MEMORIES OF 31ST CONVOCATION
PROF. RASHEED AT CONVOCATION:
Bayero University Has Come of Age

Over the five days the 31st Convocation associated ceremonies lasted, listening to the Vice Chancellor explain how he has so far translated his vision and mission into epoch making realities on the ground, Lamara Garba agrees that truly “Bayero University has come of age” with offerings across the spectrum of academic disciplines and fields of research of concern to its Community and the nation.

Convocation, otherwise known as a graduation ceremony in the British tradition, is the initiation of the graduands into the society, having been found worthy both in character and learning. This year, according to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed mni, MFR, a total of 13,925 graduands were awarded first and higher degrees. Out of this figure, 80 of them bagged Doctoral degrees, 3,146 were awarded Masters and 1,824 got Postgraduate Diploma while 8,875 obtained Bachelor’s degree.

Professor Rasheed, who also took time over the four days of the ceremonies explaining the policy thrust of his administration, said it was deliberately conceptualised with the aim of repositioning the University. Pointing out that management under his leadership had vigorously pursued a vision plan in which it remodelled the University from a basically teaching to a now research-based University; from predominantly Arts/Humanities to Science-based as well as making it to be an Information and Communication Technology driven, based on global best practice. Speaking further, the Vice Chancellor disclosed that Bayero University has come of age, stressing that its ranking as a leading citadel of learning, teaching and research in the country is no longer in doubt, which according to him, were the resultant effect of the vigorous developmental projects embarked upon in the last five years. Indeed, there is no gainsaying the fact that today, Bayero University which has twice been rated as an ‘A’ grade University by the NUC, is a leading citadel of learning, not only in Nigeria but also across the West African sub-region.

The University, according to him, started as a single faculty of another University with just 10 students; but now has over 50 different programmes and over 30,000 student population. Currently there are as many as fifteen faculties and each of these courses has been accredited by the National Universities Commission as well as the relevant professional bodies, such as the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria, the Council of Registered Engineers of Nigeria (COREN) and the Council of Legal Education, among others.

Further enumerating the successes recorded in the University, which were the ingredients that make it possible for the University to retain its top ranking status as well as being a role model among the country’s tertiary institutions, Professor Rasheed paid glowing tributes to his predecessors whom he said laid the solid and concrete foundation on which he rolled out his programmes to take BUK to greater heights. He said the University was blessed with a focused and highly committed leadership, with the interest of the institution at heart.

The management, he said, came up with diversification policies which were designed to ensure expansion of access. Already, after the scrapping of all sub degree programmes in line with the global trends, the University has sought and received permission from the regulatory agency, the NUC, to commence part-time degree programmes in some 23 courses at the newly established School for Continuing Education.
(SCE). This, no doubt, will enable various stakeholders to actualize their dreams and ambition.

In addition, the University had established nine new research centres within the last five years. No doubt this has helped in no small measure in refocusing and remodeling the University from that of teaching to that of research and innovation in science and technology, in line with the contemporary needs and the global best practice.

As part of the deliberate policy to re-position the University, Professor Rasheed also disclosed that in a couple of months to come, many more research centres would take off. These will include Centre for Renewable Energy Research, the Centre for Advanced Medical Research, the Centre for Infectious Disease, the Centre for Gender Studies, the Centre for Interfaith Dialogue and Centre for Economic and Population Studies. The idea of creating all these research centres, he explained, was to attach all the teaching staff in the University to one or more research groups coordinated by the Centres, and by so doing, the lecturers’ full potentiality would be harnessed as well as encourage the discovery of the innate talents, creativity and innovation in them.

Explaining the secret behind the University’s availability of resources, he proudly disclosed that the adoption of zero tolerance on corruption, which translated into the judicious utilization of the lean funds, placed the University on a vantage position, thereby attracting various intervention funds from the TETFund, the Needs Assessment Intervention Fund for Nigerian Public Universities as well as other donations from corporate bodies, agencies and individuals. This enabled the management of the University “to embark on an ambitious but carefully designed plans and strategies for the transformation of its landscape and the knowledge scope”. The Vice Chancellor explained that his programmes and policies were deliberately chosen in order to increase the learning appetite among the lucky lads and girls who enrolled in one of Nigeria’s best Universities, the BUK. The repositioning does not only stop at the creation of research centres, additional lecture halls, provision of laboratory equipment, but also extended to the students’ welfare. In this respect, he said students’ hostels were given a massive rehabilitation to meet the international standards obtainable in the best universities in the world.

Those who are familiar with the old students hostel about a decade ago particularly looking at their sorry condition, could not easily recognize them now, as they were completely given a befitting facelift. For example, the Sa’adu Zungur Hall formerly referred to as “Siberia” or Elkanemi hall, another “Ghetto” which were in a poor state in the last decade, have now been completely rehabilitated and have been transformed to their past glory of an excellent abode.

Perhaps, following the massive turnaround in this University, occasioned by the unprecedented upgrading of its standard of academic excellence, it may not be an exaggeration if one posits that the Qur’anic dictum of “...And above every possessor of knowledge, there is One more learned”, which coincidentally is the motto of Bayero University has neatly and perfectly described the status of BUK over and above other Nigerian universities today.

*Lamara Garba is a Senior Assistant Registrar, Public Affairs Directorate, Office of the Vice Chancellor.*
Without mincing words in delivering the 31st Convocation Lecture, the Pro Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, CFR, Ajiyan Katagum, has, according to Ruqayya Yusuf, with exceptional candour as well as surgical precision of a seasoned technocrat and student of power delivered a damning verdict on the Nigerian ruling class from the departed PDP and how the masses still kept faith with the re-born opposition APC in the hope for a better tomorrow.

31st Convocation Lecture:
Telling Truth to Power

Bayero University, Kano organized and accomplished a memorable convocation ceremony in May this year, which could be termed as unique and special. Unlike in the normal circumstance when convocation is celebrated in two days - a pre-convocation lecture and the event itself - it was a whole week affair in Bayero University, Kano this time around.

As it is termed special and carried out in a spectacular way, all activities making up the event were also special. Interestingly, the event coincided with a new dawn in the Nigerian political history where an opposition party deposed the ruling party through the polls that were considered fair, free and credible from both within and beyond the country. Additionally, it was the 31st in the series and last in the administration of the current Vice Chancellor of the University whose tenure would be wrapped up before the year runs out. As the tradition with convocations, BUK 2015 Convocation Lecture was delivered by the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council of the University, Mahmud Yayale Ahmed CFR. The convocation lecture was held on Friday, the 22nd day of May, 2015.

The lecture titled The 2015 Transition: Realities, Expectations and Challenges dwelled on the Nigerian political system, flashing back into the journey of the country's democracy, the Third Republic precisely. The Ajiyan Katagum Alhaji Yayale Ahmed traced the history to 1999 when democracy was embraced with high expectations and ecstasies of reaping its fruits. Fast forward to the
A landmark in the Nigerian political process that led to “overthrow” of the PDP-led government was the merger of the major opposition parties in the country: ACN, ANPP, CPC and APGA into a single opposition All Progressives Congress (APC). That gave the opposition a strong standing and national spread and hence the overwhelming victory of the party at the polls.

Notable of the developments during the Jonathan-led administration Yayale hampered on was the economy. He said the development in the country’s economy had remained controversial and confusing to the ordinary Nigerian. While the government and its officials celebrated the report that Nigeria emerged the largest economy in Africa with a GDP of over $500 billion and a growth rate of 6-7% per annum, and per capital GDP of $2810, and assumed the 26th largest economy globally, the income inequality of the citizens was extreme as analyst indicate that the country’s wealth revolves in the hands of less than 10% of the population. Vast majority of the populace are poor with over one-third of them living below two dollars a day. The operations in the oil sector, the country’s budget and inability of the country to initiate sources of revenue apart from oil, increase in public debt and corruption in all sectors of the economy were among the areas Yayale found very troubling.

Mismanagement of Boko Haram in the North East, rural banditry, cattle rustling, inter-communal violence, vandalism of infrastructure, illegal bunkering and oil theft, armed robbery and kidnapping are among the major security challenges across the country. Other areas of low scores earned by the Jonathan administration were also highlighted by the speaker.

The Pro-Chancellor further dwelled on the expectations of Nigerians of the new administration of President Muhammadu Buhari, noting the desperation of the common Nigerian as so high that he would not listen to excuses of non performance from Buhari, while the elite watch how he will perform. Like in many quarters since the assumption of office by President Buhari with advice on how he should tackle the issues troubling the country, BUK’s 31st convocation lecturer proffered some insights into how the challenges could be handled. He advised that Buhari should accord top priority to the issues of management of success by sanitizing, reorganizing and depoliticizing the security outfits, especially the military, police and DSS.

Corruption, from Yayale’s point of view, is the most difficult of all the challenges and could be best tackled by Mr President by rebuilding confidence and sincerity in management of public affairs, being firm in dealing with his immediate team and always exercise higher moral authority as well as ensure full autonomy to anti-corruption agencies in the country. A suggested starting point for the Buhari administration is a review of the 2015 budget, to be aligned with the objectives and priorities of the new administration. For Nigerians, Yayale preached patriotism.

Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu is a lecturer in the Department of Mass Communications, Bayero University, Kano.
The name Jifatu is synonymous with a large shopping store that rings a bell as one of the most famous retail outlets across Nigeria. In reality, Jifatu is a conglomerate of many ventures; a business enterprise, a philanthropic venture, scholarship donor and an institute for reshaping the mindset of people in modern business.

**BUSINESS ENTERPRISE**

Some time ago in Kano and many other parts of Nigeria, shopping mall business was rare as people preferred small retail outlets for shopping and wealthy business people hardly engaged in such a venture. When people were shying away from this type of business, Jifatu General Enterprises not only engaged in the business but shaped and moulded it as obtained internationally, along with import and export activities. Jifatu has outlets in some states in Nigeria and the business frontier is growing in leaps and bounds.

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How I Emerged Overall Best Graduating Student - Isma'il Garba

Ismail Ibrahim Garba emerged as the best overall graduating student at the just concluded 31st Convocation Ceremony of Bayero University, Kano. In this interview with Nura Garba, the 23-year-old graduate of Agriculture speaks about factors that contributed to his success.

Q: You have just been presented to the Vice Chancellor and the members of the university Community as well as parents and well wishers as the best overall graduating student in Bayero University. How did you feel?

IIG: I am extremely happy and overwhelmed by this tremendous achievement. This has really signified the level of commitment, dedication and hard work put together.

Q: What do you think attributed to this success?

IIG: The journey was not easy but Alhamdulillah things have turned out to be successful. My breakthrough is attributable to my parents who in the first place sent me to school and gave me proper parental guidance. Also since childhood, I developed passion for excellence in my studies because at all times I worked hard to be among the best. Another major factor is the university itself. Indeed, Bayero University had provided an atmosphere conducive to teaching, learning, research and experiment. We have all the facilities and equipment needed during our five-year study. As you know, I graduated from the Faculty of Agriculture, and it is one of the best faculties in the University. There are a lot of opportunities; there are modern equipment for practical in the laboratories and we were well trained during our field work. These have really assisted us greatly to record this success.

Q: Now you have joined the league of alumni of this university, what will the university in particular and the society in general expect from the vast knowledge you have acquired?

IIG: Well, I will always remember BUK as my trainer in agriculture and will always be proud of it. Also, wherever I find myself I will make sure that I become its good ambassador. As an alumnus of this university, I will try hard in future to come and contribute to its growth. To the society, you know agriculture is the mainstay of our economy. I will use the wealth of my knowledge, skills and practical experience to impart positively on my local community, which is Rano Local Government, my state Kano and Nigeria at large.
Voices of Graduands at the 31st Convocation

The 31st Convocation has come and gone, but it has left an indelible mark on the minds of the graduands who enjoyed a staggered ceremony over a period of five days. The ceremonies were complemented with the collection of certificates on the same day awardees were conferred with their degrees. That was the first time the university organized such a ceremony and that the celebrants had ample time to exchange pleasantries with the Vice Chancellor, members of the university management as well as celebrate more with their parents, friends and well wishers. Some of the celebrants spoke to Nura Garba

Isma'il Garba – Overall best graduating student
“I really thank my parents, university management and my department for creating enabling playing field for us to graduate successfully.”

Aisha Mahmoud Sani – Best graduating student in Political Science
“I thank Allah for this blessing. My success is attributable to hard work, prayers and my parents who helped me greatly. Bayero University has really provided all that we needed in terms of necessary facilities for learning and research.”

Abubakar Musa Sani – Geography
“Today is a special day for us having graduated successfully. What adds to my joy is that we will collect our certificates today. I express my sincere appreciation to my parents and teachers who did not only teach us but trained us on good character.”

Munira Biodun – Physics
“I really thank Allah for today because this is one of my happiest moments. I pray that our junior ones will also graduate successfully.”

Abuhuraira Ado Musa – Applied Biology
“To be a graduate is not easy because of rigorous academic exercises. We thank Allah and our parents. I do not even have words to describe my feelings and appreciation to the Vice Chancellor who championed the cause of our smooth graduation. He has really tried.”

Safiya Mohammed – Chemistry
“I am highly impressed to see family and friends rejoicing with me at this graduation ceremony. We really thank the university for this type of convocation that allowed us to have more time to celebrate and collect our certificates same day.”

Aisha Abdullahi – Zoology
“I am quite happy with our graduation and I highly appreciate the Vice Chancellor, Professor Abubakar Rasheed, for ensuring that our departments were split for more access. May Allah bless him in his future endeavor. He also split the convocation ceremony which is first of its kind in this university and it started with us.”

Nura M. Bello – Computer Science
“The university has really done remarkably well in designing the whole stage for convocation ceremony. It was well planned and arranged and we graduands are very happy with what we saw. As you can see now it was conducted smoothly and successfully.”

Amina Usman Ingawa – Geography
“I thank almighty Allah for making it possible for us to witness this memorable occasion. When the Vice Chancellor was speaking I remembered my late father who through thick and thin ensured that I graduated. Allahulillahi since I have accomplished what he would love to see.”
Professor Mustapha Isa situates the pioneer conferment of Professors Emeriti on five distinguished professors at the 31st Convocation within a global academic tradition that is only now getting the attention it deserves north of the River Niger

The Emeritus Professorship in Bayero University, Kano

Background

In renowned universities around the world, including a handful in Nigeria, the emeritus professorship is an established tradition. This is because some professors may, even at the point of their retirement, be found to be leaders in their academic field and of immense value to their university such that keeping them on the university's roll call would help raise the institution's name and image around the world. Giving such retired professors some form of recognition is, therefore, greatly desirable. It is in this regard that Bayero University, Kano conferred the emeritus professorship on five of its retired professors.

The term, emeritus professor, is meant to serve as an honour conferred upon a Bayero University professor, who has reached the age of retirement but is a prominent scholar in his/her field, has extraordinary academic and scientific value, or has done so much towards the development of the university and the larger community. A full professor of Bayero University who retires in good standing may be considered for the conferment of an emeritus professorship after having met certain criteria.

Recipient's Entitlements and Deliverables

A Professor Emeritus in Bayero University shall be entitled to the following:

- A life-time title of Emeritus Professor or Professor Emeritus appended to his/her name
- Office space and access to university infrastructure such as research laboratories, library facilities, staff housing, health services, and other privileges
- A plaque and/or certificate bearing the logo of Bayero University and the wordings of the award
- No special salaries shall be enjoyed by a Professor Emeritus, but may get some special allowances

In turn, the scholar awarded an Emeritus Professorship shall be expected to offer the following to Bayero University:

- Supervision of doctorate theses and/or mentoring of budding academics
- Leading or coordinating research in one's discipline and/or department, faculty, research centre or institute
- Provision of sound academic, professional and policy advice towards the development of Bayero University
- Providing leadership to Bayero University in its strive to attract funding and development support at the national and international levels, e.g. by serving on the Development or Advancement Board

Awardees

1. Prof Ibrahim Halil Umar, Professor of Nuclear Physics and former Vice-Chancellor
2. Prof. Muhammad Sani Zahradeen, Professor of Islamic Studies and Shari‘ah, and former Vice-Chancellor
3. Prof. Dandatti Abdulkadir, Professor of Folklore and African Literature, and former Vice-Chancellor
4. Prof. Emmanuel Ajayi Olofin, Professor of Geography
5. Prof Munzali Jibril, Professor of English Linguistics

Prof. Ahmed Mustapha Isa, Vice Chancellor of North-West University, Kano, is the immediate past Director Academic Planning of BUK.
Professor Jega at the 31st Convocation

Apart from eliciting a standing ovation, Professor Attahiru Jega’s appearance as the Chairman of the 31st Convocation Lecture turns out to be more than a hero’s home coming, as Bala G. Abdullahi points out the parallels and coincidences that thread the event.

The 31st Convocation of Bayero University has come and gone, but the memories it left behind will continue to linger for a long time in the minds of the graduands, their parents, staff and students as well as members of the public who trooped in their hundreds to be part of the epoch-making occasion. But why should the memories of the 31st convocation of the university remain indelible in the minds of all and sundry, when there had been several past convocations in this great citadel? The answer is simple.

The 31st Convocation was not only unique, but also a complete departure from the traditional crowded and jam-packed occasion during which the graduands and their parents did not always have the much cherished opportunity to interact with one another and with their lecturers too. To allow for close interaction between lecturers, graduands and their parents, the University Management decided to conduct a staggered convocation spanning five days, including the Convocation Lecture, during which first degree graduands from three faculties convoked daily for the first three days while higher degrees took the final day and also went home with their certificates. This innovation has addressed the problem of overcrowding associated with past convocations.

Another uniqueness of the 31st Convocation was the choice of the Convocation’s Guest Lecturer. Traditionally, Academics were usually chosen as guest lecturers at convocation ceremonies. This time around, however, there was deviation from the routine, and a technocrat and a seasoned administrator was chosen to deliver the Convocation Lecture. That was not all, those of us who were privileged to witness the 30th Convocation which took place in 2013 will remember vividly that Professor Muhammadu Attahiru Jega, the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), was the convocation’s Guest Lecturer, and Mahmud Yayale Ahmed then Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), chaired the session. One can say without fear of contradiction that the 31st Convocation ceremony celebrated this year, 2015, was a reversal of the 2013 scenario. Mahmud Yayale Ahmed now ProChancellor and Chairman of BUK Governing Council was the Guest lecturer and Professor Attahiru Jega of INEC chaired the session. The parallels continue in the fact that while in the past one was in government and the outside, now they have gone through a revolving door, swapping positions.

When the name Muhammadu Attahiru Jega is mentioned not only Nigerians, but friends of Nigeria and other democratic nations the world over would concur in unison ‘architect of the famous card reader.’ It is therefore not surprising when he was ushered in to take over the session as the chairman of the convocation lecture; the crowd gave him...
standing ovation even before he uttered a word. This is to show the level of appreciation and satisfaction with the conduct of the 2015 general elections adjudged the best in the history of the nation’s elections.

First, Professor Jega commended BUK for choosing Mahmud Yayale Ahmed as the guest lecturer. Secondly, he doffs his hat for at the end of the lecture to Yayale for being brutal and frank in his presentation. He said the Ajiyan Katagum who spoke on the Topic: 'Transition 2015: Realities, Expectations and Challenges,' openly associated himself with the PDP but in spite of that he did not allow partisanship to cloud his sense of reasoning. The Chairman observed that, the Guest Lecturer chose to be first a Nigerian who preferred to assess the situation dispassionately and without mincing words unveiled the realities of the situations and how the era of impunity, he reasoned, contributed immensely to the poor performance of their party in the 2015 elections.

Prof. Jega concluded by saying that the outcome of the elections had gone a long way towards serving as a lesson to elected political office holders to know that they were accountable to the electorate and that anything to the contrary, “a day of reckoning would come when those who graciously gave you their mandate will assess you and decide either for or against based on their assessment of your stewardship”.

The INEC boss also had a word of caution to the APC, saying that Nigeria is a country in transition which fervently wants to achieve democratic consolidation and that such countries were usually faced with the challenge of authoritarian struggle working assiduously to achieve autocratic reversal, adding that if care was not taken instead of achieving democratic consolidation we might end up being victims of the forces of autocratic reversal. Professor Jega said the above analysis called for caution on the part of the APC to ensure that it manages its victory well and that anything short of that might negatively affect their hard earned success and the country might be at the receiving end.

‘Nigerians had made enormous sacrifices to elect the APC. What you do with such overwhelming victory positively or negatively matters a lot’, he said. Professor Jega added that governance was not about an individual; it is about everybody, and that the nation’s abundant resources can be well harnessed for the betterment of the country.

He expressed gratitude to BUK management and by extension it’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed, mni, MFR for giving him the opportunity to chair the Convocation Lecture. He restated his earlier commitment to return to BUK after the expiration of his tenure to continue to do what he said he likes doing best: teaching, research and knowledge dissemination.

Bala G. Abdullahi is an Assistant Registrar with the Public Affairs Directorate, Vice Chancellor’s Office.
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to support and celebrate our alma mater and its students

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The Mace bearer leads Principal Officers and Council Members to the Convocation Arena

Director, Directorate of Examinations, Admissions and Records (DEAR), Hajiya Fatima Binta Mohammed arrives the Arena in procession with members of the Senate

Principal Officers: (1st right) Librarian, Prof. Ibrahim Diso; DVC (Admin), Prof. Sadiq Isah Radda; DVC (Academics), Prof. Sagir Abbas; the Pro-Chancellor & Chairman of Council, Mahmud Yayale Ahmed and the Vice Chancellor, Prof. A.A. Rasheed and Members of Council being attentive to the National Anthem

Graduands from the Faculty of Allied Health, one of faculties in the College of Health Sciences

Also featured were graduands of the Faculty of Basic Clinical Sciences

And from the Faculty of Clinical Sciences

Vice Chancellor, Prof. A.A. Rasheed formally confers Honours degree on graduands from FAIS

Graduands from the Faculty of Arts and Islamic Studies standing, as their degrees are conferred on them by the VC

Graduands from the Faculty of Education wait for their turn
31st Convocation

DVC (Academics) Prof Sagir Abbas (1st left) and DVC (Admin) in the procession followed by Members of Council

Sheikh Abubakar Jibril, Chief Imam of the Old Campus Masjid gives the opening prayer

Director, Directorate of Examinations, Admissions and Records (DEAR) Hajia Fatima Binta Mohammed leads the processions of members of the Senate, that included Prof Shehu Rano (1st left), Director of the IIIBF, towards the Convocation Arena

Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, (Dr) Mahmud Yayale delivers his address

Graduands line up to be congratulated and to be photographed with the VC, a new feature of the convocation ceremony

Being a family friendly convocation, the VC had a word and a pot for the youngest members of the graduands’ families too

Graduands from Faculty of SMS standing while being conferred with their degree

Faculty of Agriculture graduands wait their turn

Graduands from the Faculty of Engineering while being formally conferred with their degrees
31st Convocation

DAY 3: Thursday: 21st May, 2015

Faculties of Computer Science & Information Technology, Law, Science

Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Mahmud Yayaule Ahmed (1st right) shares a light moment with ASUU National President and Director Centre for Renewable Energy Research, Dr. Nasir Fagge, with the Vice Chancellor, Prof. A.A. Rashid joining in

Members of the 12th Governing Council during the rendition of the National Anthem

Malam Bappa Bura of Mass Communications Department, making announcements

Graduands of the Faculty of Law, the learned ladies and gentlemen

Graduands of the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology (FCSIT)

FCSIT graduands being congratulated by the Vice Chancellor

Graduands of the Faculty of Science being conferred with their degrees

The Vice Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor exchange pleasantries with students and their families as they depart the Convocation Arena at the end of the day’s ceremony

Students and Graduands taking pictures of the members of Senate as they depart the Convocation Arena, with Dr. Bashir Galadanci (1st left), Prof. B. S. Aliyu and Prof. Yusuf Adamu in the lead
31st Convocation Lecture

Director Public Affairs, Ahmad Shehu welcomes Professor Attahiru Jega to the venue of the 31st convocation lecture

Standing for the National Anthem (from left): Pro-Chancellor and Guest Speaker, 31st Convocation (Dr) Mahmud Yayale Ahmed; Chairman of the occasion, Prof. Attahiru Jega of INEC; the Vice Chancellor, Abubakar Adamu Rasheed; and former Pro Chancellor, Amb. Adamu Jumba

Some Council members during the recital of the National Anthem

Vice Chancellor, Prof Abubakar Rasheed, as host, welcomes guests to the 31st Convocation Lecture

Chairman of the lecture, Prof Attahiru Jega of INEC delivers his remarks at the 31st Convocation Lecture, on Friday, 22nd May 2015, at the Convocation Arena

Pro-Chancellor, Alhaji Yayale Ahmed, delivers the 31st Convocation Lecture, entitled The 2015 Transition - Realities, Expectations and The Challenges

Part of the audience listening to the 31st Convocation Lecture

The VC, Prof A.A. Rasheed, (1st right), congratulates the Pro-Chancellor, (Dr) Yayale Ahmed, after the delivery of the Convocation Lecture, with INEC Chairman who is also Chairman of the Lecture, Prof A.M. Jega joining in

Alhaji Abdulmumin Bello, of Media Trust, a guest on the occasion, was one of those who asked questions after the lecture
31st Convocation
DAY 5: Saturday: 23rd May, 2015
PG Diploma, Award of Prizes; Higher Degrees and Professors Emeriti

From left: Amb. Dr. Yakubu Kwari; Dep. Gov, Prof. Hafiz Abubakar; Pro-Chancellor, Mahmud Yayale Ahmed; Representative of the Visitor, Exec. Sec. NUC, Prof. Julius Okojie; Ahmadu Abubakar (OFR) and Senator Hajia Fatima O. Raji-Rasaki

From left: Pro-Chancellor, Mahmud Yayale Ahmed; VC, Professor Abubakar Rasheed; Kano State Governor, Dr. Abdullahi U. Ganduje; Emir of Kano, Muhammad Sanusi II; Representative of the Visitor, Exec. Sec. NUC, Prof. Julius Okojie, INEC Chairman, Prof. Attahiru Jega and Dep. Gov, Prof. Hafiz Abubakar

Members. Committee of Vice Chancellors and their representatives from various universities with messages of goodwill getting ready to join the procession of the Convocation

The Registrar, Sani Ibrahim Amin, guiding the proceedings of the Convocation

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. A.A. Rasheed, mni, MFR delivering his welcome address

From left: Professors Emeriti, Prof. Dandatti Abdulkadir, Prof. Ibrahim Umar; the VC, Prof. A Rasheed; Rep. of the Visitor and Exec Sec. NUC, Prof. Julius Okojie; Pro-Chancellor M. Yayale Ahmed; Professors Emeriti, Prof. Sani Zaharahdeen, Prof. Emmanuel A. Olofin and Prof. Munzali Jibril

Postgraduate Diploma graduands and the audience standing for the National Anthem
Professor Ibrahim H. Umar, a Professor of Nuclear Physics, former Vice-Chancellor and former Director-General of the Nigeria Energy Commission; stands as citation is recited by the Orator (inset).

Being robed by the Pro Chancellor and ASUU National President, Dr. Nasir Fagge, the Orator

Receiving a plaque from the Vice Chancellor

Professor Dandatti Abdulkadir, a radical academic, former Vice-Chancellor and former Nigeria's Ambassador to Libya; stands as citation is recited by the Orator Dr Yakubu Magaji Azare (inset).

The Vice Chancellor adjusts the Honorary Robe of the Emeritus Professor

Receiving a certificate scroll from the Vice Chancellor

Professor Emmanuel Ajayi Olofin, a Professor of Geography and former Dean Faculty of Social and Mgt. Sciences and former President of the Geographical Society of Nigeria; stands as citation is recited by the Orator (inset).

Being robed by the Pro Chancellor, the VC and Prof J. Falola, the Orator

The VC receives the plaque from the Director Public Affairs, Ahmed Shehu and hands it over to the Emeritus Professor
Being congratulated by the Pro-Chancellor after receiving the certificate scroll from the Vice Chancellor

Professor Muhammad Sani Zahraddeen, Grand Imam of Kano, former Vice-Chancellor and former Pro-Chancellor University of Benin, stands as citation is recited by the Orator, Dr Bashir Aliyu (insat)

The Vice Chancellor formally conferring the Professor Emeritus

Acknowledging congratulations from well-wishers, as the Pro-Chancellor and the VC look on

Being robed by the Pro-Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor

Receiving a plaque from the Vice Chancellor, as the Registrar, Sani Ibrahim Amin, looks on

Being congratulated by the Vice Chancellor after receiving the certificate scroll

Receiving the certificate scroll from the VC

Paying homage to the Emir of Kano
31st Convocation

Professor Muhammad Munzali Jibril, a Professor of English, former Academic Provost Nigerian Defence Academy and former Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission (NUC); stands as citation is recited by the Orator, Prof Sadiyya Sani Daura (inset)

Being robed by the Pro Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor

Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the 12th Council, Mahmod Yayale Ahmed, Aiyyan Katagum delivering his speech

Receiving a plaque from the VC

Receiving the certificate scroll from the Vice Chancellor

Vice Chancellor, Prof Abubakar Rasheed, (left), about to receive goodwill message from the Vice Chancellor, Sule Lamido University, Kafin Hausa, Prof. Abdullahi Yusufu Ribadu (Professor Rasheed is Pro-Chancellor of SLU)

Delivering an acceptance speech on behalf of other Emeriti

Being interviewed by a lady journalist

Representative of the Visitor and Executive Secretary of the NUC, Prof Julius Okojie delivering his address
Mustapha Gide is not too surprised to find that Kano, the trail blazer in political and social revolutions, has lived up to its billing, as in the famous Hausa adage, by going beyond tokenism and breaking new grounds in giving front-row seats to the freshly minted PhD spouses of the incumbent duo driving the machinery of power at Kano Government House.

BUK Convocation:
PhD Spouses Bring Compassion to Kano Government House

With eagle eyes, I looked at the venue of the 31st Convocation of Bayero University, whose last phase took place on 23rd May, 2015, where the wives of Kano State Governor and his Deputy happened to coincidentally be among those conferred with PhD degrees, both from the Faculty of Education. Then I gasped as I remembered that Professor Hafiz Abubakar left his position as Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academics), Bayero University recently to vie for the position of Deputy Governor, Kano State. I also realized that the Governor himself, Dr Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, was a former academic and, of course, at one time in 1978 and for a period of three years he was a lecturer at Bayero University. What a coincidence? Will Bayero University and, of course, the academia add value and compassion to the power residing at Kano Government House?

Of course, I would not be mistaken the two personalities at the helm of Kano Government House and their freshly minted PhD wives if I conclude that their attainment to the top positions is a test, cross-examination and challenge to the academia and Bayero University in particular. The Kano State Governor, Dr Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, is a PhD holder; the Deputy Governor, Hafiz Abubakar too is a PhD holder and Professor. Both were lecturers at Bayero University. At the 31st staggered convocation, their wives were among those conferred with PhD degrees. Dr Hafsat Abdullahi Umar, wife of Kano State Governor, Dr Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, was conferred with PhD Educational Administration and Planning while Dr Hadiza Hafiz...
With gratitude to the Lord of the Cosmos, the 31st Convocation Ceremonies were conducted peacefully and enjoyed with relish by the graduands, their families and the University Staff. The festivities were memorable and to commemorate them in all their glory, this special edition of BUK TODAY has been produced to capture, report, analyse, dissect and preserve aspects for posterity and transmit the essence to those unable to attend physically but have heard tantalising tales or “gist”.

The various write-ups in particular bring to the fore the issues raised in the various addresses delivered in a true academic tradition of candour, straight and without any embellishment. The achievements of all segments of the University Community and the revolution they have collectively unleashed, which has pleasantly and dramatically improved the landscape and skyline of the Campuses continue to be celebrated. The focussed and dynamic leadership of the University, through its various organs did not escape commendation, especially the pivotal and sterling accommodation of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Abubakar Adamu Rasheed mni, MFR.

Amongst the many novelties seen over the five days the festivities lasted was the conferment of five Professors Emeriti, on five equally distinguished Professors of this University. Then Director of Academic Planning Directorate, Professor Mustapha Isa, now Vice Chancellor of Northwest University, has graciously shed light on the concept, its operation and application, in a unique contribution in this edition. Professor Umaru Pate of the Mass Communications Department also contributed a commemorative piece on the second generation Universities, to which BUK is a shining example. As mentioned in the maiden edition, there are many more gems out there that would be of interest to the University community and we welcome two page succinct write-ups on as diverse subjects as there can be. From research outputs that may have popular appeal or application, to observations specific to making things better in the institution or reviews of longer articles from other publications worthy of our collective attention.

Above all, this Convocation was a most family friendly occasion, with many innovations deliberately built in to encourage family members to celebrate the educational achievement of their sons, daughters, relatives, husbands and wives. Elected top functionaries of government rubbed shoulders with fellow citizens, in the same way children and babies shared the limelight with their parents in front of the dias, taking pictures or shaking hand with the Vice Chancellor. It was a family delight and fun outing. Certainly, this was one Convocation to remember.
Abubakar, wife of the Deputy Governor, Professor Hafiz Abubakar, was conferred with PhD Degree in Curriculum Studies.

Dr Hafsat Abdullahi Umar, an indigene of Malam Madori in Jigawa State and Alumni of Bayero University, distinguished herself in the field of Qur'anic education and after primary and secondary education, she did all her tertiary education at Bayero University, beginning with an Advanced Level Certificate in the University, Bachelor of Science Degree in Education, Masters in Educational Psychology, Postgraduate Diploma in Management, Masters in Business Administration and PhD Educational Administration and Planning.

Apart from undergoing these educational processes, she had a vast experience in educational administration and planning, being a teacher who went through all cadres up to Vice-Principal, Principal, Inspector and Deputy Director at Secondary Education Board of the Federal Capital Territory Administration, Abuja. She has done a lot in the educational administration, philanthropic activities and is deeply involved in the activities of the Ganduje Foundation, a non-profit organization.

Dr Hadiza Hafiz Abubakar, a scion of the famous Galadanchi Clan of Malumfashi, Katsina State, is the daughter of the first Danejin Katsina, Alhaji Abdulkadir Yammanu. She had her early education in Galadima Primary Schhol, Malumfashi; Women Teachers’ College, Kabomo; School of Management Studies, Kano State Polytechnic and Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, where she obtained B. ED Honours in Social Studies. She obtained a Master’s Degree in Curriculum Studies in 2009 and finally graduated with PhD Degree in Curriculum Studies, both at Bayero University, Kano in 2015.

She distinguished herself as a champion of Qur’anic education and has been pioneering philanthropic activities for quite a long time. She was a lecturer at the Department of NCE (Tech), School of Technology, Kano State Polytechnic from 2001 to 2012 from where she transferred her services to North-West University. Besides her primary assignment as a Lecturer, she is also a Level Coordinator and Deputy Dean, Student Affairs. She is the proprietress of Rawdah Basic School, Janbulo and member of many professional bodies.

This is a unique combination of four academics at the helm of Kano Government House, may be only Kano can create, living up to the adage extolling Kano’s uniqueness: “Kano Jalla babbar Hausa, ko da me ka zo an fi ka”, freely translated as “Kano the trailblazer of Hausaland, always ahead of the pack in every index.” Going by the combination, the new set of leaders have a vast opportunity to act differently and positively at the Government House. There has never been such a combination in any of the government houses in Nigerian history. However, the fear is that this poses additional challenge to them, as people expect a lot from them.

The Governor is monogamous while the Deputy Governor is polygamous. I am not digging into their personal lives that’s why I limit this piece to only their wives conferred with the PhD degrees at the 31st Convocation. The second wife of the Deputy Governor is also an educationist, climbing the education ladder towards a Bachelor’s degree.

The Governor, Dr Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, a former two terms Deputy Governor of Kano State, from 1999 to 2003 and 2011 to 2015, was born on 25th December, 1947 to the family of Alhaji Umar Shuaibu, the Village Head of Ganjuwa. After the traditional Qur'anic education, primary and secondary education, he attended Advanced Teachers College, Kano; where he bagged NCE between 1969 and 1972, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; Bachelor’s Degree in Science Education from 1972 to 1975 and Bayero University, Kano; Master’s degree in Applied Educational Psychology in 1979. Dr Ganduje’s curiosity to learn more propelled him to return to Ahmadu Bello University for another Master’s degree in Public Administration from 1984 to 1985 and University of Ibadan for PhD in Public Administration from 1989 to 1993.

The Governor, when he left the services of Bayero University, took an appointment with Normit Ltd as Personnel Manager from 1979 to 1981 and in the same 1981 he moved to Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) as an Administrative Officer; where he rose to the position of Director Planning, Research and Statistics. He was Development Secretary, Kwalli Development Area, Sole Administrator, Abaji Area Council, Chairman, Gwagwalada Area Council, Executive Secretary, FCT Resettlement and Compensation as well as Kano State Commissioner for Works, Housing and Transport from 1994 to 1998. When he was Deputy Governor, he served as Commissioner of Local Governments. He also served as special adviser to the Minister of Defence, Executive Secretary, Lake Chad Basin Commission and a host of other appointments.
The Deputy Governor, Professor Hafiz Abubakar, an indigene of Sabon-Sara, Gwale Local Government, Kano State, was born on 25th November, 1954. He bagged a Higher National Diploma in Nutrition and Dietetics at Kaduna Polytechnic; Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Nutrition, Queen Elizabeth College University of London; Masters of Science (Food Science), University of Reading and PhD Cereal Biochemistry at the same University of Reading. Professor Hafiz has a vast working experience. He worked at Kano State Polytechnic, University of Reading, United Kingdom, where he served as Researcher/Demonstrator. He also had a short stint as broadcaster in the BBC Hausa Service, London. He joined Bayero University as a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Medicine in 1995 to 1998. He also served as National Project Coordinator, FAC Assisted-Food Security and Nutrition Intervention Project, Technical Coordinator SPFS. He was Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Bayero University; Special Adviser (Political) to Governor of Kano State from 2000 to 2001, Commissioner of Finance, 2001 to 2003; Special Assistant to Minister of Defense, Member Board of Trustees, Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Board Member, Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital (AKTH) and Chairman, Northwest Chapter of the Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology. He was the critical linkman in both the Technical Committee and the Chairman of the Implementation Committee that created the NorthWest University, Kano.

While in Bayero University, he was Head of Department of Biochemistry, Director, Centre for Biotechnology Research, Dean, Faculty of Biomedical Sciences and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academics) amongst others. He served as chairman and member of various committees at same time provided community services and contributed to many journal publications, seminars and conferences.

This analysis went this deep to demonstrate the fact that all the four personalities in two “power marriages” have a greater responsibility as ambassadors of education and Bayero University, having passed through the university as students or lecturers as well as to showcase vast experiences they have, administratively, academically and politically. They are poster couples on how BUK has been able to elevate and support women’s education up to higher degrees. The two PhD graduands were among many female students who excelled and were conferred with Masters and PhDs. Their experiences and education are expected to add value to the administration of Kano State at this material time, going by the saying “behind every successful man there is a woman”. They are also expected to serve as models for millions of house wives and girls, aspiring not just to be good wives and mothers, but to attain academic excellence and contribute to societal development as well.

The two power couples remind us of the likes of Prime Minister Tony Blair and Cherie Booth QC, in the UK and across the Atlantic, the duo of Presidents Clinton and Hillary, along with Obama and Michelle.

*Mustapha Gide is a Senior Assistant Registrar, Directorate of Public Affairs, Vice Chancellor’s Office.*
Prof. A. A. Rasheed's Passion for Innovation and Excellence

With many more horizons to conquer, the history maker within the persona of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Abubakar Adamu Rasheed mni, MFR, is explored by Mustafa Ibrahim, who found his "infectious" passion for innovation and excellence in education welcomed both at National and international levels.

As one of the makers of history, in the education sector in Nigeria, Bayero University Vice Chancellor, Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed, mni, MFR, has few peers in several unique perspectives. One of them is the recognition from community leaders and policymakers across the country, that Prof. Rasheed has a lot to offer, in breaking new grounds as far as leadership in tertiary education is concerned. In fact, his advocacy and passion for innovation and excellence in education is "infectious". Only a few insiders know of the tremendous assistance he renders to the TETFund, such that with like minds they have transformed the agency with their innovative ideas into the true giant ASUU dreamt it to be.

Proof can be seen in his appointment as a Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council of the young but ambitious Jigawa State University, now known as Sule Lamido University (SLU), Kafin Hausa. In this, Bayero University has made history in becoming the first University north of the Niger, to have its serving Vice Chancellor appointed as Pro-Chancellor of another University, concurrently. It might be recalled that one of its former Vice Chancellors, Professor Emeritus Sani Zahradeen, upon leaving office had served as Pro-Chancellor too. In his acceptance speech on behalf of the Council members, during their inauguration, on Monday, 3rd November, 2014, Prof. Rasheed felt "humbled and honoured" as the pioneer Pro-Chancellor and
Chairman of the Council. He was grateful to the pioneer Visitor, the then Governor Sule Lamido, CON “for reposing his confidence in us and believing in our abilities to provide leadership and direction to this very promising University”.

Modestly, he did not elaborate on the prominent roles he played when he served under the Technical Committee of Prof Munzali Jibril that drafted the plan and as a member of the Implementation Committee that saw the take-off of the University. In his concise speech, he promised to be “bold, courageous, innovative and responsive.” “We will provide the governance and leadership that will stimulate rapid growth for the University and make it competitive and attractive,” he promised.

He made it clear that while the Council would make policies and define direction, it would be left to management to implement them, without interference. But the Council will perform its oversight function. He concluded that: “We will work very hard to build a University that will be guided by global best practices, with scholars that are driven by the thirst to create, re-create and disseminate knowledge. We will… entrench an excellent academic culture whose fulcrum is research, innovation and quality scholarship…we will be disciplined and promote discipline…we will be transparent and accountable and promote transparency and accountability. We will work hard and reward hard work.”

In his address the Pioneer Visitor also matched the Pro-Chancellor in his ideals, going back deep into history of Timbuktu, to share the model relationship between a University and its community in our tradition, which might have been lost by contemporary universities. He quoted the erudite late Waziri Junaidu of Sokoto, in his 1971 ABU convocation address, when he said: *The University of Sankore and the community which supported its scholars and students, were tied very closely to each other. To the authorities, the University supplied generations of administrators, judges and other functionaries of the state. To the wider community, it supplied teachers, men of religion, jurists and a class of merchants, notaries and clerks. But the relationship was more than a crudely functional one. The University was the symbol of the spirit of the community, the guardian of its morals and the formulator of its hopes and aspirations.*

Another unique perspective to Prof. A. A. Rasheed is his awareness of, and championing of educational global best practices. It is part of his international profile. His passion for innovation and excellence in education, along with international partnerships found a ready vehicle in the young Oxonia University Network, based in Oxford University, in the United Kingdom. He was elected the pioneer President of the Network, for a two-year term, at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday, 26 June, 2014, at the New College, University of Oxford.

The Oxford Academy for Education and development (OAED) had launched the brand new international university network named the 'Oxonia University Network' on 12 December, 2013, at St. Catherine’s College, Oxford. The mission of the Oxonia Network, subscribed to by Prof. Rasheed was given as follows:

- The network considers diversity, cooperation and continuous quality improvement as fundamental values of its member institutions. Members share the common doctrine of advancing internationalisation for all members of the Network.
- The Oxonia University Network will assist each member university to achieve its own international mission by offering a range of opportunities and sharing best practice in higher education. The network will also assist in the exchange of expertise, physical resources, initiatives, research collaboration, scholarly activities, among members.
- The network also aims to provide mutual support to its members in establishing "Centres of Excellence" for academic quality and research which would facilitate a more competitive presence in the global higher education arena.

The Oxonia University Network has member-institutions from across the world, including Universities from Jordan, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Russia, United Arab Emirates, Bulgaria, Saudi Arabia, Finland, Poland, Armenia, Mexico, United Kingdom, Nigeria, Slovakia, Lithuania, Brazil, and Malaysia.

*Mustafa Ibrahim is a Principal Assistant Registrar in the Directorate of Public Affairs, Vice Chancellor’s Office.*
Nurturing Relationships

BUK & BENEFACCTORS:
The Gain of Reaching Out to the Community

As we make our beds, so we shall lie on them, so argue Lamara Garba and Abubakar Yusuf, as they praise the sustained efforts of successive Bayero University administrations in continuing to attract ever larger donations and generous endowments through honest and transparent financial management.

The huge resources needed to adequately cater for the tertiary institutions especially public Universities in Nigeria might have become a burden too heavy for government to bear, due largely to the dwindling economic fortunes and the lean resources at the disposal of the Government. The situation often caused a serious dispute between Unions in the Universities and the Government thereby resulting in a strike action if demands for increased funding are not met.

Historically, after a series of strike actions by both academic and non-academic staff of the Universities following the inability of the Government to meet up their increased funding demands, many of the Universities eventually resorted to doing the unexpected, of shifting the burden to the students, through the unprecedented hike in school fees, exorbitant hostel charges, introduction of what is known as 'commercial' courses as well as creation of study centres and or outreach campuses both within and outside the country, thereby bringing the Universities and the students at loggerheads. But these measures were however short-lived when the NUC banned all study centres or outreach campuses followed by the scrapping of all sub degree programmes. As a result, many Universities with inept leadership found it extremely difficult to survive the situation. They became stagnated, unproductive and more of a burden and liability than asset which they ought to be.

But in Bayero University, it was a different story; for it never established outreach campuses...
or study centre, nor increased its fees. Without any fear of contradiction, the University's charges remain the least of all the Nigerian Universities. Therefore, long time before now it foresaw such a scenario in which case it developed a long term strategic plan for sustainable development through the adoption of the concept of community outreach for collaboration and partnership. This fraternity was projected using the theory of the old adage which says 'givers never lack'. Indeed, the University has extended its hands of fellowship to all those that matter, far and near.

Partnership and collaborations could thrive and wax stronger between a university and its surrounding communities in particular and the wider environment in general, only when there is mutual understanding, trust, harmonious relationship and positive intent from the side of the University management on the one hand. And vote of confidence, appreciation and respect by the host community on the other side. BUK thus established a well cultured relationship based on mutual respect with its host community and by extension developed cordiality with all its stakeholders irrespective of their inclination.

Little wonder, therefore, Bayero University Kano, has been enjoying tremendous goodwill from its host community in particular and by extension all its stakeholders in the knowledge industry. This has perhaps made it easy to enjoy an overwhelming acceptability by the host community for any project or initiative it came up with. While other institutions face obstacles, the story in Bayero University is that of joy, pride and cordiality.

Perhaps it was as a result of this cordiality that the University has never had problem of acclimatization and received an unprecedented support from all and sundry when the idea of launching the University's endowment fund was first conceptualised some fifteen years ago. The University endowment fund was launched by the then Vice Chancellor, Professor Musa Abdullahi of blessed memory, while other endowments launched by some universities failed abysmally due to the mentality of Nigerians, especially the wealthy individuals towards donations. But the then Vice Chancellor allayed fears of those with any reservation, assuring them that Bayero University had sown a seed right from its take-off which would continue to germinate and grow to a very bumper harvest. These seedlings were the contributing factor for the host community's special attachment to the University and love it exhibited towards any developmental project embarked upon by the management. This undoubtedly inspired and boosted the morale of the endowment fund committee members to quickly organized the event of reaching out for donations, collaboration and partnership.

Obviously Bayero University's endowment fund has been one of the most successful of all the launching of appeals fund and endowments organized by any University in Nigeria. This was evidenced by the fact that almost two decades after, donations from across the world continue to troop into the University's coffers. So far there were tens of dozens of projects carried out by corporate organizations, agencies, individuals and group of donors from within and outside the country, in addition to various scholarships and awards instituted by different bodies and individuals. Many of these projects have been completed and or are at various stages of completion.

While it is the desire of an architect of any project or programme to see that such policy or project out lived him, this, however, could only be feasible when subsequent management allows its sustainability and this could be measured through the impact it created to the benefitting institution or community. In this respect, it is gladdening to know that successive administrations in the University have not only sustained the concept but equally consolidate on its gains. In particular, the Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed-led management has gone further to reinforce it by way of empowering and motivating the standing committee on endowment. Equally they encouraged and motivated all staff of the University who may have one contact or the other, to reach out in search of potential collaborators and partners to squarely support and assist the University in any means creditably and meritoriously. This, undoubtedly, has yielded impressive dividends in the University's quest for sustainable growth and development.

The list of benefactors to the University is inexhaustible, both at personal and official level. To begin with, Bayero University Kano, has been so dear to the TETFund, whose intervention has been a great source of the transformation of the University from a “second generation” to a “first generation” in terms of facilities, infrastructure, high level academic excellence, among others. Then the NUC, which is the umbrella body for all Nigerian universities, the support and intervention it has been given to it is second to none. The mother ministry, Federal Ministry of Education, stands out to be an engineering factor for the
entire feat the University has recorded over the years. This is, indeed, inspirational. The CBN has graciously included BUK in its projects twice right from the time of Professor Charles Soludo and again while Sanusi Lamido Sanusi was Governor, while Alhaji AbdulSamad Isyaka Rabi'u and Dangote Foundation also donated magnificent buildings. Many states had also built structures for the University. Individual Heads of Ministries, Departments and Agencies at federal, state and local governments from across the divide have all made substantial donations of cash and kind to the University in addition to embassies and other donor agencies. Perhaps this may not be unconnected to the vote of confidence they have on the management of the University.

Indeed, there is this famous African saying that ‘givers never lack’. Without any fear of contradiction this statement has perfectly translated to the situation in which Bayero University finds itself. Since its establishment the University has adopted a peculiar tradition of supporting students from its host communities, with scholarship annually. In addition, there is also a special scholarship for the students from indigent families who have gained admission for any course but due to poverty they could not afford to pay the registration fees. In this case, the University will, after thorough screening on their backgrounds, bankroll all their school expenses from the first year till graduation. At a rough estimate, over 5000 members from the host community have so far benefitted from the BUK special scholarship while almost the same figure from indigent families too have equally benefitted from such largesse. This is why the host communities were very much at home and at peace with the University community.

This system has also inspired other members from outside the University Community to equally institute an award and price for various categories of students which include complete scholarship for the poor students, as well as prizes and awards to graduands who excel. Therefore, as the University is getting donations from well wishers, it is equally extending same gesture to the needy ones among its students. No wonder, many more organization feels very much comfortable to entrust their money for utilization by the University through scholarship and awards.

There were over 20 different scholarships and awards instituted by friends and well wishers of the University. They include awards by Late Emir of Kano, Alhaji Ado Bayero, Engineer Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso, Sheikh Khalifa Isyaka Rabi'u, Malam Ibrahim Shekarau, Hajiya Aishatu Jibril Dukku, Elumelu Foundation, Jifatu Stores, Azman Oil, Alhaji Aminu Dantata, Professor M.K.M Galadanci, Late Dr. Tajudeen Abdulkareem Memorial Prize, Professor S.A Aluko, Vice Chancellors prize, Justice Muhammad Bello award, Michael Collins memorial prize, Professor G.G Parfitt prize and Ahmad Adamu Mu'azu award, among others.

In conclusion, these donations, awards and scholarships provided and or entrusted to the University by the various governments, MDA’s, corporate organizations and individuals are of course, an indication to a vote of confidence they have in the University, which in other words may translate to an overwhelming appreciation about the positive manner in which Bayero University plays its role in serving humanity in the transmission of knowledge, ideas and innovations through teaching, learning and research.

Lamara Garba and Abubakar Yusuf, are with the Public Affairs Directorate of the University.
Prize Winners & Alumni Relations

Despite the routine nature of awarding prizes at Convocation ceremonies, the brevity of the event itself belie the tremendous efforts and study-years required to clinch the coveted awards by the cream of the best graduands, as this list compiled by Nura Garba shows

From left: Abdulateef Yusuf Kolawole, Abdussalam Naifu Bashir, Lawal Ibrahim Shehu and Maryam Sa’idu Auwal

At the just concluded 3¹ Convocation ceremonies held from 19th to 23rd May, 2015, prizes and awards were given to graduands who excelled during their study.

Most of these prizes and awards came from philanthropic individuals, most of whom are alumni of this university.

The award winners are expected in future to emulate this goodwill gesture.

Most of the award winners interviewed expressed gratitude to the university management.

The award/prize winners that emerged from the 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 sessions were as follows:

Day 1: Tuesday, 19th May, 2015

LIST OF AWARDS AND PRIZES – 2012/2013 ACADEMIC SESSION:

1) Ado Bayero Prize for the Best Final Year Student in Islamic Studies: AIS/10/ISL/00734 – Yusuf Muazu Aliyu.
2) Aishatu Jibril Dukku Prize for the Best Graduating Student in English: AIS/11/ENG/00735 – Hassan Musa Muhammad.
4) Prof. M. K. M. Galadanci Memorial Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Hausa: AIS/10/HAU/00434 – Hussain Muhammad.
5) Aminu Dantata Prize for the Best Graduating Student in the Department of Education: EDU/10/BAE/01686 – Maryam Muhammad Bashir.

2013/2014 ACADEMIC SESSION

1) Ado Bayero Prize for the Best Final Year Student in Islamic Studies: AIS/10/ISL/00948 – Garba Shehu Yusuf.
3) Aishatu Jibril Dukku Prize for the Best Graduating Student in French: AIS/10/FRE/00076 – Abdulaziz Aminu Aliyu.
4) Prof. M. K. M. Galadanci Memorial Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Hausa: AIS/10/HAU/00487 – Aliyu Ismail Ado.
Nurturing Relationships

5) Aminu Dantata Prize for the Best Graduating Student in the Department of Education: 
   **EDU/10/BAE/01903 – Buhari Abdullahi.**

6) Elumelu Prize for the Best Graduating Medical (MBBS) Student: 
   **MED/06/MBBS/00831 – Maryam Said Auwal.**

**DAY 2: Wednesday, 20th May, 2015**

**LIST OF AWARDS AND PRIZES – 2012/2013 ACADEMIC SESSION:**

1) Engr. Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Civil Engineering: 
   **TEC/09/CIV/00284 – Abubakar Haruna.**

2) Ahmadu Adamu Muazu Prize for the Best Graduating Student in the Faculty of Engineering: 
   **TEC/08/CIV/00284 – Abubakar Haruna.**

3) Late Dr. Tajudddeen Abdulkarim Memorial Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Political Science: 
   **SMS/10/POL/01114 – Aishatu Mohammed Sani.**

4) Prof. S. A. Aluko Prize for the Best Female Student in Economics: 
   **SMS/10/ECO/01225 – Zubaida Hassan Suleiman.**

**2013/2014 ACADEMIC SESSION**

1) Vice-Chancellor's Prize for the Overall Best Graduating Student in the University: 
   **AGR/09/AGR/00408 – Ismail Ibrahim Garba.**

2) Elumelu Prize for the Overall Graduating Student in the University: 
   **AGR/09/AGR/00408 – Ismail Ibrahim Garba.**

3) Engr. Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Civil Engineering: 
   **TEC/09/CIV/00447 – Kabir Abu-Hantija.**

4) Engr. Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso Prize for the Best Graduating Student in the Faculty of Engineering: 
   **TEC/09/ELE/00472 – Lamia Siddique.**

5) Late Dr. Tajudddeen Abdulkarim Memorial Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Political Science: 
   **SMS/09/POL/00711 – Najibullah Abdullahi Nuhu.**

6) Prof. S. A. Aluko Prize for the Best Female Student in Economics: 
   **SMS/09/ECO/00835 – Jamila Mustapha.**

7) Elumelu Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Economics: 
   **SMS/06/ECO/01081 – Yusuf Kolawole Abudalloteef.**

**DAY 3: Thursday, 21st May, 2015**

**LIST OF AWARDS AND PRIZES – 2012/2013 ACADEMIC SESSION:**

1) Justice Muhammad Bello Prize for the Best Graduating Student in the Faculty of Law: 
   **LAW/08/LLB/00333 – Fatima Musah.**

2) Michael Collins Memorial Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Chemistry: 
   **SCI/09/CH/00774 – Mustapha Ashiru Auta.**

3) Ibrahim Shekararu Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Mathematics: 
   **SCI/09/MTH/00451 – Ibrahim Ahmed Suleiman.**

4) Prof. G. G. Parfit Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Physics: 
   **SCI/10/PHY/00855 – Yusuf Olatunji Ibrahim.**

**2013/2014 ACADEMIC SESSION**

1) Justice Muhammad Bello Prize for the Best Graduating Student in the Faculty of Law: 
   **LAW/09/LLB/00678 – Murtadha Ahmad Oluwaisa.**

2) Michael Collins Memorial Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Chemistry: 
   **SCI/10/CH/01707 – Sani Ibrahim.**

3) Ibrahim Shekararu Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Mathematics: 
   **SCI/10/MTH/00748 – Muhammad Salisu.**

4) Prof. G. G. Parfit Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Physics: 
   **SCI/10/PHY/00720 – Maumuna Aliyu Abubakar.**

**DAY 4: Saturday, 23rd May, 2015**

**LIST OF AWARDS AND PRIZES – 2012/2013 ACADEMIC SESSION:**

1) Vice-Chancellor's Prize for the Overall Best Graduating Student in the University: 
   **SCI/09/CH/00774 – Mustapha Ashiru Auta.**

2) Ado Bayero Prize for the Best Final year Student in Islamic Studies: 
   **AIS/10/ISL/00734 – Yusuf Muazu Aliyu.**

3) Aishatu Jibril Dukku Prize for the Best Graduating Student in English: 
   **AIS/11/ENG/00735 – Hassain Musa Muhammad.**

4) Aishatu Jibril Dukku Prize for the Best Graduating Student in French: 
   **AIS/10/FRE/00735 – Essien Bassey.**

5) Prof. M. K. M. Galadanci Memorial Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Hausa: 
   **AIS/10/HAU/00434 – Hussain Muhammad.**

6) Aminu Dantata Prize for the Best Graduating Student in the Department of Education: 
   **EDU/10/BAE/01686 – Maryam Muhammad Bashir.**

7) Engr. Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Civil Engineering: 
   **TEC/08/CIV/00284 – Abubakar Haruna.**

8) Ahmadu Adamu Muazu Prize for the Best Graduating Student in the Faculty of Engineering: 
   **TEC/08/CIV/00284 – Abubakar Haruna.**
9) Justice Muhammad Bello Prize for the Best Graduating Student in the Faculty of Law: 
   LAW/08/LLB/00333 – Fatima Musah.
10) Michael Collins Memorial Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Chemistry: 
    SCI/09/CHE/00774 – Mustapha Ashiru Auta.
11) Ibrahim Shekarau Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Mathematics: 
12) Late Dr. Tajuddeen Abdulkarim Memorial Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Political 
    Science: 
    SMS/10/POL/01114 – Aishatu Mohammed Sani.
13) Prof. S. A. Aluko Prize for the Best Female Student in Economics: 
    SMS/10/ECO/001225 – Zubaida Hassan Suleiman.
14) Prof. G. G. Parfitt Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Physics: 
    SCI/10/PHY/00855 – Yusuf Olatunji Ibrahim.

2013/2014 ACADEMIC SESSION
1) Vice-Chancellor’s Prize for the Overall Best Graduating Student in the University: 
   AGR/09/AGR/00408 – Ismail Ibrahim Garba.
2) Ado Bayero Prize for the Best Final Year Student in Islamic Studies: 
   AIS/10/ISL/00948 – Garba Shehu Yusuf.
3) Aishatu Jibril Dukku Prize for the Best Graduating Student in English: 
   AIS/09/ENG/00338 – Munirat Umoru Onoshokhue.
4) Aishatu Jibril Dukku Prize for the Best Graduating Student in French: 
   AIS/10/FRE/00076 – Abdulaziz Aminu Aliyu.
5) Prof. M. K. M. Galadanci Memorial Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Hausa: 
   AIS/10/HAU/00487 – Aliyu Ismail Ado.
6) Aminu Dantata Prize for the Best Graduating Student in the Department of Education: 
   EDU/10/BAE/01903 – Buhari Abdullahi.
7) Engr. Rabiu Musa Kwankwase Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Civil Engineering: 
8) Engr. Rabiu Musa Kwankwase Prize for the Best Graduating Student in the Faculty of 
    Engineering: 
   TEC/09/ELE/00472 – Lamia Siddique.
9) Justice Muhammad Bello Prize for the Best Graduating Student in the Faculty of Law: 
    LAW/09/LLB/00678 – Murtadha Ahmad Ohusola.
10) Michael Collins Memorial Prize for the Best 
    Graduating Student in Chemistry: 
    SCI/10/CHE/01707 – Sani Ibrahim.
11) Ibrahim Shekarau Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Mathematics: 
    SCI/10/MTH/00748 – Muhammad Salisu.
12) Late Dr. Tajuddeen Abdulkarim Memorial Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Political 
    Science: 
    SMS/09/POL/00711 – Najibullah Abdullahi Nuhu.
13) Prof. S. A. Aluko Prize for the Best Female Student in Economics: 
14) Prof. G. G. Parfitt Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Physics: 
    SCI/10/PHY/00720 – Mainuna Aliyu Abubakar.
15) Elumelu Prize for the Best Overall Graduating Student in the University: 
    AGR/09/AGR/00408 – Ismail Ibrahim Garba.
16) Elumelu Prize for the Best Graduating Student in Economics: 
    SMS/06/ECO/01081 – Yusuf Kolawole Abdulateef.
17) Elumelu Prize for the Best Graduating Medical (MBBS) Student: 
    MED/06/MBBS/00851 – Maryam Said Auwal.
18) Elumelu Prize for the Best Graduating Student in M. Sc Economics: 
    SPS/10/MEC/00442 – Nafiu Bashir Abdussalam.
19) Elumelu Prize for the Best Graduating MBA Student: 
    SPS/11/MBA/00392 – Ibrahim Shehu Lawal.

A total of 63 graduands combined together were recognized for winning different categories of prizes 
and awards.

The challenge is on these graduands who have excellent and distinguished themselves in their study 
are expected to become proud alumni of their alma-mata by trying hard to reciprocate the gesture done 
to them by the university through donations and other projects that will further project the 
university’s image, especially now that the alumni association has been repositioned.

Indeed, the university’s Alumni Association had conducted its first election last year and a new 
executive council was elected which is always ready to create an enabling environment for strengthening 
relationship with alumni of the university. This is an opportunity for these prize winners and other 
graduands to explore this opportunity well in order to help in sustaining the Bayero University project. 
Nura Garba is an Assistant Registrar in the Directorate of Public Affairs.
The Citadel 31st Convocation Ceremonies
5  The 31st Convocation, Staggered
8  The Secret of BUK’s Success
10  Bayero University Has Come of Age
12  Telling Truth to Power
15  How I Emerged Best Graduating Student
16  Voices of Graduands

Bayero University People
17  The Emeritus Professorship in BUK
18  Professor Jega at the 31st Convocation
29  PhD Spouses Bring Compassion to Kano Government House
32  Professor A.A. Rasheed’s Passion for Innovation and Excellence

Nurturing Relationships
34  The Gains of Reaching Out to the Community
37  Prize Winners and Alumni Relations
40  Bayero University at Forty

For the Record
42  The Vice Chancellor’s Convocation Speech

Benefactors
Successive administrations attract endowments through honest financial management

BUK @ 40
The dream behind the second generation Universities has come to fruition

Convocation Speech
A novelty convocation address so comprehensive it is more of a valedictory speech
Prof. Umaru A. Pate argues that the hope of the Gowon and Murtala administrations in initiating and implementing respectively, plans for the second generation Universities and the National Universities Commission (NUC) 40 years ago, has come to fruition, as exemplified by the excellent citadel of learning Bayero University has turned out to be, especially under its incumbent Vice Chancellor, Prof. A.A. Rasheed mni, MFR

Bayero University at Forty

Sometimes I wonder how Nigeria and its educational system would have been without the establishment of the second generation universities and the National Universities Commission (NUC) in 1975. Prior to the landmark decision to establish the second set of universities, the country was served by six universities in Ibadan, Lagos, Nsukka, Ife, Zaria and Benin. Indeed, it was a great visionary thought at the time to set up the new institutions which are forty years now. The decision for the establishment of the institutions was contained in the Third National Development Plan (1975-1980) which kicked off during the Gowon regime but largely implemented under the Murtala/Obasanjo period.

In July 1975, General Yakubu Gowon under the NUC Decree No.1 of 1974 inaugurated the NUC as an executive agency to regulate, plan, develop and finance the country’s universities. Shortly after the inauguration of the NUC in July, the new Federal Government under the late General Murtala Mohammad approved the establishment of new universities in Maiduguri, Calabar, Jos, Sokoto, Port Harcourt, Ilorin and Kano. At the time, Kano had the great Abdullahi Bayero College, a campus of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; Jos had the Joint College with Ibadan; and Calabar hosted the campus of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

The goal of the government, as it explained, was to increase access to higher education while assuring of its quality for the expanding population in the land. Equally, it was intended to address the problem of disparity in higher education among the various ethnic groups through the bold steps of educational expansion and "boosting the educational opportunities of every Nigerian". Incidentally, the new Universities were mostly located in the educationally underprivileged states of the country.

In Kano, it was an easy task. The NUC under its pioneer Secretary, Dr Jibril Aminu, simply took over the Abdullahi Bayero College (ABC) and transformed it into the campus of the new Bayero University. At take-off, the University under its pioneer Vice Chancellor, Dr Mahmud Tukur, acquired a new site along the Kano-Gwarzo Road. And, through the NUC, Young Macmillan and Partners of America was hired to design and produce the Master Plan of the New Site of the University Campus which is now known as the New Site in Kano. The development of the site began in earnest with major funding from the Federal Government and support from the immediate community. From the beginning till date, the University, like its contemporaries in Maiduguri, Sokoto, Ilorin, Port Harcourt and Calabar, has witnessed significant growth and development in all aspects of the system.

The evidence of the stride in BUK was eloquently manifested at the recent 31st Convocation ceremony of the University when it graduated 84 PhDs; 3,146 Masters Degrees; 1,823 Postgraduate Diplomas and 8,250 first Degrees. Currently, the University has 12 Faculties that comprise 74 Departments offering 87 undergraduate programmes domiciled in numerous complexes that are architectural masterpieces. In addition, the institution has established eleven Research Centres focusing on variety of fields in the Sciences, Religion, Languages, Agriculture, Energy, Finance, Medicine, ICTs, and Politics and Democracy. Now, the students’ population of the University stands at 23,600 undergraduates and 5,200 in postgraduate programmes.

Definitely, the enormous growth and development in Bayero University in the last four decades could not have been easy considering the turbulence that characterized the economic and political fortunes of Nigeria during the period. The dwindling economic fortunes of the nation must have, in many ways, affected its pace of development and, indeed, that of the Nigerian University system and the general educational sector. Equally, the University was, at some moments, confronted with critical threatening internal and environmental...
challenges. However, notwithstanding the adversities, the University has remained innovative, progressive and focused in the implementation of its academic and physical master plans.

Arguably, the success story in the institution can be linked to the quality of its successive leadership over the years. In the beginning was Dr Mahmud Tukur who laid the foundation of the University. He was succeeded by the Physicist from UNN, Late Prof JOC Ezeilo. After the take-off, a roll of respected scholars served as Vice Chancellors during which each one of them propelled the University with mastery by building on to the efforts of predecessors. They are: Professors Ibrahim Umar, Dandatti Abdulkadir, MS Zahradeen, Bello Bako Danbatta, Musa Abdullahi, Attahiru Jega and the incumbent Abubakar Adamu Rasheed.

While appreciating the significant contributions of the past Vice Chancellors in the context of their periods of service in laying the foundation and consolidating the developments in the institution, it will be worthy to specially recognize Professor Abubakar Rasheed, the current Vice Chancellor whose term is about ending in August 2015. Prof Rasheed has, in the last five years, changed the landscape as well as the intellectual architecture of the University in Kano. He has gallantly led the process of uplifting and empowering the institution amidst daunting challenges by fast-tracking its academic and physical development; preservation and the promotion of quality and standard; and strengthening of the University’s relationship with the community; and enhancing students and staff welfare. Evidently, he has transformed the BUK campus into a 21st century institution based on demonstrable vision, resourcefulness, planning strategies, competitiveness, competent resource management, respect for the survival of all forms of views, and the safeguarding of the legitimate rights and aspirations of everyone, as far as possible.

Today, no Department in the University is happier under the leadership of the outgoing Vice Chancellor than my Department, Mass Communication. During his tenure, we have got brand new modern type academic and digital broadcast studio complexes, twelve lecturers trained at the PhD level and facilitated linkages that have started yielding fruits. The story is similar in most of the Departments. More than any other time, BUK now enjoys tremendous amount of goodwill in and out of the country.

Finally, one can only hope for the consolidation of the current tempo of growth in the institution for it to continue to realize the great goals of its establishment forty years ago. I salute the foresight of General Gowon, the efforts of Generals Murtala and Obasanjo as well as the valuable contributions of all those involved in the BUK project at all levels. Definitely, Nigeria is greater with BUK and, indeed, the second generation Universities.

Professor Umar Pate is of the Department of Mass Communication, Bayero University Kano.
The Vice Chancellor’s Convocation Speech

It is with gratitude to Allah, the All-knowing and the Omniscient that I welcome you all to the 31st Combined Convocation ceremony of this University for the 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 sessions. This Combined Convocation ceremony is momentous and epochal in the University’s strides of giving a pride of place to its most valuable assets – its graduates.

As you may all be aware, this year’s Convocation is staggered to span over a period of 5-days as against the usual one-day affair. These would be for the award of degrees, higher degrees, Emeriti Professorship and prizes. The decision to stagger the Convocation was informed by the realisation that a good Convocation Ceremony should be for, and about, the Graduands. It is a day when the Graduands are joined by family members, lecturers, friends and well-wishers to rejoice and celebrate the result of the years they spent toiling in order to succeed in their chosen fields of endeavour. It formally marks the initiation of the Graduands into the Society having been found worthy both in character and learning. The day is, therefore, special to the Graduands for this important achievement; special to the Staff who inspired and interacted with the students in their fragility; special to the parents who made many sacrifices and entrusted the future of their young ones to a different world and have their dreams come to fruition; and special to the University and the wider community for investing wisely in the knowledge industry. In the light of all these, the University Management, Senate and Council decided to stagger the ceremony to ensure that the Graduands receive the attention they well deserve.

Tuesday, 19th May, 2015: FAIS, EDUCATION, CHS

Today marks the beginning of the five-day activities aimed at appreciating, celebrating and savouring the joy that being triumphant brings.

Two faculties and one College are presenting their candidates for Graduation today. These are the Faculties of Arts and Islamic Studies, the Faculty of Education and the College of Health Sciences. A total of 3,383 candidates shall be presented for graduation today. For the 2012/2013 session, one thousand, eight hundred and seventy-four (1,874) candidates are graduating as follows:

- Faculty of Arts and Islamic Studies - 527
- Faculty of Education - 1,141
- College of Health Sciences - 206

Similarly, for the 2013/2014 session, one thousand, five hundred and nine (1,509) candidates are graduating as follows:

- Faculty of Arts and Islamic Studies - 485
- Faculty of Education - 848
- College of Health Sciences - 179

The details would be provided as the candidates are being presented for conferment according to the Faculties and the College.

Although today is not meant for long speeches, I crave your indulgence to quickly and briefly go over some of our modest achievements in these Faculties and the College whose candidates are graduating shortly. In the last 5 years we have been pursuing the following vision plan for the University:

- 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, Management and Senate, with the support of the Governing Council, embarked on a number of activities aimed at achieving these vision and plans. For the two Faculties and College whose students are graduating today, we have been able to make some modest achievements.

For the Faculty of Arts and Islamic Studies, the spaces previously occupied by the Faculties of Education and Social and Management Sciences were rehabilitated and given to it. Additional structures were provided to the Faculty, especially the one housing its Department of Islamic Studies and Shar’iah. There are plans to provide even more. Offices and classrooms have been equipped with modern teaching and learning equipment. In response to the yearnings from the catchment area and the Nigerian society, additional degree programmes in Linguistics and Theatre and Performance Arts have been introduced. We have also
established a Centre for Qur’anic Studies to address some societal problems. We have similarly restructured, rejuvenated and refocused the Centre for the Study of Nigerian Languages, which is now renamed Centre for Research in Nigerian Languages and Folklore.

The Faculty of Education has been fully transformed and moved to a new complex that outsiders compare to a whole university elsewhere. Even now, the construction of additional structures in the form of classrooms and offices is going on in the Faculty.

But, one area where our transformation efforts are most pronounced is in the College of Health Sciences. The former Faculty of Medicine was split into four faculties and a College of Health Sciences has been established to coordinate the activities of the faculties. These were done after the necessary physical structures and human and other resources were provided. Again, more facilities are being provided and/or restructured even now. Two research centres - Centre for Advanced Medical Research, and Centre for Infectious Diseases Research - have been established in the College and the construction of the permanent structures to house them are going on. The National Universities Commission (NUC) has approved the introduction of a degree programme in Optometry. Bayero University will be the first University, North of the Niger, to offer the programme. We believe that with the massive investment in human and material resources into our medical and related programme and the commitment of the staff members, the College shall be a centre of excellence in medical training and research in the very near future.

Wednesday, 20th May, 2015: AGRICULTURE, ENGINEERING, SMS

Three faculties are presenting their candidates for graduation today. These are the Faculties of Agriculture, Engineering, and Social and Management Sciences. A total of 2,778 candidates would be presented for graduation today. For the 2012/2013 session, one thousand, five hundred and twenty-one (1,521) candidates are graduating as follows:

- Faculty of Agriculture - 94
- Faculty of Engineering - 270
- Faculty of Social & Management Sciences - 1,157

Similarly, for the 2013/2014 session, one thousand, two hundred and fifty-seven (1,257) candidates are graduating as follows:

- Faculty of Agriculture - 110
- Faculty of Engineering - 188
- Faculty of Social & Management Sciences - 959

Although today is not a day of long speeches, I crave your indulgence to quickly and briefly go over some of our modest achievements in these Faculties and the College whose candidates are graduating shortly.

In the last five years, we have been pursuing the following vision plans for the University:

- To transform it from a basically teaching university to one excellent in both teaching and research.
- To transform it from a predominantly art/humanities to one strong in the sciences as well.
- To make it an information and communication technology (ICT) driven University
- To make the University embrace global best practices in various areas.

To this end, Management and Senate, with the support of the Governing Council embarked on a number of activities aimed at achieving these vision and plans. For the two faculties whose students are graduating today, we have been able to make some modest achievements. They include the following:

Phase II of the Faculty of Agriculture consisting of a block of offices and a block of classrooms and laboratories has been completed and put to use. Equipment worth hundreds of millions of Naira have also been purchased, installed and put to use. Phase III of the Faculty, to house the Dean’s Office and some new departments, is now under construction. Also under construction is an ultramodern multipurpose laboratory for teaching Level I science courses. In the area of research, a Centre for Dryland Agriculture has been established. Within the few years of its existence, the Centre has already created a niche for itself and the University by winning some serious grants. It recently won a competitive grant of Seven Million US Dollars ($7 million) from the World Bank. This is in addition to a grant of $800,000 it earlier won from MacArthur Foundation and other grants it secured from other bodies. The grants being secured by the Centre and other units and individuals in the Faculty are enhancing the movement towards excellence in research. The provision of physical facilities and equipment, and the recruitment and training of quality personnel has enabled us to get approval for the introduction of three more degree programmes in the Faculty. These are in Food Science and Technology, Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Forestry and Wildlife Management.

The Faculty of Engineering was the main beneficiary of a special high impact grant of N3 billion from the Tertiary Education Trust Fund. Some N1 billion has been expended in purchasing and installing modern equipment, provision and additional workshops, and rehabilitation of existing facilities. Other funds are being used to construct a block of building for the new Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, and a modern laboratory for teaching Level I science courses. Many staff members have been sponsored to obtain higher degrees in Nigeria and abroad. Currently, the Faculty has over 40 academic staff pursuing PhD studies abroad. The additional human and physical resources and capacity building convinced NUC to approve the introduction of four degree programmes in the Faculty. These are in Chemical Engineering, Mechatronics Engineering, Telecommunications Engineering, and Petroleum Engineering.

The Faculty of Social and Management Sciences has also benefited, and is still benefiting, from the provision of additional spaces. A twin theatre with combined sitting capacity 1,292 has been completed and furnished for the Faculty; the Department of Sociology has moved into a new departmental block; the construction of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Centre of Excellence has reached an advanced stage; the construction of Business School by Alhaji Aliko Dangote is progressing; and the Departments of Economics and Political Science are being expanded and rehabilitated. NUC has approved the introduction of the following degree programmes in the Faculty: Banking and Finance, Criminology, Entrepreneurship, International Relations, and Public Administration. To further enhance research in the social sciences, a Centre for Social, Economic and Demographic Research will be established soon.

Thursday, 21st May, 2015: FCSIT, LAW, SCIENCE

Three Faculties are presenting their candidates for graduation today. These are the Faculties of Computer Science and Information Technology, Law, and Science.
total of 1,926 candidates would be presented for graduation today. For the 2012/2013 session, one thousand, two hundred and eighteen (1,218) candidates are graduating as follows:

- Faculty of Computer Science & Information Technology - 90
- Faculty of Law - 442
- Faculty of Science - 686

Similarly, for the 2013/2014 session, seven hundred and eight (708) candidates are graduating as follows:

- Faculty of Computer Science & Information Technology - 121
- Faculty of Law - 27
- Faculty of Science - 560

Although today is not a day of long speeches, I crave your indulgence to quickly and briefly go over some of our modest achievements in these Faculties and the College whose candidates are graduating shortly.

In the last five years, we have been pursuing the following vision and plans for the University:

- To transform the University from a basically teaching university to one excellent in both teaching and research.
- To transform the University from a predominantly art/humanities to one strong in the sciences as well.
- To make Bayero University an information and communications technology (ICT) driven University.
- To make the University embrace global best practices in various areas.

To this end, Management and Senate, with the support of the Governing Council embarked on a number of efforts aimed at achieving these vision and plans. For the three faculties whose students are graduating today, we have been able to make some modest achievements. They include the following:

Due to the increasing importance of knowledge of computers, information and communications technology and related areas, the University decided to establish the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology. Appropriate physical structures and equipment have been provided to the Faculty, including the TY Danjuma Building constructed and donated to the University by General T.Y. Danjuma (Rtd). This is in addition to the facilities already available at the Centre for Information Technology. Staff members have also been recruited for the Faculty and many of them are pursuing their PhD studies in Nigeria and abroad. In addition to BSc Computer Science moved from the Faculty of Science, degree programmes have been introduced in Information Technology, Software Engineering and Computer with Economics.

The Faculty of Law on the Old Campus has been rehabilitated, and additional structures have been provided for it. Considering the need to expand the Faculty and its close relationships with Social Sciences and Humanities, Management decided to relocate it to the New Campus. Consequently, seven structures — including a block consisting of an ultramodern moot court and law library — are being constructed for the Faculty at the New Campus. When the Faculty moves to its new location, the current location will house the new Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The Faculty of Science now occupies what used to be the whole University in early 1980, except for the present Faculty of Law building. Lots of structures on the Old Campus have been rehabilitated for the Faculty and additional ones are being provided. A 500-seater multipurpose laboratory has been constructed and fully equipped to facilitate the conduct of practical classes, especially in lower level courses. The conversion of the former open-air theatre into a 750-seat capacity lecture theatre for the Faculty is nearing completion. Teaching and research equipment have been purchased and installed in various laboratories. In line with the move towards advanced research, a Centre for Biotechnology Research has been established and equipped, while a new building and equipment have been provided for the Central Research Laboratory.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, Bayero University Kano has deliberately increased its access through well thought out expansion of programmes, development of facilities and capacity building of staff. Similarly, the University is upgrading and modifying some of its existing facilities in line with current expectations of excellence. We have embraced the information and communications technology wholly as evidenced in our establishment and equipping of numerous e-learning centres across the University campuses. The University has successfully automated some activities of its other units, thus gradually realising its dream of an information and communications technology driven Institution. Furthermore, the University has commenced the decentralization of University administration while ensuring maximum academic standards by introducing the Collegiate system. The College of Health Sciences had been established as the first in the series of Colleges to be established by the University eventually.

Saturday, 23rd May, 2015: HIGHER DEGREES, POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMAS, PROFESSORS EMERITI

On behalf of the Senate, Management, Staff and Students of this University, I thank all our cherished guests for honouring our invitations, and for the huge sacrifices you have made in doing so. We are happy that, unlike in the past, more parents and guardians have found it worthwhile to accompany their successful wards to this celebration of success. We are deeply touched by the presence of so many natural and secular leaders, politicians and statesmen, activists and academics, as well as numerous friends and well-wishers. We are particularly honoured by the presence of His Highness, the Sarkin Kano, Muhammad Sanusi II, CON, who is in the University today for the fifth time since his appointment as the Emir, less than one year ago. We in Kano and in Bayero University are indeed very lucky to be blessed with an Emir whose love for knowledge, scholarship and intellectual discourse is legendary. Your Highness, we are indeed grateful.

As the Pro-Chancellor has explained in his address, His Royal Majesty, the Ooni of Ife, Oba Okunade Sijuwade Olubuse II, sends his warm regards and regrets his inability to participate in today's event. He was indeed getting ready to be part of this year's convocation ceremony when changes were announced in the chancellorships of all Federal Universities, some three weeks ago. He has, therefore, requested me to also welcome you warmly on his behalf and to convey his best wishes to his son, His Highness, the Sarkin Kano, Muhammad Sanusi II, CON. Similarly, our newly appointed Chancellor, King Alfred Papapriye Diette Spiff, would have wished to be here, but as we all know, man proposes and God disposes. After a series of discussions between the Pro-Chancellor Mahmud Yayale Ahmed and King Alfred Diette Spiff, it was agreed that the
investiture of the new Chancellor would take place at a later date during a special ceremony to be organised for the purpose.

Mr. Visitor, Sir, distinguished guests, as you may all be aware, this year's Convocation is staggered to span over five days, as against the usual all-one-day affair. During the first three days, the University awarded Bachelor's degrees to 8,875 candidates from 12 Faculties. 63 of these Bachelors graduated with First Class Honours. Already, all those who attended the convocation so far have collected their certificates. Each of the graduands was also given due recognition during the ceremonies. And today we shall confer a total of 5,049 higher degrees and postgraduate diplomas on deserving graduands who have successfully completed their programmes of study in this university and who have been found worthy in character and learning. Of this number, 80 will receive the degree of PhD; 3,146 will receive Master's degrees; while 1,824 will be awarded Postgraduate Diplomas. As in the previous Convocation in 2013, the University has decided to confer no honorary degrees this year. The University will, however, confer for the first time in its history, the title of Professor Emeritus on five distinguished retired professors of the University, who have made a mark in their various fields of learning, and of whom Bayero University is very proud. Among them are three former Vice-Chancellors who have continued to serve the University long after their retirement. Those to be conferred the Emeritus Professorships are: (1) Professor Ibrahim H. Umar, a Professor of Nuclear Physics, former Vice-Chancellor and former Director-General of the Nigeria Energy Commission, (2) Professor Dandatti Abdullahi, a radical academic, former Vice-Chancellor and former Nigeria's Ambassador to Libya, (3) Professor Muhammad Sani Zahraddeen, Grand Imam of Kano, former Vice-Chancellor and former Pro-Chancellor University of Benin, (4) Professor Emmanuel Ajayi Olofin, a Professor of Geography and former Dean Faculty of Social and Management Sciences and former President of the Geographical Society of Nigeria, (5) Professor Muhammad Munzali Jibril, a Professor of English, former Academic Provost Nigerian Defence Academy and former Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission (NUC). Let me congratulate these five noble and notable intellectuals for working so hard and so selflessly to become important role models to us all in the Nigerian University system and in the entire country.

Let me also congratulate all the graduands who are being rewarded today for successfully completing their studies, in spite of so many distractions and denials. I will urge you to be worthy ambassadors of this University and strive to embody its core values of humility and sacrifice, discipline and commitment, as well as tolerance and respect for differences. After all you are plunging into the real world of great unpredictability and uncertainty. You should not lose sight of the fact that 2015 is certainly a year of transitions in Nigeria, in Kano and in Bayero University. 2015 could even be a year that sees the start of one or more profound transformations in the country that may affect the way we do things. But I am confident that Bayero University has provided you with the necessary knowledge and skills to navigate your way in the uncertainties you are bound to come across in life after school.

Your Excellencies, Your Highnesses, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, Bayero University has truly come of age. No one now questions our standing as a leading teaching and research university in Nigeria. We have indeed come a long way from our humble beginnings in 1964 when we commenced our degree programme with 10 students studying mostly Arabic and Islamic Studies. There are today about 32,000 students pursuing undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in 13 faculties including Basic Medical Sciences, Clinical Sciences, Allied Health Sciences, Dentistry, Natural and Physical Sciences, Law, Arts and Islamic Studies, Education, Social and Management Sciences, Agriculture, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Engineering, and Computer Science and Information Technology. All our degree programmes, in both the new and the old Faculties, are duly accredited by the National Universities Commission as well as relevant professional bodies such as the MDQN, COREN, and the Council for Legal Education. We have also completed all internal processes and have duly applied to the NUC for permission to establish a Faculty of Pharmacy and a School of Communication and Media Studies, with effect from the next academic session. Let me emphasize here that we have never started any new Faculty, Department or Programme without adequate physical and academic infrastructure, in line the requirements of the NUC. Let me also report that in our bid to increase access to education, we have sought and received permission from the NUC to commence some 23 part-time degree programmes at the School of Continuing Education (SCE) along Aminu Kano Way. This is to enable the teeming professionals in various fields who desire to further their studies, but whose work schedules may not enable them to do so on full-time basis, to earn a degree.

Mr. Visitor, Sir, to complement our high rating as a serious university, we have established a number of research centres designed to promote cutting edge research in various fields of knowledge. Already, the Centre for Dryland Agriculture, the Centre for African Entrepreneurship Research and Training, the Centre for Biotechnology Research, and the Centre for Quranic Studies have commenced operation in full and are enhancing the Reputational Capital of the university. This is in addition to the well known activities of the Aminu Kano Centre for Democratic Research and Training, and the reinvented and refocused Centre for Research in Nigerian Languages and Folklore. Similarly, the School for Continuing Education and the Institute for Islamic Banking and Finance have started to justify the reasons for their establishment. More research centres are also expected to take off within the next few months as soon as the structures currently under construction are completed, furnished and properly equipped. These Centres include the Centre for Renewable Energy Research, the Centre for Advanced Medical Research, the Centre for Infectious Diseases Research, the Centre for Gender Studies, the Centre for Interfaith Dialogue, and the Centre for Social, Economic and Population Studies. Many of these centres are being established with the support of, or in collaboration with, some concerned individuals or agencies at home and abroad. When these centres are fully operational before the end of this year, it is envisaged that all academic staff in the university will belong to one or more research groups coordinated by the centres.

Your Excellencies, Your Highnesses, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, we are extremely lucky to be the recipients of sizable funds, grants or allocations from the TETFUND and from the Needs Assessment Intervention Fund for Nigerian Public Universities. As a result we have embarked on an ambitious but carefully designed plan to transform the landscape and the knowledge scope of our
University. We have also been using our internally generated funds to dualise and asphalt all the major roads in our campuses to create a more serene learning and teaching environment and to upgrade the physical development capital of our institution. The students’ hostel areas are also being transformed into a serene environment to promote the learning appetite of the numerous boys and girls who are lucky to be enrolled in Nigeria’s best University today. We wish to express our gratitude to the Vice President of Nigeria, Arc. Muhammad Namadi Sambo, who was recently in Bayo University to commission a number of newly completed projects and lay the foundation of others.

As a clear testimony to Bayo University’s growing influence in academic circles, we have continued to collaborate with reputable institutions at home and abroad, particularly in the areas of collaborative research, staff development, benchmarking and industry training. We are instrumental to the establishment of an international academic group, the Oxonia University Network, at Oxford University, UK. The Network which is currently led by the Vice-Chancellor of Bayo University, has, as members, many leading and emerging universities from Europe, Asia, South America, the Middle East and Africa.

Your Excellencies, Your Highnesses, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, our University has come this far because of the tremendous goodwill, support, understanding and cooperation of the previous and current Governing Councils, as well as that of the Senate, Management, Staff and Students of Bayo University. We are particularly lucky to have as our Pro-Chancellor, Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, one of Africa’s finest technocrats and public servants. His deep knowledge, vast experience, and extensive contacts have been helpful in the management of our University’s financial, intellectual and reputational capital. Worthy of immense recognition also are the two previous Pro-Chancellors with whom I have worked, namely: Ambassador Muhammad Adamu Jumba, and Alhaji Ahmadu Adamu Mu’azu, for their immeasurable support. I must also pay a special tribute to my predecessors Professor Ibrahim H. Umar, Professor Dandatti Abdulkarim, Professor Muhammad Sani Zahraddeen, Professor Bello Bako Danbatta, the late Professor Musa Abdullahi, and my boss Professor Attahiru Jega, for building a solid foundation upon which I continued the building of our beloved University.

Mr. Visitor, Sir, in all our modest achievements, we have benefited greatly from an inclusive and all-encompassing consultative process through which we obtained the support, cooperation and understanding of our staff, students, the governments and people of the States in our immediate catchment area as well as from many other patriotic Nigerians. To all those who have assisted us, we are grateful, and we say thank you very much. Let me also restate our unquantifiable thanks and appreciation to General T.Y. Danjuma, Alhaji Alkilo Danjote, Khalifa Sheikh Isiyaku Rabiu, Alhaji Aminu Dantata, and the Executive Governor of Sokoto State, Alhaji Aliyu Magatarka Wamakko, for their positive interventions in the affairs of our University. It also pleases me to acknowledge the support of a one-time lecturer at Bayo University, the Deputy Governor and also Governor-elect of Kano State, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje for his various forms of support, particularly in feeding thousands of Bayo University students during the month of Ramadan.

I wish to particularly single out for mention and acknowledgement, the contributions of the following who have done much for the University:

1. I start with His Highness, Muhammad Sanusi II, CON, Sarkin Kano, for his continuous encouragement, guidance and assistance; he has been forthcoming with his wisdom and rich, royal and fatherly advice anytime we approach him, and we sincerely thank him for that.

2. I must then express our gratitude to His Excellency, the Outgoing Governor of Kano State, Engr. (Dr.) Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, the architect of modern Kano, for the tremendous support and assistance he and the Government of Kano State have been giving to Bayo University. In our time of great need and emergency, one of our first ports of call has often been the Governor, and we have never been disappointed. We pray that the Almighty Allah will continue to guide and protect him as he prepares to move to Abuja, so that he can contribute even more to the development of this country.

3. The Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) must be commended for its role in revitalizing both physical and infrastructural facilities in our Universities, especially in the last four to give years. We are grateful to the Chairman of the Board, Dr. Musa Babayo and the Executive Secretary, Professor Suleiman Elias Bogoro for the special attention they pay to the development of Bayo University.

4. The Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission, Professor Julius Okojie, has been a good and honest friend of this University in particular, and of the Nigerian University system in general. We are deeply grateful for the kind attention he pays to all issues pertaining to Bayo University. Sir, we thank you for your principled stance on the position of Nigerian Universities in national affairs.

5. Honourable Kauw Sumaila is highly appreciated for the numerous projects he has sponsored in the University. We are also grateful to Senator Bello Hayatu Gwarzo for his commitment to providing an ultra-modern International Conference Centre in the University. We also sincerely thank Her Excellency, Hajjiya Amina Namadi Sambo for mobilizing funds for the building of a Centre for Gender Studies and a Postgraduate Female Hostel. Former Minister of Education, Professor Ruqayyatu Ahmed Rufai deserves special mention for her unwavering support in changing the face of Bayo University during her stint as Minister of Education.

6. In this spirit, we must acknowledge the tremendous support and cooperation of one of our own, Professor Hafiz Abubakar, the Deputy Governor-Elect, who served the University with exceptional commitment, and who, in the last four years helped to mobilize funds for various projects in the University. We thank him and congratulate him on his electoral success.

Finally, at this juncture, I wish to remind us of a saying that “every beginning shall certainly have an end”. It’s been almost five years since I became Vice-Chancellor of this great University. By August this year, I shall cease to be one, and a new Vice-Chancellor will take over from me by God’s grace. Therefore, I wish to thank all those who have been with me all these years through thick and thin. I wish to thank, once more, each and everyone of you present here today, especially the parents and guardians of our graduands, for your support, solidarity and tremendous goodwill. Let me say, once again, “Congratulations” to all graduands and to their teachers and supervisors. To the graduands in particular, I urge you again to be good ambassadors of Bayo University, and to justify, in learning and in character, the degrees being awarded to you today.

Thank you and may Allah bless you all.
Appreciation

I, Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed, mni, MFR, Vice Chancellor, Bayero University, Kano on behalf of the Governing Council, Management, Staff and Students wish to express our profound gratitude and appreciation to the Visitor represented by the Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission (NUC), Professor Julius Okojie, OON, the Executive Governor of Kano State, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, OFR, his deputy, Professor Hafizu Abubakar, MFR, his Highness, the Emir of Kano, Muhammad Sanusi II, CON, the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Muhammadu Attahiru Jega, OFR, members of the National Assembly, heads of Security Agencies in Kano, members of the Kano State Executive Council, Vice Chancellors and the representatives of other vice chancellors of neighbouring Universities, friends of the University and others too numerous to mention for attending the 31st Convocation ceremony of the University which took place from the 19th to 23rd May, 2015. We also want to thank our Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Governing Council, Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, CFR, for agreeing to be the Guest Lecturer at the Convocation. Mention must also be made of other members of the Governing Council for not only personally attending the occasion, but also for taking personal interest throughout the occasion. We also thank former Vice Chancellors of BUK, Professors Ibrahim H. Umar, Dandatti Abdulkadir and Muhammad Sani Zahradeen, and members of the Convocation Organising Committee under the chairmanship of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Professor Sadiq Isah Raddah for doing a wonderful job. May the bond of friendship that exists between the aforementioned guests and Bayero University continue to grow from strength to strength. We pray to Allah subhanahu wa taala to reward you all, amin.

Signed:
Vice Chancellor, Bayero University, Kano
Professor Abubakar Adamu Rasheed, mni, MFR
Building Nigeria’s Infrastructure for MANY YEARS

We specialized in:

- Civil Engineering
- Building Construction Works such as: Roads, Bridges, Dam, Irrigation Schemes and Public and Private Buildings

Our Company H&M Nigeria Limited was incorporated in the year 2002 and commenced operating in the same year. Our area of specialization includes Building and Civil Engineering works such as Highways, Urban roads and drainages, Bridges, Dams, Irrigation systems, Ecological control projects, public and Private buildings and Stadiums. Our Clientele includes Federal and State Government Ministries, parastatal and Agencies, World Bank and African Development Bank Assisted Project. Our team of qualified professionals are capable of handling any complex engineering situation. While our fleet of technical equipment are sufficient for any project.
Bayevo University's decision to stagger its Convocation over five days remains not only in line with best global practices but afforded parents and lecturers the opportunity to celebrate the lifetime achievement of the graduands, in a relaxed and truly joyous atmosphere, as pointed out by Ahmad Shehu.

Bayevo University, Kano is a product of a series of metamorphosis from a College in the 1960s to a University College in early 1970s and eventually a full-fledged University in the mid 1970s. It is categorized among the Second Generation Universities. Like any other University, it observes the rituals of both mariculation of new students and graduation ceremony of 'old' students. The graduation ceremony referred to as convocation in the British system, is usually a one-day regimented event accentuated with lots of fanfare. In times past when the graduands were very few, the Convocation ceremony was characterized by symbolic presentation of certificate(s) and a handshake with the Chancellor/Vice Chancellor as the case may be.

However, with the gradual increase in student's population and invariably the graduands, as well as the award of Honorary degrees, Convocation ceremonies became a jamboree of sorts. Consequently, graduands whose once-in-a-lifetime day the convocation is and who ought to be the focus, became second fiddle, in the midst of honorary degree awardees whose citation(s) dominate the ceremony. Academics of the University who are mostly members of the University Senate, the statutory body that awards the degree(s) struggle for a beffiting seat in the Convocation Arena as the retinue of state functionaries and political office holders flood the ceremony.

Bayevo University, Kano in line with global best practice and the pride of place occupied by
the graduands and their parents, thought it wise to conduct the 31st Convocation ceremony rather differently. Instead of the usual one-day affair, it staggered the Convocation into five-day event, with each of the days having three faculties presenting candidates for graduation. The decision to stagger the Convocation was informed by the realisation that a good Convocation Ceremony should be for, and about the Graduands.

It is a day when the Graduands are joined by family members, lecturers, friends and well-wishers to celebrate the result of the years they spent toiling in order to succeed in their chosen fields of endeavour. It formally marks the initiation of the Graduands into the society, having been found worthy both in character and learning. The day is, therefore, special to the Graduands for this important achievement; special to the Staff who inspired and interacted with the students in their fragility; special to the parents who made many sacrifices and entrusted the future of their young ones to a different world and have their dreams come to fruition; and special to the University and the wider community for investing wisely in the knowledge industry.

In the light of all these, the University Management, Senate and Council decided to stagger the ceremony to ensure that the Graduands receive the attention they well deserve. Each day of the five-day activities was aimed at appreciating, celebrating and savouring the joy that being triumphant brings.

The staggered convocation ceremony, the first of its kind by Bayero University, Kano officially commenced on Tuesday, 19th May, 2015 at the Convocation Arena. On that day, two faculties and one College presented their candidates for Graduation. These were the Faculties of Arts and Islamic Studies, the Faculty of Education and the College of Health Sciences. A total of 3,383 candidates were presented for graduation. For the 2012/2013 session, one thousand, eight hundred and seventy four (1,874) candidates graduated as follows:

- Faculty of Arts & Islamic Studies - 527
- Faculty of Education - 1,141
- College of Health Sciences - 206

Similarly, for the 2013/2014 session, one thousand, five hundred and nine (1509) candidates graduated as follows:

- Faculty of Arts & Islamic Studies - 485
- Faculty of Education - 848
- College of Health Sciences - 179

On the 2nd day being Wednesday, 20th May, 2015, three faculties presented their candidates for graduation. These were the Faculties of Agriculture, Engineering, and Social and Management Sciences. A total of 2,778 candidates were presented for graduation. For the 2012/2013 session, one thousand, five hundred and twenty-one (1,521) candidates graduated as follows:

- Faculty of Agriculture - 94
- Faculty of Engineering - 270
- Faculty of Social & Mgt. Sciences - 1,157

Similarly, for the 2013/2014 session, one thousand, two hundred and fifty-seven (1,257) candidates graduated as follows:

- Faculty of Agriculture - 110
- Faculty of Engineering - 188
- Faculty of Social & Mgt. Sciences - 959

Thursday 21st May, 2015 had three Faculties present their candidates for graduation. These were the Faculties of Computer Science and Information Technology, Law, and Science. A total
of 1,926 candidates were presented for graduation. For the 2012/2013 session, one thousand, two hundred and eighteen (1,218) candidates graduated as follows:

- Faculty of Computer Science & Information Technology: 90
- Faculty of Law: 442
- Faculty of Science: 686

Similarly, for the 2013/2014 session, seven hundred and eight (708) candidates graduated as follows:

- Faculty of Computer Science & Information Technology: 121
- Faculty of Law: 27
- Faculty of Science: 560

The Convocation Lecture was delivered on Friday, 22nd May, 2015 by the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Council of Bayero University, Kano, Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, CFR under the distinguished Chairmanship of Professor Attahiru Muhammadu Jega OFR, Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). The Convocation Lecture was described as a repeat of history where in the penultimate convocation, the reverse of the presented scenario prevailed: Professor Attahiru Jega presented and Mahmoud Yayale Ahmed was the Chairman.

The Convocation was rounded off on Saturday, 23rd May, 2015 with the conferment of a total of 5,049 higher degrees and postgraduate diplomas on deserving graduands who have successfully completed their programmes of study. Of this number, 80 received the degree of PhD; 3,146 received Master’s degrees; while 1,824 were awarded Postgraduate Diplomas. There was no conferment of honorary degrees this year. The University, however, conferred for the first time in its history, the title of Professor Emeritus on five distinguished retired Professors of the University, who have made a mark in their various fields of learning, and of whom Bayero University is very proud. Among them were three former Vice-Chancellors who have continued to serve the University long after their retirement. Those conferred the Emeritus Professorships are: (1) Professor Ibrahim H. Umar, a Professor of Nuclear Physics, former Vice-Chancellor and former Director-General of the Nigeria Energy Commission, (2) Professor Dandatti Abdulkadir, a radical academic, former Vice-Chancellor and former Nigeria’s Ambassador to Libya, (3) Professor Muhammad Sani Zahraddeen, Grand Imam of Kano, former Vice-Chancellor and former Pro-Chancellor University of Benin, (4) Professor Emmanuel Ajayi Olofin, a Professor of Geography and former Dean Faculty of Social and Management Sciences and former President of the Geographical Society of Nigeria, (5) Professor Muhammad Munzali Jibril, a Professor of English, former Academic Provost Nigerian Defence Academy and former Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission (NUC).

One would wonder what then is the big deal with the staggered Convocation Ceremony. The big deal is that unlike in previous Convocations, it afforded graduands the most cherished liberty of individual handshake and a priceless photograph with the Vice-Chancellor and a picnic-like merry making atmosphere with family members. It equally provided an opportunity for graduands with exceptional class of degree to be publicly recognized and appreciated. Above all, it strengthened the University’s resolve to strive and adopt global best practice in all that it does.

Ahmad Shehu is the Director, Public Affairs, Vice Chancellor’s Office.
Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the 12th Governing Council @ Convocation

The Secret of BUK's Success

In his address to the four graduation ceremonies, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, CFR, Ajiyan Katagum, has praised the critical ingredients that combined to create the BUK success story, according to this digest by Mustapha Gide

A one-time Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) and former Minister of Defence, Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, CFR, Ajiyan Katagum, introduced to the University Community on Wednesday, 17th September, 2014, as the new Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the 12th Governing Council of Bayero University, Kano is certainly the man whom the cap fits. As a seasoned administrator and technocrat, the Pro-Chancellor thus is now in the midst of academia; he had at one time been conferred with an Honorary Doctorate Degree by the University. His interest and zeal to move Bayero University forward enabled him to quickly acclimatize to the environment.

Right from the time of his appointment as Pro-Chancellor, he did not hide his feelings about the status of Bayero University, Kano when he said, “I have respect for the University on training and retraining of its staff, which promoted the University's performance in the provision of quality education, quality research and scholarly outputs as well as adherence to its strategic plan.”

He is of the belief that Bayero University remains the University to beat in Nigeria, as its records on visitations, accreditations and ability to tolerate and manage ASUU have singled it out from its contemporaries in the country.

His speeches at the 31st Convocation, delivered each day from Tuesday 19th to Saturday, 23rd May, 2015 at the Convocation Arena, were so meticulous and direct, as to why the University is so unique and why it was able to record so many successes. That, he said, was attributed to its leadership style, under the Vice Chancellor, Professor Abubakar Adamu Raheem, who established a tradition of openness and inclusiveness by carrying along all members of the University community and involving as many as possible in decision making, policy formulation and programme implementation. He praised the Management's initiative in building a dynamic, harmonious system with a clear vision and working collectively towards achieving the common goal of taking the University to greater heights.

The role played by His Royal Majesty, Oba Okunade Sijuwade, Olubuse II, the Ooni of Ife, Chancellor of Bayero University, who was recently asked to serve in the same capacity at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka in the support he rendered to the Management was also praised by the Pro-Chancellor. He explained that the Ooni has never been a burden to the university throughout his 15 years of leadership; instead he used his wealth and wisdom to help in the development of the university. The former Chancellor's movement to Nsukka coincided with the arrival of His Majesty, King Alfred Papaprieye Dieete Spiff, Amanayabo of Twon Brass, expected also to start from where his predecessor stopped in moving the University forward.

The Pro-Chancellor noted the abundant achievements witnessed during a project tour by the Members of the Governing Council, thereby acknowledging the ongoing transformation, through the provision of physical facilities and structures, reorganizing the university's programmes and introducing new ones, resulting in the general repositioning of the University. The Council Chairman further acknowledged, amongst others, the support of other federal ministries and agencies, state governments, individuals and corporate bodies.

One of the Pro-Chancellor's first official functions was the commissioning of the T. Y. Danjuma Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology built by General T. Y. Danjuma. He acknowledged the progress of
many projects, such as the Business School being built by Alhaji Aliko Dangote and the return to project site of the contractor handling the Central Bank’s Centre of Excellence in Bayero University.

The Pro-Chancellor revealed that the Council had commenced the process of appointing the successor of the Vice Chancellor, Professor Abubakar Rasheed, whose tenure will end in August this year, with a promise that the Council would ensure the appointment of the Vice Chancellor who will continue from where the present Vice Chancellor would stop, as they are determined to provide proper policy direction, resources and support that will sustain and improve upon the achievements of the University and its leadership.

He explained how the 31st Convocation became unique, because of the conferment, for the first time, of five retired Professors of the University with the title of Professors Emeriti, collection of certificates on the spot by graduands and that the Convocation was staggered to five days, which enabled graduands, parents and lecturers to interact, amongst other benefits.

The Pro-Chancellor explained that, on the first day, Tuesday, 19th May, 2015, it was the Convocation for graduands of the Faculties of Arts and Islamic Studies, Education and College of Health Sciences; Wednesday, 20th May, 2015, was the turn of graduands of the Faculties of Agriculture, Engineering and Social and Management Sciences; on Thursday, 21st May, 2015, graduands of the Faculties of Computer Sciences and Information Technology, Law and Science were next; Friday, 22nd May, 2015, witnessed a Convocation Lecture, with Chairman INEC, Professor Attahiru Jega, as Chairman and the Pro-Chancellor himself, Alhaji Yayele Ahmed, as Speaker, while the curtain was drawn on Saturday, 23rd May, 2015, with the award of Professors Emeriti, award of Prizes and Higher Degrees.

The Pro-Chancellor, spoke on the topic, The 2015 Transition: Realities, Expectations and the Challenges, as Guest Lecturer at the 31st Convocation, which took place on Friday, 22nd May, 2015, at the Convocation Arena, with deep background of Nigeria’s return to democracy in 1999. He did not hide his feelings as to the poor performance of the political leaders, pointing out the dominance of PDP in the scheme of things, with the immediate former President creating provincialism in the nation’s leadership.

He spoke on the ailing economy under the PDP government, in which one-third of the people survive on less than two dollars a day while the vast wealth of the country was in the hands of less than 10 percent of the population. He pointed out how foreign debts rose from 4.5 billion dollars in 2010 to 6.4 billion dollars in 2014, while domestic debt rose from 30.5 billion dollars in 2010 to 47 billion dollars in 2014. This, he said, indicates that the public debt has grown by 18 billion dollars from 2010 to 2014.

The Pro-Chancellor was further dismayed about the performance of power sector with the so-called 4000 mw output, despite huge expenditure running into billions of dollars in the last ten years. With oil theft estimated at 400,000 barrels per day, he disclosed that 4.5 trillion Naira had been paid as subsidies to a clique of cartel of oil importers from 2011 to 2014. Corruption and security mismanagement have eaten deep into the nation’s architecture, with police, military and para-military all mired.

He lauded the INEC for delivering free and fair elections and spelt-out the priorities President Muhammadu Buhari promised Nigerians which include the restoration of the security, economy, youth employment, quality education, agricultural development, development of solid minerals, reviving industries amongst others, without ignoring measures to tackle corruption.

The Pro-Chancellor, however, threw challenge especially to PDP that if Nigeria becomes a one-party state, it is dangerous for democracy; as such PDP faithful should remain in their party and demonstrate to the electorate that they are available and credible enough for the next stage of change.

He further delved into some challenges bedeviling the university such as inadequate funding from the federal government, which provides less than 10 percent of what the university spent in its operations, along with persistent problem of electricity and water supply.

The Pro-Chancellor congratulated the graduands and advised them to protect the name and reputation of Bayero University, which he described as one of the Nigerian top universities, by practically demonstrating that they had earned the certificates from a reputable University.

Muhammad Mustapha Gide is Senior Assistant Registrar in the Directorate of Public Affairs, Vice Chancellor’s Office.