

SPEECH BY THE SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR DR. NAOMI N. JAMES-RUGU Ph.D (READER) ON THE OCCASION OF THE ZOOLOGY WEEK FOR 2003/2004 SESSION

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, Prof. J. O. A. Onyeka,
The Most Senior Professor of Zoology in the Department of Zoology, Prof. J. A. Ajayi,
The Head of Department, Dr. N. B. Molta,
The Chairman of the occasion,
Senior Colleagues,
Other Colleagues,
My Dear Students,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I esteem it a privilege to be in your midst, this morning as a Special Guest for this memorable occasion. I am indeed flattered for this singular honour. Let me use this opportunity to welcome everybody here present. This is a clear demonstration of your full support of the programme lined up by the National Association of Zoology Students, University of Jos Chapter.

Zoology is that branch of interesting Science which embraces both Veterinary and Human Medicine. No wonder the association deems it important to organize a symposium which is geared towards Zoology and the future: subtitled severally:

- (i) Parasitology
- (ii) Entomology
- (iii) Hydrobiology and Fisheries
- (iv) Physiology
- (v) Ornithology
- (vi) Ecology and
- (vii) Conservation

My speech will be incomplete if the magazine entitled "Panthera" is not mentioned. Panthera is coined from the group of animals so called the big or great cats under the Order Carnivora from the Subclass Eutheria, the Placental mammals. Permit me further to mention here that "Panthera" is not in its infancy, but regrettably it is not published annually. Let me state that the financial constraint of the Association should be a thing of the past. My candid advice is that both academic and non-academic members of staff with this point in mind, I am optimistic that if these suggestions are considered and adhered to then "Panthera" will be sustained; its production will be annually and will compete favorably with other magazines published by students of other Universities in Nigeria.

It will be inappropriate to conclude my speech without mentioning the zeal, commitment and selfless service shown by members of the Association. Undoubtedly, these are glaring attributes that have led to the success of the Association. Ladies and gentlemen you would recall that sometimes last year the Association invited us and commissioned some seats in Zoology Laboratory 3, this concerted effort in keeping the academic flag flying is quite commendable and worthy of emulation.

To the outgoing committee members, your honesty, dedication and hardwork are quite outstanding as a reflection of good leadership. It is my infinite prayer that the newly elected executive members will not relent in their dogged struggle to surpass or sustain the tempo.

I wish to at this juncture appreciate the presence of invited guests for your fatherly and motherly blessings necessary for the survival of the Association. Finally, it is my honour and privilege to humbly invite the chairman of the occasion to continue with the programme of the day. Thank you and God bless.

Dr. Naomi N. James-Rugu