



**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE PRESIDENT, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA AND VISITOR TO THE UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, HIS EXCELLENCY, BOLA AHMED TINUBU, *GCFR*, AT THE 54TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024, AT THE J. F. ADE AJAYI AUDITORIUM, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS.**

## **PROTOCOL**

Your Excellency, the Executive Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu;

Distinguished Senators and Honourable Members of the House of Representatives;

Your Excellencies, Governors of other States, here present;

Members of the Diplomatic corps

The Chancellor, His Royal Eminence, Alhaji (Dr.) Abubakar Ibn Umar Garbai El-Kanemi, *CFR*, Shehu of Borno;

Kabiyesi, Your Royal Highness, Oba Rilwan Akiolu, Oba of Lagos;

Other Emirs and Royal Fathers, here present;

Visiting Vice-Chancellors from other Universities;

Principal Officers of the University;

All Faculty and other Staff of the University

My Lords, Spiritual and Temporal;

Gentlemen of the Press;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Great Akokites!

It gives me great pleasure to attend the 54<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony of the University of Lagos. This indeed is the time to recognize and celebrate the graduating students who through hard work, dedication and commitment have fulfilled the prerequisite requirement to be awarded various degree(s) today. I commend all the organs of the University that have through their doggedness and commitment led to the Convocation of all the graduands today. Let me use this opportunity to acknowledge the Chancellor, and the Management Team, the Senate of the University, other members of Staff (Academic and Non-teaching), stakeholders and friends of the university as well as the graduating students who we are celebrating today.

I felicitate with all the graduating students of this Convocation ceremony which include Undergraduate and Post Graduate students. I am sure that with the quality of teaching and research that the University of Lagos has instilled in you, you are well positioned to compete and interact effectively with your counterparts globally.

Today, we will also be conferring Honorary Degrees "Honoris Causa" of the University to three (3) distinguished professionals who have made significant impact on education and development in Nigeria in their various activities. I will like to congratulate Professor Toyin Falola, Professor Attahiru Jega, *OFR* and Professor Phyllis Kankii who will be conferred with the Honorary Doctorate Degree of Letters (D. Litt - Honoris Causa) and Honorary Doctorate Degree of Science (D. SC - Honoris Causa) respectively.

My election as President of this great nation came at a critical time for the country. The peaceful democratic transition of government was a clear signal of our resolve as a nation to strengthen our belief in our capacity to reposition the country. Since assumption of office, my administration has continued to consult and dialogue with relevant stakeholders, groups and bodies in order to remodel our economy to bring about growth and development. This implies that we have had to take tough life changing



decisions. The removal of subsidy was one of our necessary actions because it can no longer justify its ever-increasing cost. There is need to re-channel the funds into better investment in public infrastructure, education and critical social needs to improve the life of our people, although the decision has had immediate adverse effect on the generality of our people including the Universities. I am not unaware of the impact and sacrifices that the university community, stakeholders, parents and guardian are grappling with in the last one year, but I am confident that we will all weather the storm.

The economic challenges of the country which affected everyone were such that we must take the bull by the horn now, not later. We have a future that must be carefully nurtured, hence, necessary machineries as well as important decisions must be put in place to take us to the nation of our dream. Universities are central to the attainment of a New Nigeria and all the support and necessary Changes must be put in place to achieve our desired aim.

To mitigate the challenges of the removal of subsidy, this administration has signed the Students' Loan Bill into law. Under this law, indigent Nigerian students will have access to interest-free loans to see them through their stay in government-owned higher institutions. Beneficiaries are expected to repay the borrowed sum once they start working two years after the mandatory national service. The law stipulates that any student whose parents earn more than Five Hundred Thousand Naira (N500,000.00) per annum will not qualify for the loan, thus limiting access to those who actually need the support. It is our policy that no Nigerian child must fail to go to school due to poverty. ✖

✎ In an ever-changing knowledge economy, we are expected to embrace transnational education and remain creative in methodology of delivery of education. The Federal Government commenced the implementation of the newly developed Core Curriculum Minimum Academic Standards (CCMAS) for the Nigerian University System in September, 2023. This offers the University the opportunity to develop the 30% of the contents of programmes by the individual University Senates to reflect the uniqueness of their various universities while 70% of the total content was provided by the experts under the watch of National Universities Commission (NUC). This



is expected to impact positively on Nigerian Universities as it is expected that CCMAS will assist to produce highly skilled and fit-for-purpose graduates in line with current realities. Recently, we approved the policy document for Transnational Education. The policy framework will facilitate collaborations and partnerships between tertiary institutions in Nigeria and other Universities globally through impact/quality research, joint programmes, knowledge exchange and innovations.

It is an imperative that quality University is essential for development, nation building and international relation. The University of Lagos has continued to blaze the trail of internationalization by fostering a true global institution by breaking the borders of partnership through building global partnerships, collaborations, joint degree programmes and quality research that will impact our country. The prospect and practice of internationalization also offers opportunity to further improve research collaboration and meet partners as well as network to enhance the global competitiveness of African researchers and institutions while actively contributing to the generation of knowledge crucial for the socio-economic transformation of our country and the continent of Africa. It is commendable that the leadership the University of Lagos has been consistent in this regard.

Like the proverbial saying, the youth are the future of the world. The current administration acknowledge this; hence a sizeable number of the current cabinet Ministers are in the youth category. As the latest graduating students, it is imperative that you must exemplify the knowledge gains, showcase the skills and competencies as well as contribute your quota to nation building. It is apparent that the current realities will throw up challenges that may push you back, but draw from the experience and knowledge you have gathered over the course of your study to come up with innovative ideas that will foster the socio-economic development of our dear country.

This Government and our administration have commenced the deployment of necessary parameters for the successful implementation of the 8-POINT Agenda which is expected to will deliver hope to our nation. We are confident that with the quality of academia at the disposal of this country, purpose fit research that will provide solutions to our peculiar challenges will be in the

front burner of the research activities in universities. We strongly believe that we will continue in the right developmental trajectory with the integration of quality graduates into the manpower base of our country. Therefore, we call on all stakeholders in the education sector to join us in this journey to repositioning Nigeria.

Once again, I congratulate the University of Lagos on its successful Convocation. I felicitate with the graduands of today, and wish you all success in future endeavours as you set out to achieving your set goals and dreams. I salute the Honorees of today, (Honoris Causa,) who have been recognized for their outstanding contributions in the development of education and society and I am sure that this award will ignite you more to continue to proffer innovative ideas that will develop tertiary education and our nation.

I congratulate all the parents and guardians for your support and encouragement which helped today's graduands to achieve their dreams.

I thank you all for your attention,

*God bless the University of Lagos!*

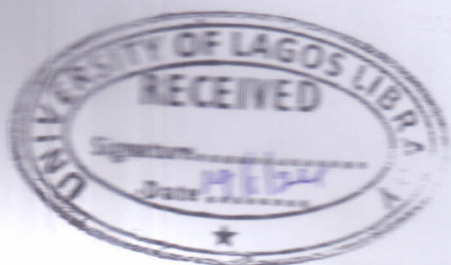
*God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria!*



**CONVOCAATION SPEECH OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE SHEHU OF BORNO ALHAJI (DR) ABUBAKAR IBN UMAR GARBAI EL-KANEMI, CFR, FNSE CHANCELLOR UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, DURING ITS 54<sup>TH</sup> CONVOCAATION CEREMONY HELD ON THURSDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2024.**

**Protocol:-**

- Your Excellency, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, the President and Commander in Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces and the Visitor to the University of Lagos.
- Your Excellency the Executive Governors of Lagos,..... States
- Distinguish Senators and Honourable Members of the House of Representatives.
- Honourable Ministers
- The Chairman & Members of the Governing Board of the University of Lagos.
- The Vice Chancellor of the University of Lagos



- Other Vice Chancellors here present
- The Registrar, Deans of Faculties of the University of Lagos
- Members of the Senate and Management Staff of University of Lagos.
- Your Royal Highnesses Obas and Chiefs
- My Lord, Honourable Judges here present
- Members of the Lagos State Executive Council
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps
- Members of Borno Community in Lagos
- Chairman and Members of Local Organizing Committee of the 54<sup>th</sup> Convocation of the University of Lagos.

- **Chairman and Members of University of Lagos Alumni**
- **Distinguished Honorary Award Recipients**
- **Distinguished invited guests**
- **Parents and Guardians here present**
- **Members of Press**
- **Graduants, distinguished ladies and gentlemen.**



It is my pleasure and rare privilege, as Chancellor to address the 54<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony of the University of Lagos for the award of first degrees, diplomas, certificates, higher degrees and award of honorary degrees on distinguished Nigerians who have excelled in various human endeavor and contributed to the progress, peace, unity and development of Nigeria over the years.

Your Excellency, I am happy that the University of Lagos has continued to open new horizons in the pursuits of its core values and mission from inception to date. It has made remarkable successes and progress in providing quality manpower requirements of the Nigeria and beyond while it has produced and mentored several research works to address various issues of academic significance, societal issues and national discourse as well as policy formulations.

I hope this encouraging zeal, determination and academic efforts should continue.

At this point, I want to appreciate and acknowledge commitments of the Governing Board, the Management, staff and the students generally for ensuring and sustaining peace on campuses; commitment to academic pursuit, patience, dedication and successes recorded. I wish you all the best towards sustaining the University's name and mission as Centre of Excellence.

For the graduating students, today, your journey into future lives just started, you have acquired the necessary knowledge, skills and training to make your future better and contribute to the general wellbeing of the society and family. You should be good ambassadors of the University, and always remember the efforts and pains of your parents who undertook the responsibility for your education to this level. I am sure, you will make them more proud through exemplary live, positive contributions and conduct as you will now find yourselves in more complex and dynamic society than the University.



Before I conclude, let me congratulate the new Vice Chancellor for her election and commend the Senate and all management staff and Local organizing Committee for successful conduct of the 54<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony.

On this, I want to thank all our distinguished invited guests and wish you safe return to your respective destinations.

Thank you.