

The Visiting Vice-Chancellors

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Management Services)

The Registrar

The Bursar

The University Librarian

The Provost, Deans and members of Senate

Heads of Departments and Units

Directors of various Centres

Distinguished guests, faculty members, graduates, the wife of the Vice-Chancellor and wives of the Principal Officers present and our esteemed guest of honor, Professor Toyin Falola.

I am profoundly delighted to stand before you today as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin to extend a heartfelt welcome to this prestigious Convocation lecture. This is the first Convocation lecture to be delivered under the 11th Vice-Chancellor of this University. It is indeed a momentous occasion, for me and the University as we gather here to explore the thought-provoking theme of **Modernity, Modernization, and Values**, a topic that is both timely and significant in our ever-evolving world.

Today, we are graced with the presence of a renowned scholar and an intellectual giant, Professor Toyin Falola, a thoroughbred Ibadan man from the University of Texas. Professor Falola's academic journey has been marked by unwavering dedication to the pursuit of knowledge and a passion for deepening our understanding of complex societal issues. His work in the field of African studies has been instrumental in shaping the discourse on the continent's history, culture,

and identity. His recent passion of interviewing the crème de la crème in the global space has further demonstrated his intellectual prowess and engaging mindset.

As we delve into this lecture, it is imperative that we contemplate the themes of modernity and modernization and their intricate relationship with values. In an era marked by rapid technological advancements with the emboldening and intimidating presence of Artificial Intelligence and shifting cultural landscapes, the exploration of these issues is of paramount importance in our ever-emerging world. This is especially so that we now have serious erosion of our values, ethos and mores. In my view, this is an issue that should be of concern to the African Continent. Has this been given enough attention by Agenda 2063 put in place by the African Union? How much of issues of culture and values have we imbibed and impacted on the younger generation?

Professor Falola's expertise and insights will undoubtedly guide us in navigating this complex terrain.

The University of Ilorin has long been committed to fostering an environment of critical thinking, scholarship, and intellectual curiosity. Our students have excelled in various fields, and today, as they graduate, we celebrate their accomplishments and their potential to contribute positively to our society as well as assist in positioning our country for the 21st Century challenges.

I encourage all of you to embrace this lecture as an opportunity for intellectual growth and reflection. Engage in the discussion, interrogate the presentation, and let the ideas presented here spark your own intellectual pursuits.

In conclusion, I extend my deepest gratitude to Professor Toyin Falola for gracing us with his presence and wisdom. I am confident that his lecture will be an illuminating experience for all of us.

I welcome you all to this enlightening lecture on **Modernity, Modernization, and Values**.