



# BELLSTECH

## News Bulletin

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## **BELLS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY APPOINTS PROFESSOR ABEL OLORUNNISOLA AS NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR**

***Renowned Engineer, Scholar, and Experienced University Administrator  
to Lead Nigeria's Pioneer Private University of Technology***



On the recommendation of the Governing Council of Bells University of Technology, Ota, the Board of Trustees, at its meeting of Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2026, approved the appointment of Professor Abel Olajide Olorunnisola as the Institution's new Vice-Chancellor, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2026.

The Board of Trustees and Council acknowledged Professor Olorunnisola's exceptional academic credentials, distinguished record of University administration, and extensive international exposure as vital assets that will advance BellsTech's mission as a Centre of excellence in technology-driven education. His appointment is expected to usher in a new era of strategic growth, internationalization, and academic distinction for the university as it navigates its third decade of existence.

### ***A Scholar of Global Stature***

Professor Olorunnisola, aged 57, brings to the role over three decades of academic and administrative experience spanning Nigeria's premier public University and the private University sector. He holds a B.Eng. (Second Class Upper Honours) in Agricultural Engineering from the Federal University of Technology, Akure (1989), an M.Sc. in Agricultural Engineering (Wood Products Engineering Option) from the University of Ibadan (1992), and a Ph.D. in Wood Products Engineering from the same institution (1997). He also holds a Professional Diploma in Management from the Nigerian Institute of Management (1999).

A Registered Agricultural Engineer with the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN), Professor Olorunnisola is a Fellow of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (FNSE), Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Management (FNIM), Fellow of the Materials Science and Technology Society of Nigeria (FMSN), Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Environmental Engineers (FNIEE), and Fellow of the Nigerian Institution of Agricultural Engineers (FNIAE). His scholarly footprint extends across multiple continents through visiting professorships at Northwestern University, USA; the University of Pirassununga, Brazil; and the Pan African University Institutes in Ibadan and Tlemcen, Algeria.



### ***Proven Leadership in University Administration***

Professor Olorunnisola's administrative career at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria's premier university, saw him rise through significant levels of academic governance. He served as Sub-Dean (Undergraduate and Postgraduate) of the Faculty of Technology, Sub-Dean of the Postgraduate School, Head of the Department of Wood Products Engineering, Dean of the Postgraduate School (2010–2014), and ultimately as a Member of the University Governing Council (2019–2021), where he also chaired the Council Committee on Computerization of University Processes and served on the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Budget Monitoring Committee, and Projects Committee.

As Dean of the Postgraduate School, he presided over the largest postgraduate school in West Africa, introducing 23 new programmes, establishing a one-billion-naira reserve through fiscal discipline and revenue generation, and pioneering digital transformation through online admissions, electronic transcript processing, and ICT infrastructure deployment. His tenure was distinguished by the institution of scholarship schemes for international students and persons living with disabilities, as well as a conference grant scheme that promoted research culture among postgraduate students.

Since November 2021, he has served as the Vice-Chancellor of Dominion University, Ibadan, where his pioneering leadership has been adjudged remarkably successful. Within four years, and with the support of the Board of Trustees, Council, and Senate, he oversaw the Resource Verification Exercise that resulted in the issuance of operation license by the National Universities Commission (NUC) in 2022. All academic programmes also received full NUC accreditation between 2022 and 2024; three sets of graduating classes were produced in 2023, 2024, and 2025; and a brand-new Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, housing Nursing Science, Medical Laboratory Science, and Public Health programmes, was established. Under his watch, staff and student population grew significantly. He also facilitated a 500,000-Euro Erasmus+ grant for staff-student exchange with Greek Universities and successfully hosted the Cisco Networking Academy Safari in April 2024, the first of its kind in Oyo State.

### ***A Prolific Researcher and International Collaborator***

Professor Olorunnisola's academic credentials are underpinned by an extraordinary research portfolio. He has published 11 books, 17 book chapters, 93 journal articles, and 31 conference papers, with a Google Scholar h-index of 19 and 1,382 citations as of March 2026. He holds a patent for a briquette machine developed from his research, and his work on bamboo processing, rattan utilization, renewable energy, and fiber-reinforced composites has influenced policy and practice across Africa and beyond.

His international standing is evidenced by his role as a member of the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) Expert Task-forces on Bamboo for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Bamboo Development, his participation in the development of five ISO standards for bamboo products, and his service as an invited expert at ISO/TC 296 meetings in Jakarta, Addis Ababa, and Manila. He has supervised 18 Ph.D. theses to completion, with several of his students now occupying professorial and leadership positions in Nigerian and international Universities.

His research has attracted significant funding, including grants from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, The African Academy of Sciences, TWAS/CSIR, FAO, UNCTAD, Pan-African Materials Institute, and International Standards Organization, among others. He has delivered keynote



addresses and public lectures across five continents and maintains active collaborations with institutions in the United States, United Kingdom, Brazil, India, Turkey, China, and several African nations.

### ***Vision for Bells University of Technology***

In his application, Professor Olorunnisola articulated a comprehensive vision for BellsTech anchored on three strategic pillars: boosting investible funds, re-engineering the University to lead national technological advancement, and enhancing its international profile. His administration, he pledged, would be characterized by transparent leadership, fiscal discipline, vigorous revenue generation, curriculum internationalization, expansion of research frontiers, and transformation of administrative services.

He identified BellsTech as currently navigating between the differentiation and monopoly stages of the University life-cycle, having successfully crossed the survival and sustainability phases. He is committed to steering the Institution towards developed, world-class status within five years. His strategic priorities align closely with the University's 2026–2031 Development Plan, which targets 30–40 percent growth in internally generated revenue, 50 percent increase in research output, 70 percent graduate employ-ability, and full digital governance implementation.

### ***Statement from the Board of Trustees***

In approving the appointment, the Board of Trustees expressed full confidence in Professor Olorunnisola's capacity to elevate Bells University of Technology to new heights. The Board noted his "wealth of experience and professional prowess" as indispensable qualities for leading the Institution at this critical juncture in its evolution. His unique blend of public and private University management experience, combined with his extensive global networks and proven track record in institutional transformation, positioned him as the ideal candidate to realize BellsTech's aspiration of becoming a world-renowned University committed to the development and transformation of society through environment-friendly technologies.

### ***Personal Profile***

Professor Olorunnisola is married to Dr. Omolola Olubunmi Olorunnisola and they are blessed with three children. He is fluent in Yoruba and English, with working knowledge of French and German. His hobbies include reading biographies and leadership literature, and writing computer programmes.

