

**SPEECH PRESENTED BY PROFESSOR NAOMI NARI JAMES-RUGU (PATRON)
TO NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RIGWE STUDENTS (NARS), UNIVERSITY OF
JOS CHAPTER ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR WELFARE PROGRAMME HELD
ON SATURDAY, 20TH JULY, 2019 AT SKYE BANK HALL, UNIVERSITY OF JOS,
PERMANENT SITE**

Chairman of the Occasion,

Guest Speaker,

The President and Executive Council Members,

National Association of Rigwe Students,

Distinguished Guests,

Gentlemen of the Press,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I esteem it a **profound** privilege to be **invited** for this **solemn** occasion. I am **delighted** that I am **physically** present and to **share** in this **glory** with you. I have no **doubt** in my **mind** that it has been **divinely** designed by **God** in whom I give **praise**. You have **invited** me **severally**, but at such **times**, I have at various **occasions** sent **representatives** due to my tight **schedules**.

To find **oneself** in the **world** of **University** is **not** an **easy task**. This is **attestable** with all the **challenges** of attending **lectures**, carrying out **assignments**, studying, **abiding** by the **Vision, Mission, Motto, and Core Values** and other **responsibilities** of the **University** System.

Remember, as **leaders** of **tomorrow**, you must **endeavor** to **live** a **life** of **exemplary** quality. **Demonstrate** the role **models** that you have **raised** yourselves to be. I am **aware** that your **Examinations** are **fast** approaching, please **work** hard so as to **achieve** your **ultimate** goal of **earning** a good **degree**. According to **Collin** Powell, "**A dream does not become reality by**

magic, it takes sweat, determination and hard work". My **prayer** for you **therefore**, is that **may** the Almighty **God** who is **gracious, faithful** and **merciful** preserve your **lives** in **His righteousness**. Additionally, may **He** **crown** you with **success**.

It is **worthy of note** that your **today** is **connected** to your **tomorrow**. Please be rest **assured** that **you** are all **children** of **God** carrying the **seed** of **greatness**. You must **remember** that **God** created you for some **special** reasons. You need to **reciprocate** this **gesture** by **doing** some of the following:

- ✓ **Know** each **other**.
- ✓ **Accept** each **other**.
- ✓ **Tolerate** each **other**.
- ✓ **Avoid** casting **aspersions** and
- ✓ **Strive** for **excellence**.

By so doing the **omniscient** and **omnipotent** God will **elevate you** to **greater** heights **beyond** your **comprehension** at the **appropriate** time and **season**. Furthermore, your **achievements** will **enable** you **compete** favorably in the larger **society**.

Please **permit** me to **draw** your **attention** to the **perilous** situation in our **native** land. I **urge** you to remain **united, steadfast, peaceful** and **watchful**. Continue to **love, care, respect** and **understand** each other. **Remember** the dictum, "*Irigwe zunzru*" we must **practicalize** this to the **letter**. We must **continue** to **pray** fervently for our **people** and our **land** for **God's** mercy.

Thank you for the **opportunity** given, **may** the good **Lord** bless you **all**.

Prof. Naomi N. James-Rugu
(*Professor of Zoology*)