

**NO LONGER WHERE WE WERE**



**Convocation Address of the Vice-Chancellor  
Professor Wahab Olasupo EGBEWOLE, SAN  
On the occasion of 39<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremonies on  
Monday, October 21, 2024**

## Protocols

It is my joy and uncommon privilege to address this august gathering marking the 39<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremonies of our beloved University. The joy of the moment and the adored serene environment are testaments to the rare commitment, dedication, and teamwork spirit of staff and students of this great citadel. Reflecting on the past weeks and months since we last gathered for the 37<sup>th</sup> and 38<sup>th</sup> combined Convocation Ceremonies, I say, Alhamdulillah!

Before I proceed, it is for me an act of honour to specially recognize all our guests. On behalf of the Governing Council, Management, Staff, and Students, I want to warmly welcome our Visitor, President Ahmed Bola Tinubu, GCFR; I also welcome the Honorable Minister of Education, Professor Tahir Maman, *SAN*. I celebrate our Chancellor, the Emir of Katsina, His Royal Highness, Alhaji (Dr) Abdulmumini Kabir Usman, *CFR* for being a father to all and always ready to assist in actualizing the dream and vision of our university.

I warmly welcome external and internal members of our Governing Council under a distinguished and patriotic Nigerian, His Excellency, Surveyor Abiodun Aluko; I most sincerely appreciate all at this special occasion for believing in our University and importantly, vision *1:10:500* now modified to *1:10:100*. Let me publicly acknowledge the very dedicated Principal Officers of this great University comprising the Deputy Vice-Chancellors, the Registrar, the Acting Bursar, and the University Librarian. The Committee of Provost and Deans have been so wonderful, and the support from the Directors of various Centres has been enormous. It will be difficult to quantify the exceptional roles of our Heads of Departments, our distinguished Professors, members of the academia, and highly resourceful non-teaching staff, as well as our esteemed responsible students in the journey so far; I sincerely appreciate you all. The success story we are celebrating today is a testament that we are **NO LONGER WHERE WE WERE** a few years back with so much assurances of marching forward and soaring high in no distant future with all hands on deck. Our determination and doggedness have propelled us to move beyond **WHERE WE WERE**.

Very quickly, I warmly welcome Vice-Chancellors of other Universities and dignitaries who have honoured us with their esteemed presence. The presence of the Acting Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission, Mr. Chris Mayaki, the Registrar and Chief Executive of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), Prof. Is-haq Oloyede and the Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono is a morale booster and not taken for granted. We are indeed grateful to you all.

To our Convocation lecturer, the highly celebrated legal giant, the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Prince Lateef Olasunkanmi Fagbemi, SAN, we say a big thank you. From the excellent delivery and deep, thought-provoking presentation of your lecture, without being accused of being biased as SAN myself, it is clear that you have done more than justice to the topic and we are glad for making the right choice of you being this year's Convocation Lecturer. It is my hope that your recommendations on nurturing democratic values and education for the future of Nigeria will further be processed by relevant Centres in this University and indeed by all stakeholders in the 'Nigerian Project'. I know the outcome will be pleasing to you soon. Again, thank you for choosing us against all odds and your very tight schedules.

Dear proud parents and graduands, you are the reason for our gathering and we must so celebrate you in unique ways. Your doggedness and smart work have positioned you for a celebration today. While congratulating you and your dear parents, I arrived at this title while returning a few weeks ago from my trip to the Republic of China where a number of issues to advance the course of this university were discussed. As important as today is to you and our institution, let me take the liberty to caution that while counting the stars, we do not lose our focus on the moon. I know you are excited but the reality is that you are **NO LONGER WHERE YOU WERE** some 4 years ago just as our University is **NO LONGER WHERE WE WERE**. Your critical thinking ability should be activated now as society awaits the wonders of your degrees to change the situation and restore hope for a better country. As a nation, the experiences of recent times have clearly shown us that we are **NO LONGER WHERE WE WERE** some 10 or 15 years ago. Our nation is greatly challenged and needs problem solvers, innovative thinkers, and people with

the capacity for value addition which your training here offers you. You must therefore hit the ground running.

As echoed during the press briefing, for this 39<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremonies, we have 12,042 convoking at the undergraduate level and 1,875 for postgraduate programmes. The Centre for Affiliated Institutions has a total of 2,380 graduands on this occasion. Details are presented in the table on the last page of this speech. However, it is instructive and deliberate that I let the audience know that for the First Degree/Diploma category, we have 256 First Class, 3,842 Second Class (Upper Division), 6,178 Second Class (Lower Division), 1,299 Third Class and 62 Pass. This 39<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremonies is unique with an alluring figure of 124 MB;BS graduands; Nursing, Optometry and Veterinary Medicine graduands are 64, 35 and 30, respectively.

At the higher degree level, we have 92 Postgraduate Diplomas, 1,281 Masters from various Faculties, 179 Professional Masters's Degrees, and 323 Ph.Ds.

I have presented the figures above not for statistics sake but to draw our attention to the contributions our University is making in the training and enlisting adequate manpower for this nation and beyond; a signpost of the huge sacrifices, the demand for quality education and expansion places on us as an institution of first choice. By extension, the statistics present us with those competing for the available space to make impact and change the narrative about our nation. Dear graduands, you need to understand that this occasion sets you up for unavoidable societal expectations to deliver and add value in your own corner to yet a great nation, your immediate community, this university and yourself. You will have to pick up bills, take responsibility for your actions, contribute meaningfully to nation building and maturely integrate into the new world because you are **NO LONGER WHERE YOU WERE** 4 years ago. Becoming our ambassadors and advocates is a rare and matchless privilege in all ramifications. Guide jealously the heritage bequeathed on you from hereon. I congratulate you again and again.

Gladly, I tell you that your University is moving forward and doing well in the community of universities. In advance, I will like to inform, announce and specially

invite you to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the University coming up next year, 2025. We shall be celebrating the giant strides in the last 50 years and the bold steps we have taken in the last two years. For 5 consecutive years, our university has been adjudged the most preferred university in Nigeria by JAMB; in 2023, we had the privilege of being presented the New Telegraph's Award of University of first choice in Nigeria while in 2024, our university is 3<sup>rd</sup> best Nigerian university in scholarly outputs. Our university till date is the institution with most patents (20 to Unilorin name) as announced by the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology. Our institution's policy on excellence in research, teaching and community engagement between 2023 and 2024 was revived and boosted with a ₦200,000,000.00 Senate Research Grant (SRG).

A special focus is devoted to research as another ₦50,000,000 was allocated to SRG (Special Intervention). Equally, the University commenced the 'Innovator of the Year' award with a handsome reward. We have also instituted monetary compensation for researchers who published their works in high-impact journals in addition to sustaining the Researcher of the Year Award. Two new awards have been instituted this year including the Best Faculty of the Year and Quality Assurance Award. All these to set our University apart from the crowd, demonstrate our commitment to a motivated workforce. Ladies and gentlemen, within our limited resources, we provided data at critical time to ease the work of staff, provided discounted bus services to staff and students, and encouraged members of staff with a 25% rebate on school charges for biological children. In the 103 programmes, scholarship is assured yearly for best students. We have 100% accreditation of our programmes as presented to NUC and professional bodies.

This university is known for excellence in all ramifications. Just recently, seven of our academic staff were listed among the top 2% leading scientists in the world. This development is not only a breaking news but a further attestation to the 'can do' and trail-blazing culture established by our founding fathers. We are indeed Trendsetters. At the moment, researchers from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in collaboration with researchers in the Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology (IRTA), Spain and Royal Holloway University of London, UK are undertaking research in Innovative

Veterinary Solution for Antimicrobial Resistance. The research grant which worths 1.6 Million Canada Dollar (equivalent to Two Billion, Two Hundred Million Naira [₦2,200,000,000.00]) is being funded through a grant from International Development Research Centre (IDRC). In another dimension, two other researchers from the Food Engineering Department, through the University partnership with De Monfort University, UK and Micro Scale Embedded Limited, Abuja, won £141,959 Pound Sterling (₦788, 862,483. 27) to train and coordinate farmers as well as build software for farmers to have access to farm processes.

Early in the year, National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) under the Federal Ministry of Innovation Science and Technology (FMIST) celebrated our university with a cash prize for taking uncommon lead in Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer. Our university was able to secure a place among the first three institutions out of 48 that participated in the competition. At the just concluded Africa Debating Championship, fully-packed and keenly-contested Debate Tournament which held at University of Ghana, Legon, our University, represented by Owolabi Victor Oluwatobi of the Faculty of Education and Olafisoye Tolulope Alexander of the Faculty of Law, clinched the 2<sup>nd</sup> Position. The team had earlier dusted their colleagues from other Nigerian Universities to secure the ticket to participate at the tournament.

It is important that I reiterate that we can certainly do more and better. We have come this far with the consciousness of managing our meager resources and identifying our priorities. As I hinted in my press briefing, we have learnt to cope with the change and we are vastly adapting to the challenges and striving to reposition our University for greater heights. Our appreciation to the Visitor, Ministry of Education, National Universities Commission, TETFund, JAMB, NEEDS intervention, other agencies and well-meaning Nigerians for all times support to our dear institution but then, we are not yet where we are supposed to be though no longer where we were. We intend to increase the research grant, support faculty for cutting-edge researches, improve on our transportation system, boost facilities and services at our Health Centre and as well invest heavily in the students' accommodation beyond the public private partnership. We are

committed to improving our infrastructural facilities and to that end, we are commissioning a number of projects during this Convocation Ceremonies. I enjoin you all to support our vision of becoming the best in Nigeria and among the first one hundred in the world. A new university website is up and running. It has essential features that can compete favourably with any of the world class ivory towers with the target of improving and providing efficient service delivery. Our portal has been upgraded to overcome current challenges and almost all our processes are now automated.

Distinguished graduands, parents, guests, and well-wishers, we wish to assure you of our unwavering commitment to upholding the right culture and values for which we are known. To my beloved graduands, I sincerely hope that you will make use of your training here. Let your actions, contributions to national development and of course your give back to your alma mater from hereon always reflect that it is not same you that was once described as admission seekers or '*jambito*' but now a proud graduate of the **Better by Far** University. Your approach to issues of life should truly be better to show that you are **NO LONGER WHERE YOU WERE** years back but rather, now a progressive, impactful, resourceful, highly trained, and productive individual just as your institution.

Your Excellency, Distinguished invited guests, proud parents, worthy in character and learning graduands, gentlemen of the press, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you all for your rapt attention.

## HIGHER DEGREE/DIPLOMAS 2022/2023 ACADEMIC SESSION

FACULTY	PGDs	Masters	MBA/MPA/MILR/MGIS/MPH	MPHIL	PHD	TOTAL
Agriculture	13	141	-	-	41	<b>195</b>
ARTS	-	283	-	-	57	<b>340</b>
BCS	-	14	-	-	4	<b>18</b>
BMS	-	20	-	-	9	<b>29</b>
CLINICAL	-	19	-	-	2	<b>21</b>
CIS	12	44	10	-	12	<b>78</b>
EDUCATION	32	188	5	-	45	<b>270</b>
INST OF EDUC	13	-	-	-	-	<b>13</b>
ENGR	-	50	-	-	21	<b>71</b>
ENVRN	-	66	-	-	-	<b>66</b>
LAW	-	52	-	1	7	<b>60</b>
LIFE SCI	5	96	-	-	30	<b>131</b>
MGT SCI	-	42	109	-	10	<b>161</b>
PHARM	-	8	-	-	-	<b>8</b>
PHY SCI	17	172	-	-	59	<b>248</b>
SOS SCI	-	74	55	-	25	<b>154</b>
VET MED	-	11	-	-	1	<b>12</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>1280</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>1875</b>
<b>CENTRE FOR AFF. INSTI. - NTI</b>	<b>2380</b>					



## FIRST DEGREE/ DIPLOMAS 2022/2023 ACADEMIC SESSION

FACULTY	1 <sup>ST</sup> Class	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Honours (2.1)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Honours (2.2)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Class Honours	Pass	MB;BS	Nursing Distn Pass	Pharmacy Distin. Pass	Optometry Distn Pass	Physiotherapy Distn Pass	Vet. Med. Distn Pass	Diploma	Total
Agriculture	45	486	378	35	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	945
ARTS	7	411	758	148	3								1327
BCS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 32	-	-	33
BMS	17	153	114	14	0							-	298
CLINICAL	-	-	-	-	-	124	7 57	-	-	-	-	-	188
CIS	12	186	318	126	6	-	-	-	-	- -	-	-	648
EDUCATION	16	979	1696	296	17								3004
INST OF EDUC	6	236	824	96	2						-	16	1180
ENGR	67	332	206	31	5	-	-	-	-	- -	-	-	641
ENVRN	9	85	101	17	1	-	-	-	-	- -	-	-	213
LAW	4	88	115	22	0	-	-	-	-	-	-		229
LIFE SCI	18	243	398	118	17				2 33				829
MGT SCI	13	326	571	140	4								1054
PHARM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18 85	-	- -	-	-	103
PHY SCI	36	183	376	173	4							-	772
SOS SCI	6	134	323	83	-	-	-	- -	- -	- -	-	-	548
VET MED	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- -	1 29	-	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>3842</b>	<b>6178</b>	<b>1299</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>7 57</b>	<b>18 85</b>	<b>2 33</b>	<b>1 32</b>	<b>1 29</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12,042</b>