



BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO



38th



**Convocation
Ceremony**

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH
PROFESSOR SAGIR ADAMU ABBAS, FMAN
VICE-CHANCELLOR, BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO



Tuesday
27TH FEBRUARY, 2024
10.00am Nigerian Time



Convocation Arena,
BUK New Campus

Principal Officers of the University,
Members of the University Senate Here Present,
Parents & Guardians,
Well-Wishers,
Distinguished Guests,
Graduands,
Members of the Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good Morning,

I deem it a great pleasure to welcome you all to the 38th Convocation Ceremony of this great university for the 2020/2021 academic session. This convocation ceremony is remarkable in the university's strides of giving a pride of place to its most valuable assets – its graduands.

As you may all be aware, this year's convocation, as usual, is staggered to span a period of 5 days. These would be for the award of degrees and higher degrees spread across the faculties and, above all, the investiture ceremony of the Chancellor of the University, the Emir of Ilorin, His Royal Highness, Alhaji (Dr) Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR. The 38th Convocation will also witness the conferment of honorary degrees, as approved by the Senate, to two distinguished Nigerians: Deputy President of the Senate, Senator Barau Jibrin, CON and the President of African Development Bank, Dr Akinwumi Adesina, CON. Again, as it has been the tradition of this university, there will be a Convocation Lecture on the eve of the grand finale of the Convocation to be delivered by Alhaji Aliko Dangote, GCON. The theme of the lecture is "The Role of the Private Sector in Building a Sustainable Knowledge Economy in Nigeria".

Distinguished guests, convocation ceremonies are meant to felicitate with our graduands that are joined by family members, friends and well-wishers and, of course, lecturers to celebrate the result of the years they spent toiling in order to succeed in their chosen fields of endeavour. Such ceremonies formally mark the introduction of the graduands into the society, having been found worthy both in character and in learning. Today marks the beginning of the 5-day activities aimed at appreciating, celebrating and relishing the joy that being successful brings.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, a total of 3,797 graduands, consisting of six (6) faculties, shall be presented for graduation today. Details are as follows:

- Faculty of Agriculture, 307
- Faculty of Arts & Islamic Studies, 822
- Faculty of Earth & Environmental Sciences, 310
- Faculty of Education, 2,090
- Faculty of Law, 238
- Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, 30

The details would be provided as the candidates are being presented for conferment according to individual faculties.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, Bayero University, Kano is a globally top-ranked university with commitment to education, research and community services. Over the last couple of years, the university has been pursuing the following vision plan:

- To transform it from a basically teaching to a research based university
- To transform it from a predominantly Arts/Humanities to Science-based university
- To make it an information and communication technology driven university
- To be a global best practice university

To this end, the University Management and the Senate are working tirelessly to attain our desired

objectives. Over the last two years, for example, the university has made a number of giant strides. Bayero University, Kano emerged the 4th Best University in Nigeria in the February 2023 ranking of universities released by Times Higher Education (THE) of the United Kingdom.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to inform you that in the latest 2024 World University Assessment by the Times Higher Education of the United Kingdom, BUK was ranked the 5th Best University in Nigeria, trailing Covenant University, the University of Ibadan, the University of Lagos and Federal University of Technology, Akure as 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th respectively. In addition to emerging 5th best university in Nigeria, BUK is also the Best University in the North-West, North-East, South-East and South-South zones. The report said the ranking was based on 13 calibrated performance indicators that measure an institution's performance across four areas of teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook. Bayero University was ranked the second best university in Nigeria in terms of international outlook, coming after Covenant University. We will not relent in our resolve to improve the visibility of the university on the global scene by consistently being visible on the university website as well as publish research work in reputable journals and engage in more collaboration with individuals and industries at the international level. Indeed, we will continue to ensure quality and standards as well as improved facilities for enhanced teaching and research.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, although this memorable day is not meant for long speeches, permit me to quickly and briefly inform you about a few more achievements of this administration over the last three years of our stewardship.

I would like to share with you that Bayero University, Kano has, again, been ranked as the 3rd Best Value University for International Students in Nigeria. BUK also emerged amongst the top 1,000 in the world. According to the 2023-2024 report released in November 2023, the South-Korea based universities database assessor, Study Abroad Aide, noted that over 8,000 tertiary institutions from about 70 countries were assessed. The ranking methodology for the best-value universities was based on two indicators: the academic quality of institutions, which accounts for 75% of the institution's evaluation and based on academic reputation as well as the difference between the university's tuition fees and the country's average tuition fees. This factor accounts for 25% of the evaluation and was included to gauge the institution's availability. The report further explains that BUK's effort to make education accessible should not be unnoticed, as this informed the assessment. The report also noted that the ranking would not only bring further distinction to the university's name and boost reputation and credibility, but also help greatly in achieving the goal of assisting more aspiring international students worldwide.

Bayero University, Kano made history again on Thursday, 30th November, 2023 when it graduated the first set of Doctors of Pharmacy (Pharm D) in Nigeria. Indeed, BUK is the first university in the country to achieve this milestone. The historical ceremony witnessed 30 graduands from the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences taking the oath of allegiance of the Pharmacy Council of Nigeria (PCN) at Mahmud Tukur Theatre, Old Campus. There is no doubt that BUK has made another history even though it is one of the second-generation universities in the country. Doctor of Pharmacy is a prestigious degree recognized by the National Universities Commission (NUC) and the Pharmacy Council of Nigeria (PCN). Accordingly, the new graduands will be the first holders to be inducted by the PCN and, by extension, the first set of pharmacists to practise with the degree in Nigeria. Indisputably, this is a notable accomplishment by the university, and on behalf of the Senate, the Management and staff of the university, I heartily congratulate the university, especially the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, on this outstanding achievement.

Following the recent review of Central Registration Fees of students by the management of the university for the 2022/2023 session, we deemed it expedient to approach government officials, corporate bodies, wealthy individuals and philanthropists to come to the aid of indigent students of the university in paying the new registration fees. Our effort yielded positive results. First and foremost, the Kano State Government, under the leadership of Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf, agreed and paid the

registration fees of over 6,000 indigene students of Kano State. That was a remarkable gesture. May Allah reward the Governor bountifully. Other states that paid for their students were Jigawa, Katsina and Kaduna states. The following individuals who were contacted by the management of the university also paid for hundreds and thousands of students in the university. They included the following:

- a) Dr Nasiru Yusuf Gawuna
- b) Senator Rufai Sani Hanga
- c) Senator Barau Jibrin
- d) Senator Kawu Samaila
- e) A. A. Rano
- f) Honourable Abubakar Kabir Bichi
- g) Honourable Kabir Alhassan Rurum

May Almighty Allah reward them all abundantly for coming to the rescue of the indigent students whose academic career was on the verge of collapse.

Meanwhile, the Management of Bayero University had in December 2021 launched the “On-Campus Students’ Job Scheme” in fulfilment of the desire to alleviate the difficulties and challenges faced by some students due to lack of adequate financial support. The scheme is intended to provide opportunities for students from across faculties to render some services to the university and earn some legitimate income. The scheme, which started with 125 students, is the first of its kind in the history of the university. The scheme attracts N15,000.00 monthly income to a student, after meeting the laid down requirements. The management of the University has now increased the number of students from 125 to 150. The management will continue to review the scheme depending on the financial status of the university.

Similarly, the Skills Acquisition Centre for students at the Student Affairs Deanery for the training of students to learn various skills in order to become self-reliant after graduation is still functioning. Interested students are encouraged to key in, especially considering the economic situation in the country today.

Distinguished guests, let me at this juncture congratulate the graduands who are being rewarded today on successfully completing their studies in Bayero University, Kano. I entreat you to be worthy ambassadors of BUK and endeavour to give your best in the development of your community and the nation. Do remember BUK wherever you may be for providing you with the necessary knowledge and skills to build a career thereby contributing to societal development. I also have the pleasure to congratulate the parents and guardians as well as other relations of the graduands on the success story of their children and wards.

The dedication and commitment of both teaching and non-teaching staff of the university cannot be overemphasized. Collectively, all played their roles in ensuring the success story of this memorable day. The University Senate, Management and Council and the Convocation Committee all contributed in no small measure in ensuring that this convocation ceremony is successful.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I thank you most sincerely for honouring our invitation.

Thank you and God bless.

Signed:

Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas, FMAN
Vice-Chancellor, Bayero University, Kano