

NO EDUCATION, NO NATION

By

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**Welcome Address at the 39th Convocation Lecture
delivered by Prince Lateef O. Fagbemi SAN, Minister
of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation, on
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Protocols

It is with great pleasure and a very deep sense of responsibility that I welcome you all to this momentous occasion of the Convocation Lecture as part of the programmes of our 39th Convocation ceremonies of our great institution. Today, we gather not only to celebrate academic achievements but to reflect on the critical issues that shape the future of our nation, Nigeria. I am particularly honored to welcome our distinguished speaker, an erudite legal luminary, the no 1 law officer in Nigeria, our own Prince Lateef Fagbemi, SAN who will be delivering a lecture on the theme Nurturing Democratic Values and Education for the Future of Nigeria.

The theme of today's Convocation lecture is timely and deeply relevant. At a time when our nation is at the crossroads, grappling with numerous socio-political and economic challenges, the need to re-examine the role of education in fostering democratic values has never been more pressing. Democracy, as we know, is the bedrock of freedom, equality, and justice. Yet, it cannot thrive without a well-informed and critically engaged populace — and this is where education plays a pivotal role. The citizens must be engaged appropriately, sensitized and adequately informed of their rights duties and obligations.

Our University, like many others across the nation, is committed to nurturing not just academic excellence but also the values that sustain our democratic culture. We must ask ourselves: What role does education play in shaping the leaders of tomorrow? How can we, as educators and institutions of learning, instill in our youth the values of integrity, accountability, respect for the rule of law, and active citizenship? These are the questions that today's lecture will seek to explore, and I trust that we will all leave here with fresh insights and renewed commitment to the cause of democracy.

As we celebrate the accomplishments of our graduands, we are reminded that their education does not end with the receipt of their degrees. Rather, it is a lifelong journey, one that will shape their contributions to society and their ability to safeguard and nurture the democratic principles upon which our nation is built. That is why our University introduced the U-INSPIRE programme to ensure that our students not only graduate as being certified in character and learning in their field of study but also acquire the necessary skills that will make them fit into the world of work and be in a position to contribute to the development of democratic values and engage the citizens in the ideals of nurturing it to serve the citizens better.

To our distinguished speaker, we are deeply grateful for your time, wisdom, and commitment to this vital subject. I am confident that your insights will provoke thought, inspire action, and empower us all to contribute to the future of Nigeria in meaningful ways.

I warmly welcome you all to our University and appreciate you all for being part of this momentous occasion.