



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA
Faculty of Arts, Department of Languages
2023_1 POP EXAMINATION

COURSE CODE: ENG 414

COURSE TITLE: SPEECH WRITING (3 CREDIT UNITS)

**INSTRUCTION: ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS IN ALL. QUESTION FIVE (5) IS
COMPULSORY FOR 30 MARKS PLUS TWO OTHER QUESTIONS
FOR 20 MARKS EACH = 70 MARKS**

TIME: 2 HOURS

1. You have been invited to make a presentation to group of young people on '*Mental illness and Preventive Measures*'.
 - a. Develop a draft outline for your presentation. **(20 marks)**
2. Write a speech, in not more than four (4) paragraphs, for a presentation to a youth group on the topic '*Corona Virus (COVID-19) and Protocol Measures*'. **(20 marks)**
3. Read the speech provided below, and do the following:
 - a. Summarise the speech in an outline format
 - b. Make sure you list the main points and supporting ideas. **(20 marks)**
4. Analyse the speech below by answering the following questions:
 - a. Evaluate the speech in terms of type and features of a good speech
 - b. Conduct an audience analysis and determine if the speech met the audience's needs. **(20 marks)**
5. Read the speech below and do the following:
 - a. Identify the major parts of the speech (introduction, body and conclusion) and the features that characterise each part.
 - b. What is the purpose of the speech?
 - c. Mention one (1) strategy with examples that the speaker uses to identify with the audience.
 - d. List the main points addressed in the speech
 - e. Identify two (2) strategies with examples that the speaker uses to highlight his points.
 - f. Comment on the language and style (e.g. the appropriateness of the sentence structure used). **(30 marks)**

Building a New Nigeria: Imperatives for Shared Prosperity

Abridged Text of the Convocation Lecture, delivered by Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina, President, African Development Bank Group at American University of Nigeria (AUN), 10 July 2021.

Good morning everyone!

I wish to thank you Professor Margee Ensign, President of the American University of Nigeria for inviting me to deliver this commencement lecture. I am most grateful to you, Madam President, the University Senate and the Governing Council for the great honour of being conferred with the University's highest honorary degree: Doctor of Humane Letters. Thank you so very much!

Congratulations to you all the class of 2020 and the class of 2021. You have done very well, and you have made your parents proud.

I love the diversity I see here: you have students from all parts of Nigeria, a reflection also of Nigeria's diversity. I also love the diversity that I see in the international students and faculty. You are all welcome in Nigeria. I gather that the international student body includes the nations of South Africa, Cote d'Ivoire, Rwanda, Cameroon, India and Romania. I trust that in your respective ways and in the years ahead, you will all become honorary ambassadors of Nigeria. I trust that you will also look back in the not-too-distant future and say, "yes, Nigeria finally made it!"

I am proud to be a Nigerian. I know that for several people, this might sound like an old cliché, whose time has passed. I fully understand the challenges we face as a nation. Yet, I have a dream that we will arise, from our challenges, and build a more prosperous and united nation. So, today, I want to speak to you about "Building a New Nigeria: Imperatives for Shared Prosperity".

Nigeria is blessed with incredibly rich diversity: of people, of cultures, of religions, of mineral resources, oil, and gas, an amazingly rich biodiversity, that should make us the envy of the world. We are blessed with abundantly diverse agro-ecologies, that should also make us a land of bountiful harvests with capacity to feed Africa.

We are a religious nation, so we should understand that God loves diversity. The diversity of rich and brilliant colours that we see in our forests, oceans, seas, and in flora and fauna, reflect the beauty of the Creator. Therefore, our diversity is not our problem. Diversity is our strength. But when mismanaged, diversity becomes divergence. Rather than unite, we become splintered, with each entity believing that, somehow, it is better without the other.

We must manage diversity for collective good.

Take Singapore as a case in point. It is a very diverse, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-religious society, made up of Chinese, Malay, Indian and Eurasians. Singapore is a nation of diverse people and national origins. Yet, this nation was able to forge a unified identity that has powered its

extraordinary economic progress and development. Think of it: Chinese represent 74%, Malay, 13.4%, Indian, 9.0%, and others, 3.2%. Think of their religious diversity: Buddhism ((33%), Taoism and folk religion (10%), Christianity (18%), Catholicism (6.7%), Protestants and non-Catholics (12%), Not religious (18.5%), Muslims (14%), and Hinduism (5%). There is religious harmony, not religious supremacy, or polarization. The people see themselves first as Singaporeans!

At its independence in 1965, Singapore's per capita income was just \$517 compared to \$1,400 for Nigeria at its independence in 1960. Today, the story is different. The per capita income of Singapore is now \$60,000. Today, the per capita income for Nigeria is \$2,250. This highly diverse nation now ranks 4th in the world in terms of GDP per capita, with massive wealth and prosperity for its people. The evidence is clear. Singapore managed its diversity to create wealth — shared wealth. By better managing its diversity, Singapore has been able to forge an incredible economic growth, which benefits all in the country. They have 100% access to electricity and 98% access to water and sanitation. Their schools rank among the best in the world. Today, Singapore is a AAA-rated economy by the global credit rating agencies.

But Singapore did not have it easy either. They faced challenges, just like we are facing in Nigeria today. They had very divisive ethnic and race riots in the 1960s that almost pulled the nation apart. But they overcame this by getting some things right. They focused on fusion of national purpose and identity. They put in place cultural policies that ensured no one ethnic group or the other dominates or assimilates others, but rather, promotes multiculturalism. They put in place a constitution that reinforced national fusion. Article 12 of the constitution forbids discrimination based on race, descent or place of birth. It reads, “We the citizens of Singapore, pledge ourselves as one united people, regardless of race, language and religion, to build a democratic society based on justice and equality”.

What is the lesson here? The Singaporean society is based on meritocracy, not aristocracy or ethnocracy or religiocracy. Any society where meritocracy is subjugated to aristocracy, ethnocracy or religiocracy eventually tends towards mediocrity. Nigeria must learn from this experience and forge a new way of engaging among its diverse ethnic groups and religions. A nation, unified by a sense of common wealth, not a collage of ethnic nationalism. A nation driven by meritocracy, not ethnocracy, religiocracy or aristocracy.

One of the things that Singapore did well was to have four national languages: English, Malay, Mandarin and Tamil. Nigeria needs to put in place the compulsory teaching of its major languages in schools, from primary through universities, to ensure multilingualism, cross-cultural understanding, and to build a strong socio-cultural capital that unifies. The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) was a very good idea: it allowed graduates from tertiary institutions to have one year of national service, largely (ideally) outside of their places of origin. The real test, however, of “national service” is that it often revealed the lack of diversity. After one year of service the

NYSC graduates are often not able to gain employment in governments where they served, simply because they are not indigenes of those States. That in itself, is an irony! The young graduates are strangers in their own country. A country they pledged to serve. Opportunity is denied just because they were not born in those states! Even if they were born in those states, they are told to return to the States of their origin.

Nigeria must start managing its diversity for prosperity. We must drive for national cohesion, not ethnic nationalities. We must address the fundamental reasons for agitations, by listening, understanding, removing prejudices, and allowing for open, national dialogues, without preconditions, but with one goal: build one cohesive, united, fair, just and equitable nation for all, not for a few or for any section of the nation or religion. Yet, their origin is Nigeria, not their States!

In Nigeria, regardless of how long you have resided in any place, you cannot run for political offices in those states or locations, just because you were not born there. State governments, therefore, largely reflect nativism not residency, which further sends a message to non-indigenes that they do not belong. Over time, this has created greater insularism, splintering, a lack of inclusiveness, the promotion of ethnic and religious chauvinism, instead of promoting national cohesion, trust and inclusiveness.

This needs to change. Governments must be open to representation based on nationality not on ethnicity, to build a society of mutual trust, where diversity is well managed. Unless someone can live in any part of the nation, work within the laws and not be discriminated against, based on religion, race or culture, or place of birth, they will always be strangers in the nation.

I know that we can be better than we are. We have everything and every reason to be. For Nigeria to be all that it can be, the youth of Nigeria must be all they can be. The future of Nigeria depends on what it does today with its dynamic youth population. This demographic advantage must be turned into a first rate and well-trained work force, for Nigeria, for the region and for the world. But 38.5% of Nigeria's youth are unemployed. Lacking skills, economic opportunities, they are discouraged, angry and restless, as they look at a future that does not give them hope.

We should prioritize investments in the youth: in upskilling them for the jobs of the future, not the jobs of the past; by moving away from so called youth empowerment to youth investment; to opening up the social and political space to the youth to air their views and become a positive force for national development; and for ensuring that that we create youth-based wealth.

From the East to the West, from the North to the South, there must be a sea change in economic, financial, and business opportunities for young Nigerians. The old must give way to the new. And there must be a corresponding generational transfer of power and wealth to the youth. The popular folk talk should no longer be "the young shall grow", it should, rather, be: "the young have arrived". The young shoots are springing up in Nigeria. Today, Lagos has its own Silicon Valley.

Yabacon Valley has emerged as one of the leading tech hubs in Africa with between 400 and 700 active start-ups worth over \$2 billion, second only to Cape Town. Andela, a global technology start-up based in Yabacon Valley, recently attracted \$24 million in funding from Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg. The \$200 million investment by Stripe (a Silicon Valley firm) in the local payments company Paystack, and \$400 million into three Fintech companies in just one week in 2019 signals the huge potentials of Nigeria to attract global digital commerce and financial services.

The African Development Bank is currently working on a \$500 million program, Digital Nigeria, which is being designed to help further transform Nigeria's digital competitiveness and build on the incredible entrepreneurship of Nigeria's youth. The Bank is also exploring the establishment of Youth Entrepreneurship Investment Banks — financial institutions for young people, run by first-rate young bankers and financial experts, to drive youth-wealth creation.

Nigerians deserve wealth, not poverty. For all the abundant wealth of natural resources, Nigeria's poverty situation is unacceptable. Today, sadly, there are way too many poor people in Nigeria. The Government is implementing bold social programs to reduce the number of poor, through interventionist programs, but the fact of the matter is poverty is not just about money. There is poverty of health, and yet we know that health is wealth.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further revealed the weaknesses of Nigeria's health care systems. From diagnostic and testing centers, access to vaccines, and hospital infrastructure, the health care systems were overwhelmed. I commend the spirited efforts of the Federal and State governments, and the private sector, in mobilizing resources to tackle the pandemic. The African Development Bank provided \$288.5 million to support the efforts of the Nigerian government in responding to the pandemic.

But we must go further. Nigeria must manufacture vaccines locally. There is a lot to change to secure the health of the population. Less than 5% of the population has access to insurance with the National Health Insurance Service. Over 90% of Nigerians have no health insurance. You can see the effects on the lives of people. Nigerians are not living long compared to other countries. Life expectancy in Nigeria is only 60 years (2020), compared to 70 years in India, 81 years in the UK, 80 years in the US, 82 years in Norway, and 86 years in Singapore. Nigeria should build a comprehensive health care defense system, to secure its population against the impacts of the current pandemic and future pandemics. There must be equal opportunities for all. Health is wealth. We must ensure that all have access to health care, regardless of the levels of income. And we must strongly support medical doctors, physicians, nurses and medical technologists, and remunerate them accordingly. They form the core of the health care system. We cannot have a situation where 56% of Nigeria's medical doctors are working outside of Nigeria. We need to stem the tide by prioritising health of the people, and incentivising professionals in the health care system, from rural health clinics to the surgeons and physicians in secondary and tertiary health

systems. Nigeria should put in place incentives to harness the knowledge, skills, and resources of Nigerians in the diaspora, and invest massively in building Nigeria's health care infrastructure and systems.

There must be accountability for better lives for all Nigerians, regardless of their levels of income. There cannot and should not be a Nigeria for the rich, and another Nigeria for the poor. We must build one Nigeria, where every citizen has the right to a decent life. We must build a better nation. We must start building again, not splintering again. We will build a new Nigeria, where one will be respected and accepted, not according to the village of one's birth, the state of one's nativity, or one's religion, but by the dignity within ... the simple dignity of being a Nigerian. The sufferings of the present cannot and should not dampen our hope in the future.

So today, turn to your right and whosoever you see say to them "I am Nigerian". Yes, you are "Nigerian"! Now, wherever you go on from here, go out and make Nigeria proud ... and work for a better Nigeria! Wherever you find yourself, in your own little sphere, let the change begin with you! Build bridges that connect, not walls that separate! Together, in a better and just society, we will thrive. And thrive we must, and thrive we will, as one united Nigeria. So, say it again: "I am Nigerian!" Yes, we are. Now, help us God!

Congratulations again! Go out there, change Nigeria, and change the world!