

**ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR OF SIWES, PROF. NAOMI N. JAMES-RUGU
ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST (1ST) SIWES AWARENESS FORUM
(SAFE HELD ON 26TH FEBRUARY, 2013 AT THE MULTI-PURPOSE
AUDITORIUM, BAUCHI ROAD CAMPUS, UNIVERSITY OF JOS, JOS,
NIGERIA.**

The Chairman of the occasion, **Mr. M.E. Akalusi**,

The Chief Host, The Vice-Chancellor, **Prof. Hayward B. Mafuyai**,

Principal Officers of the University of Jos,

The Area Manager, ITF Jos Area Office, **Mrs. Lami Dakwak**,

Staff of the ITF Jos Area Office,

Captains of Industry present,

Deans of Faculty / Directors,

Heads of Department,

Directors/ Coordinators of SIWES from Institutions in Jos Zone,

Departmental SIWES Coordinators / Institution - based Supervisors,

My Dear Great Josites (Students),

Gentlemen of the Press,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I esteem it a **privilege** to be in your **midst** this morning for the First ever **SIWES** Awareness Forum (**SAF**).

SIWES is the Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme. It is the Accepted Skills Training Programme, which forms part of the **Approved Minimum Academic Standards** in the various degree Programmes for all the Nigerian Universities.

The National Universities Commission (**NUC**) specifically pointed out that **SIWES** is an **effort** to **bridge** the **gap** existing between **Theory** and **Practice** of Engineering and Technology, Sciences, Agriculture, Medical, Management and other **Professional Educational** Programmes in the Nigerian Tertiary Institutions (**NUC 1996**).

The National Universities Commission outlined six (6) main **Objectives** of **SIWES**, but I will **mention** just one which is to **provide** an **avenue** for **students** to acquire **industrial skills** and **experience** in their **course of study**.

It is a tradition that before the Prospective **SIWES** Students (**PSSs**) embark on Industrial Training (**IT**), **SIWES** Directorate of the University of Jos organizes a one (1) day **SIWES** Orientation Programme (**SOP**). It is usually **hectic** and **inadequate**. It is often assumed that students have acquired adequate information on this subject matter.

Perhaps, it is **timely** to **mention** that my sixteen (16) years experience as the Departmental **SIWES** Coordinator (**DSC**) in the Department of Zoology aroused more interest of **Zoology Students** on **SIWES**. This is because during my tenure, **lectures** were **given** and all **SIWES** Matters (**SMs**) were **discussed** at least some months before the **Directorate** organized its **SIWES** Orientation Programme (**SOP**). This yielded **positive** results with **outstanding performances** by **Zoology Students**.

On **assumption** of **duty** as the **Director** of **SIWES**, I thought of **expanding** this **Programme** across all the **SIWES** Participating Departments (**SPDs**) in the **University**.

A proposal whose caption is **SIWES** Awareness Forum (**SAF**) was **forwarded** and **graciously** approved by the Vice - Chancellor, **Prof. Hayward B. Mafuyai**. Sir, I am indeed **grateful** of your **magnanimity** and **keen interest** in the **growth** and **development** of the Scheme in the **University** and the **Society**.

Awareness is **knowledge** or **understanding** of a **subject matter**. It is also a **state** of being **aware** or the **quality** of **immediacy** which belongs to **consciousness**. Suffice to say, therefore, that **more** ground **needs** to be **covered**.

Against this background, a **feedback mechanism** is **expected** so as to **show** our level of **readiness** before each **SIWES** Outing (**SO**)/ **SIWES** Year (**SY**).

It is **hoped** that at the end of this **Forum**, the Students will be further **aware** of the following:

- (i) Qualification for **SIWES** Registration (**SR**): The Students **will be informed about the implementation of SIWES Certification Form (SCF)**.
- (ii) Job Specification Handbook (**JSH**).

- (iii) Philosophy, Aim and Objectives of **SIWES**.
- (iv) Possible places of attachment of the various **SIWES** Participating Departments. This will give the Students **ample opportunity** to **select** places of attachment **early enough**. If this **arrangement** is adopted, then the parents, guardians and sponsors will be ready for this task that includes their accommodation, feeding and logistics.
- (v) Fit into the **next stage** which is the existing **SIWES** Orientation Programme (**SOP**).
- (vi) Their Departmental **SIWES** Coordinators (**DSCs**) and Institution -based Supervisors (**IBSs**).
- (vii) The **SIWES** Directorate (**SD**), hence the opportunity of visiting the **SIWES** Directorate Library (**SDL**).
- (viii) Challenges of the **Scheme** based on their **interaction** with Graduating **SIWES** Students (**GSSs**).
- (ix) Exposure to certain abbreviations, terminologies or terms used under the **Scheme**.
- (x) Acquaint themselves with the Weekly Progress Reports (**WPRs**) contained in the various Graded Logbooks (**GLBs**).
- (xi) The **rudiments** of writing **Technical Report**. At the end of the **experience**, the **Students** will be able to **report** on any **research** they embark upon.

Since this **exercise** is a **two way traffic**, I am being **hopeful** that at the **end** of it all, the Institution - based Supervisors (**IBSs**) will equally **achieve** the following:

- (i) Appreciate the workability of the **Scheme**.
- (ii) Have good understanding of the **Scheme** thereby help to **sharpen** the **modus operandi** of the **Scheme**.
- (iii) Identify **strategies** that will **deal** with **grey** areas.
- (iv) Instill **discipline** and character **moulding** of the Students.

Permit me, ladies and gentlemen to **draw** the **attention** of our **dear** Prospective **SIWES** Students (**PSSs**) that what we are presently **witnessing** is the **First Phase** i.e the **Opening**

Ceremony of the **SIWES** Awareness Forum (**SAF**). **SIWES** lectures will however be held for five (5) days in the various **SIWES** Participating Departments (**SPDs**). Note that this will be the **Second Phase** of the **Programme**. You will be required to attend all **Sessions** of the Programme.

Remember that during the **Second Phase** of the Programme you will be expected to interact with your Departmental **SIWES** Coordinators (**DSCs**) and Institution - based Supervisors (**IBSs**).

The Directorate will **keep** its doors **wide open** for **interested** Students [Prospective **SIWES** Student (**PSS**) and **SIWES** Students (**SSs**) to make further inquiries.

Let me at this juncture, **appreciate** the various **Stakeholders** i.e the Federal Government of Nigeria, the National Universities Commission (**NUC**) and the Industrial Training Fund (**ITF**) for their various roles in **administering** the **Scheme**.

It is equally **pertinent** for us to **thank** the **Employers of Labour** for **partnering** with us in this **onerous** task of **promoting** industrialization in **Nigeria**.

Our indebtedness goes to the Vice - Chancellor, **Prof. Hayward B. Mafuyai** who **facilitates** our work by **giving** speedy **response** to **SIWES** Matters (**SMs**). This **spirit** of **encouragement** is highly **registered** in our **minds**. **Mr. Vice Chancellor**, Sir, keep up with the good work.

My **speech** will be **incomplete** if we don't **appreciate** the **efforts** of the **SIWES** Participating Departments (**SPDs**) viz Deans of Faculty, Heads of Department, Departmental **SIWES** Coordinators (**DSCs**) and Institution - based Supervisors (**IBSs**) who have so far **accorded** the necessary **cooperation**. We are indeed **thankful** for your **contributions**.

Let me **conclude** that this exercise emphasizes the **need** for all academic staff in the **SIWES** Participating Departments (**SPDs**) to **continue** to **promote** and **sustain** the ethics

of our **dear profession**, with a view to **nurture** a **University of High International Standard**.

I am therefore **optimistic** that if this is **achieved**, the University will be **proud** to produce **assertive, effective, efficient, industrious, dependable, loyal, focused and disciplined graduates** who will **occupy** the different **strata** of the **Nigerian Economy**.

Thank you and **God** bless you all.

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Prof. Naomi N. James-Rugu