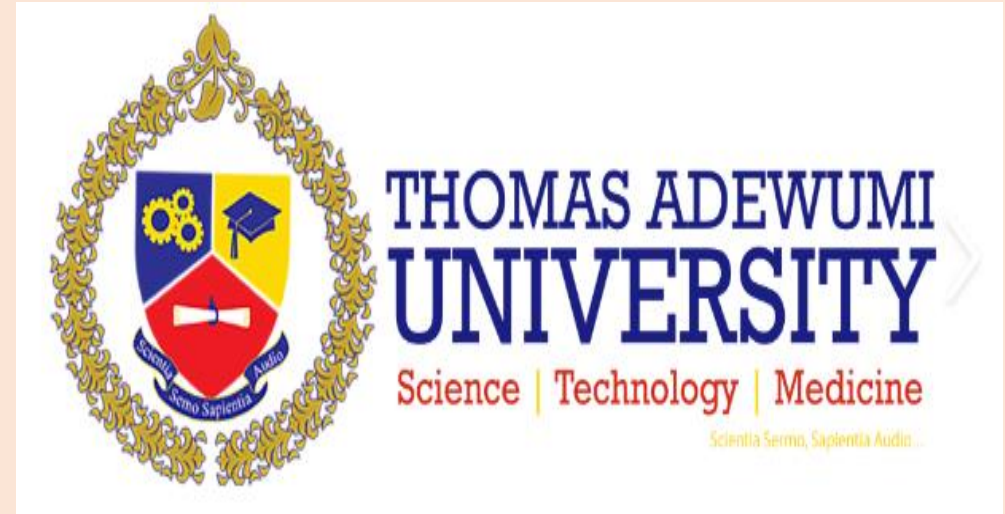
Types of Private Universities	Examples
Corporate	Pan-Atlantic University, Lekki, Lagos state; Thomas Adewumi University, Oko-Irese, Kwara State.
Faith-Based	Covenant University, Ota; Fountain University, Osogbo, Bowen University, Iwo, Osun state.
Individuals	Igbinedion University, Okada; Caleb University, Lagos; Lead city University, Ahman Patigi University, Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin.



# OWNERSHIP OF PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN NIGERIA – CORPORATE OWNED



Owned by Eduserve Consult



Owned by Decrown West Africa Company Limited



Owned by the Pan-Atlantic University Foundation (PAUF)



# OWNERSHIP OF PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN NIGERIA – FAITH BASED



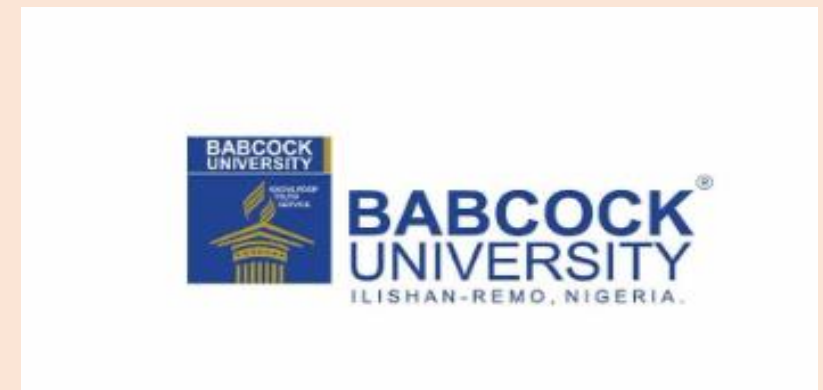
Baptist Christian Nigerian University



Established by the Nasrul-lahi-il-Fathi Society (NASFAT)



Owned by Ansarudeen Society of Nigeria



Owned by Seventh-day Adventist Church





# OWNERSHIP OF PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN NIGERIA – INDIVIDUAL



Founded by Atiku Abubakar



Owned by Olusegun Obasanjo



Owned by the Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi (Ojaja II)



## OWNERSHIP OF PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN NIGERIA – CURRENT STATISTICS & MOTIVE OF ESTABLISHMENT

- Currently, Nigeria has 148 private universities. Several other applications are undergoing processing, hence still counting.
- The motive for the establishment of a private university may be for profit or non-profit. A private university is a capital-intensive project.
- The owners of private Universities depend mainly on fees paid by students.



# EVOLUTION OF PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN NIGERIA – MATTERS ARISING

## Matters Arising

### POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS

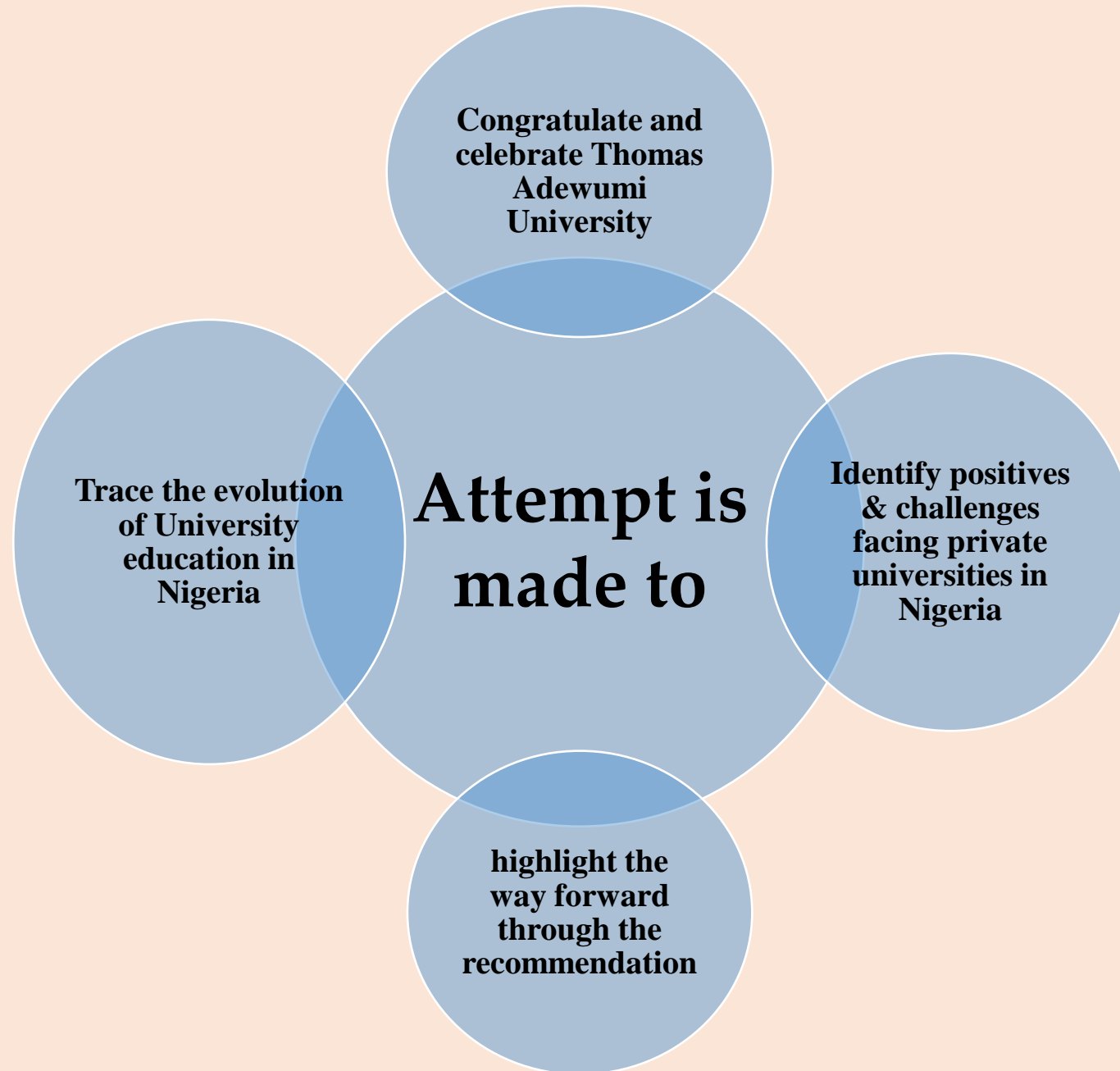
1. Stable academic calendar
2. High Staff-student Ratio
3. Breakthrough in Research
4. Entrepreneurship Skill
5. Positive Character Moulding
6. Prudence in Fund Utilization

### CHALLENGES

1. Quality of Enrolment
2. Quality of Staff
3. Standard of Administration
4. Academic Standard
5. Emerging Technologies

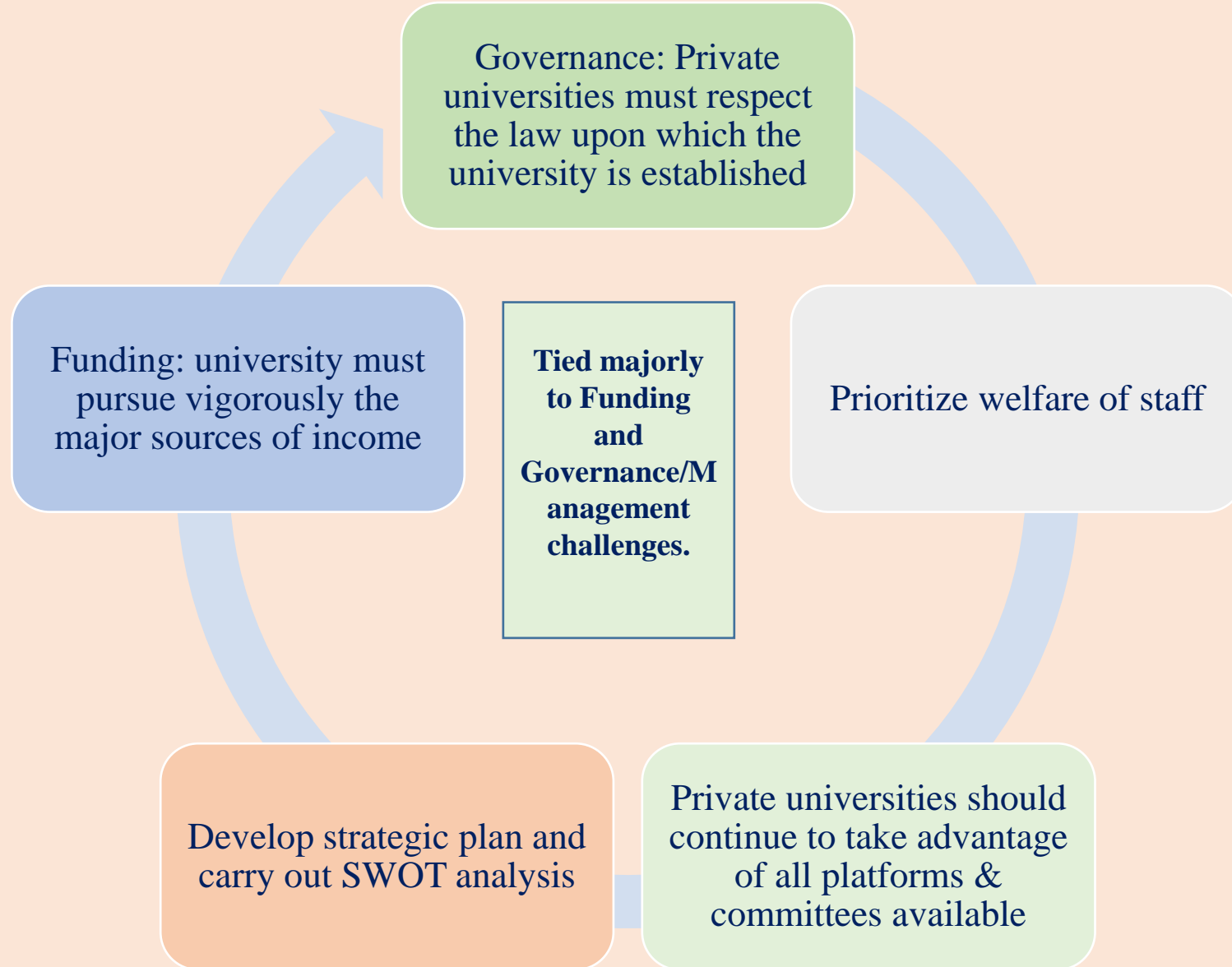


## SUMMARY AND CONCLUDING REMARKS





# RECOMMENDATIONS





## REFLECTIONS

### **For the Founder/Chancellor**

- ❖ What you don't want, you don't watch; what you don't confront, you don't conquer

### **Vice-Chancellor**

- ❑ “Humility is the root and catalyst of gratitude”
- ❑ “Every leader draws on the strength of men and women that surround him”
- ❑ “Wherever there are no rules there will be ruins”
- ❑ “It takes firmness to birth greatness”

### **For the staff and students to attain success**

- Albert Euisten: “Don't strive to be a man of success. Strive to be a man of value”
- “You cannot be committed and not be creative; You cannot be creative and not be productive; You cannot be productive and not be successful’
- “You can't think poor and mistakenly get rich”



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION





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