



**UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS**

**Lagos, Nigeria**

**Address**

**of the Vice-Chancellor,**

**Professor Oluwatoyin T. Ogundipe, FAS**

*at the*

**50TH (2018) CONVOCATION CEREMONIES**

**Venue: J. F. Ade. Ajayi Auditorium**

**Wednesday, April 3, 2019.**

*The University of First Choice and the Nation's Pride*

**DAY TWO**

**UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS**



**ADDRESS OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR,  
PROFESSOR OLUWATOYIN T. OGUNDIPE, *FAS*,**

**AT THE**

**50<sup>TH</sup> (2018) CONVOCATION CEREMONIES  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, NIGERIA**

**AT THE J. F. ADE-AJAYI AUDITORIUM**

**ON WEDNESDAY, 3RD APRIL 2019.**

Muhammadu Buhari, *GCFR*,  
Distinguished Senators and Honourable Members of House of  
Representatives,  
The Executive Governor of Lagos State, Mr Akinwunmi  
Ambode,  
Your Excellencies, Governors of other States here present,  
The Honourable Minister of Education, Alhaji Adamu Adamu,  
Members of the Diplomatic Corps here present,  
Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission,  
Professor Adamu Abubakar Rasheed, *mni*,  
Executive Secretary, TETFund, Professor Suleiman Elias  
Bogoro,  
The Chancellor, His Royal Eminence, Alhaji (Dr.) Abubakar  
Ibn Umar Garbai El-Kanemi, *CFR*, Shehu of Borno,  
Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of UNILAG Governing Council,  
Dr. Bolanle O. Babalakin, *SAN*,  
Kabiyesi, Your Royal Highness, Oba Rilwan Akiolu, Oba of  
Lagos,  
Other Emirs and Royal Fathers here present,  
Visiting Vice-Chancellors from other Universities,  
The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Management Services),  
Professor Ben E. A. Oghojafor, *FNIM*,  
The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Development Services),  
Professor Folasade T. Ogunsola, *FAS*,  
The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics & Research),  
Professor Oluwole B. Familoni, *FAS*,  
The Registrar and Secretary to Council, Oladejo Azeez, *Esq.*  
The Bursar, Mr. Lekan N. Lawal, *FCA*,  
The University Librarian, Dr. (Mrs.) Yetunde A. Zaid,  
The Provost, College of Medicine, Professor Folabi E. A. Lesi,  
Other Members of Council of the University of Lagos,  
Deans of Faculty,  
Distinguished Senate Members,  
Directors,  
Representatives of other Universities,



Heads of Department,  
Deputy Registrars and Deputy Bursars,  
Other Members of the University Community,  
President and Members of the Alumni Association,  
My Lord, Spiritual and Temporal,  
Presidents of Professional Bodies here present,  
Presidents of the Various Faculty Associations,  
Gentlemen of the Press,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Great Akokites!

## INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the Senate, Management, staff and students of the University of Lagos, I warmly welcome you all to the second day of the 50<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremonies of the University of Lagos.

I congratulate the graduating students of today, for completing their degree programmes. The efforts you have put into completing your programme is highly commendable. Let me equally acknowledge the parents and guardians of our dear graduating students, for the support given to help them achieve their dreams.

Permit me to commence this address by specially welcoming the Visitor to the University, His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari, *GCFR*, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. I equally congratulate him on his successful re-election as the President of this great nation during the February 2019 general elections. We appreciate your unrelenting support and commitment to our University and to the development of tertiary education in Nigeria as a whole.

I wish to also specially welcome to this great occasion, our amiable Chancellor, His Royal Eminence, Alhaji (Dr.) Abubakar Ibn Umar Garbai El-Kanemi, *CFR*, Shehu of Borno. It is always a pleasure to have you in our midst; May your days be long!

I welcome all members of the University Governing Council led by the Pro-Chancellor, Dr. Bolanle O. Babalakin. My profound gratitude goes to our responsive Senate members who ensured that the students' results were ready and approved for the Convocation Ceremonies. Let me also appreciate the leadership of all staff unions for their efforts at maintaining peace and tranquillity on campus.



Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, we had the pleasure of picking off the activities of the convocation ceremonies with the Convocation Lecture titled: “*Nigeria Rising: The Path to Prosperity*”, delivered by the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, Professor Yemi Osinbajo, *AN, GCON* and Chaired by Chief Arthur C.I. Mbanefo, *FCA, CON*. With that outstanding lecture, everyone that attended will agree with me that the Vice President showed to the world that he is indeed a product of UNILAG and a seasoned Professor. On behalf of the entire University community, we again, express our profound gratitude to the Vice President for delivering the Convocation Lecture despite the change in date and the very hectic schedule of the electioneering process.

Yesterday, the first day of the Convocation Ceremonies, the University awarded first degrees to 3,795 students from the Faculties of Arts, Education, Environmental Sciences, Science and Social Sciences.

Today, a total of 3,643 graduating students from the Faculties of Basic Medical Sciences, Clinical Sciences, Dental Sciences, Engineering, Law, Management Sciences, Pharmacy and Distance Learning Institute would be conferred with various degrees and diplomas.

Tomorrow, the third and final day, would witness the award of degrees for Postgraduate Diplomas, Masters and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) to successful students. It would also be the day Emeritus Professorship and Honorary Doctorate Degrees would be awarded to eminent personalities.

The Best Researcher Award shall be awarded to **AJIBADE, Oluwaseyi Ayodele** (Ph.D. Metallurgical & Materials Engineering), whose thesis titled: “*Development and Optimization of Dual Particle Reinforced Polymer Composites*

for *Automobile Brake Pad Application*”, was adjudged the overall best.

This year, the trio of **ADEYEYE, Oluwaseyi Adeniyi** (B.Sc. Insurance); **OGBECHI, Daniel Chinaedum** (B.Sc. Business Administration) both of Faculty of Management Sciences and **EKEH, Ogechi Joedicta** (B.Sc. Pharmacy) of Faculty of Pharmacy have emerged Best Graduating Students with **CGPA of 4.96**.

### STATISTICS OF GRADUATING STUDENTS

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, here is a breakdown of the 3,643 students who will be admitted into various classes of degrees today.

S/N	Faculty	Figure
1.	Basic Medical Sciences	137
2.	Clinical Sciences	294
3.	Dental Sciences	56
4.	Engineering	510
5.	Law	272
6.	Management Sciences	954
7.	Pharmacy	96
8.	Distance Learning Institute	1, 324
Total		3, 643

A total of 133 graduating students finished with First Class Honours; comprising seven (7) from the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, fifty-six (56) from the Faculty of Engineering, fifty (50) from the Faculty of Management Sciences, and twenty (20) from the Distance Learning Institute.

A total of 34 graduating students finished with Distinction; comprising twenty-four (24) from the Faculty of Pharmacy, five (5) from the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences and five (5) from the Faculty of Clinical Sciences.



A total of 957 finished with Second Class Upper Division; 1,507 with Second Class Lower Division; 582 with Third Class; 32 with Pass degrees and 414 with degrees not classified in Medical disciplines and Pharmacy.

## **DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UNIVERSITY SINCE THE LAST CONVOCATION CEREMONIES**

At this juncture, permit me to intimate our Visitor and the guests of some significant gains that we have made in enhancing teaching, research, and community service. I will confess that all these have been made possible by the unwavering support of the University community and other stakeholders.

During the last Convocation press conference, I intimated you of the major thrust of the University under my administration and I am glad to inform you that we are on the path to making the University of Lagos greater than the best. This is so because we have pursued uncompromising academic standard; local and global networks; innovative fund-raising mechanisms; transformational and transnational leadership; and accountability in all university processes.

Our faculties have worked tirelessly to attract more grants to enhance research and teaching. Over ₦1 billion has been won in grant by various academic staff aside from the:

- World Bank award of African Centre of Excellence under ACE Impact to the Centre for Drug Discovery, Herbal Medicine Development and Regulatory Science, headed by Professor Olukemi Odukoya of the Faculty of Pharmacy. The grant is worth over \$4.5 million (about ₦1.5 billion).
- INSPiRED project award of €2.3 million for a collaborative research amongst five institutions – Leiden University Medical Center, Netherlands (LUMC); Delft

University of Technology, Netherlands; University of Ibadan; CERMEL, Gabon; and the University of Lagos (with Professor Wellington Oyibo of the Faculty of Basic Medical Science as team lead)

Last year, Vitafoam Nigeria Plc. donated a Polyurethane Laboratory worth over ₦20 million to the Central Research Laboratory and this was commissioned by the Hon. Minister for Science and Technology, Dr Ogbonnaya Onu.

Our collaboration with industries, government agencies, international organisations and foreign governments and institutions received a boost. For instance, Carleton University, Canada through Professor Anthony Bailetti has partnered with University of Lagos to develop a project that seeks to create 100 intercontinental start-ups that would conduct businesses in about ten countries around the world. This led the Nigerian Embassy in Canada and the Canadian Embassy in Nigeria to jointly organise the first Nigeria-Canada Investment Summit held in Abuja in November, 2018, where the Carleton/UNILAG project was demonstrated.

The Caribbean Maritime University, Jamaica and the University of Lagos signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop critical human capital needed to address the shortage in the maritime industry. This initiative received the support of the Federal Government through the Office of the Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo who witnessed the signing of the MOU. Recently we launched the Nigeria-China Development Institute which was established to foster a better trade relationship between Nigeria and China.

Thirty business prototypes with 15 business initiatives about to be registered, were products of last year's ₦70 million Lufthansa-sponsored Design Thinking programme. Over 1,200 students were supported to participate in the Lagos State



Ready-Set-Work initiative of His Excellency, Governor of Lagos State, Mr Akinwunmi Ambode. Our own, Popoola Ayodeji, a student of Department of Geosciences came second and won a cash prize of ₦4 million with his Eko Laundry Business initiative. Also, PARAMOLE, Omotayo of the Department of Creative Arts (Textile Major), who currently runs a fashion label, “*Tesmi*” and is equally graduating today, clinched the first prize at the 2018 Vlisco Fashion Fund competition. I am pleased to inform you that the Bank of Industry (BOI) has just approved the sum of ₦250 million to support the entrepreneurship drive of the University. To this end, the University will be giving interest-free loans between 1 and 2 million naira to start-ups. We sincerely appreciate BOI for this kind gesture. Representatives from the Office of the Executive Secretary of TETFund as well as the Nigeria Senate Committee on Tertiary Institution and TETFund led by Senator B. I. Jibrin at separate times visited our Entrepreneurship Centre and adjudged it as the best in any Nigerian University.

The University of Lagos Business School is set to kick off. The School will run short executive courses and professional degree programmes with highly experienced industry personnel as facilitators. We are currently repositioning the Distance Learning Institute to operate 100% Open Distance Learning and increase its student intake.

We have a strong team of researchers working on cyber-security and as part of the benefits of their work, the University was recently admitted into *Global Epic*, an international group of 21 institutions, which co-creates and adopts world changing solutions to cyber-security all over the world. The National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) recently signed an MOU with the University on the training of scholars in Master Degree in Cyber Law, to strengthen the regulation of cyber security in Nigeria. The University of Lagos

is the first institution in Nigeria to take this bold step to train professionals in cyber law. Furthermore, the University held its first UNILAG Annual Robotics Competition last year, to encourage students to develop interest and skills in digital innovations.

The University of Lagos Microfinance Bank which would be an additional source of revenue for the University is also getting ready to commence operation. The bank will help members of staff and the University community access loans to meet some of their financial needs towards home ownership, small scale enterprises, school fees, car purchase and the likes. A site has been earmarked and the remodelling of the building would commence soon. The University Television station, Unilag TV, the first Campus Television Station in Nigeria, hit the airwaves on StarTimes Channel 184 this year and is currently running test transmission.

As part of our community service, the University involved itself in impacting the society by empowering young female students with coding application skills via a three months programme tagged ‘Young Coders Application Development (YCAD)’. The programme was test-ran with 50 girls from International School, University of Lagos (ISL). One hundred secondary school girls from Abule-Oja, Bariga, Iwaya and Makoko will get a chance to benefit from the programme this year.

Let me seize this opportunity to thank:

- The Governor of Lagos State, Mr Akinwunmi Ambode for the approval of the remodelling of the University gate, as part of his kind gesture to the University of Lagos.
- TETFund for the support of capacity building and special intervention projects in the University.



- Nigerian Port Authority for the furnishing of two of the wings of the New El-Kanemi Student Hostel as part of their corporate social responsibility.
- Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) for their donation of 110 laptops and 100 tablets for use in the Centre for Information Technology and Systems.
- Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing for the rehabilitation of some of our roads.

The University of Lagos remains the University of First Choice and the Nation's pride. To justify this, our staff and students have continually distinguished themselves by winning awards and laurels in academic and social competitions within and outside the country.

- ❖ Professor Olukemi Odukoya and Professor (Mrs) Bolajoko Aina, both of Faculty of Pharmacy bagged the 2018 Association of Lady Pharmacists Merit Awards (AMA).
- ❖ Professor Matthew Ilori of the Department of Microbiology was admitted as a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science.
- ❖ Professor Wasiu Lanre Adeyemo of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery emerged co-winner of the 2018 Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS) gold medal prize for life sciences for his outstanding research works in the area of molecular genetics and biotechnology.
- ❖ Professor Adepeju Layiwola, of Department of Creative Arts, was elected President of the Art Council of the African Studies Association (ACASA). This makes Professor Layiwola, the first female President of African ancestry and the first who resides in an African nation.

Our students on their part, won:

- ❖ first (1<sup>st</sup>) position at the 10<sup>th</sup> National Mathematics Competition for University Students (NAMCUS).
- ❖ first (1<sup>st</sup>) position at the Lagos Court of Arbitration-Young Arbitrators Network's Commercial Moot Competition.
- ❖ First (1<sup>st</sup>) position at the National rounds of the Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court competition. The team is currently representing Nigeria in the International rounds of the Competition in the United States of America.
- ❖ Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) position at the 2018 Ethics Challenge of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Society, Nigeria.
- ❖ Fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) position at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Continental iCog Makers Robosoccer Cup held in Addis-Ababa.
- ❖ First (1<sup>st</sup>) position at the Nigerian category of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute 2018/2019 Research Challenge. The team will represent Nigeria at the EMEA (Europe, the Middle East and Africa) regional finals at Zurich, Switzerland.
- ❖ Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) position at the Facebook Peer to Peer Digital Challenge held in Washington DC, USA. Members of this team, BRAIDE, Emmanuella Ekpo; OGUJI, Isaac Promise; ENUNWAH, Morris Ifeanyi; OWOYEMI, Funmilayo Racheal and BABALOLA, Oluwaseyi Blessing of the Department of Geography are also graduating today.
- ❖ 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up, winning a total of 58 medals - 16 Gold, 24 Silver and 16 Bronze medals at the 14<sup>th</sup> West African Universities Games (WAUG)



- Third (3<sup>rd</sup>) place winners at the 2018 Nigerian Medical Students Association (NIMSA) Games winning a total of 35 medals - 14 Gold, 8 Silver and 13 Bronze medals.

Let me use this medium to inform you that the University won the bid to host the 26<sup>th</sup> NUGA Games. The last time the University hosted the Games was 1998. With the antecedent of UNILAG Team as enumerated above, I am sure that the University of Lagos is not only going to host successfully, but we will host to win.

### OUR UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

The University of Lagos has a vibrant Alumni Association, headed by the newly elected President, Mr John Momoh. Once again, I congratulate you our dear graduating students for completing your studies here at the University of Lagos and thus becoming a member of the alumni body. We expect you to become shining examples of the University, anywhere you find yourself. We shall continue to look out for you as it is our policy to share the success of our alumni. To buttress this, permit me to showcase a few of our alumni who have been in the limelight in the past year:

- Professor Oluwayemisi Adefunke Bamgbose, Mr Mosediq Adeniyi Kazeem, Mr Olabode Olutoyin Olanipekun and Chief Olubowale Taiwo were elevated to the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria by the Legal Practitioners' Privileges Committee (LPPC).
- Abisoye Ajayi-Akinfolarin, the founder of Pearls Africa Youth Foundation, was one of the honourees who received the CNN Heroes Top 10 Award for the Year 2018.

- Professor Yemi Osinbajo was re-elected as Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu and Engr. Seyi Makinde won the Governorship elections of Lagos and Oyo States respectively, Engr (Mrs) Noimot Salako-Oyedele as the Deputy Governor-Elect of Ogun State, to mention but a few of our alumni who were successful in various ranks in the just concluded federal and state elections.

- Twenty (20) of the 2017 graduates of the Faculty of Law finished with first class honours at the 2018 Bar Examinations.
- Yet another alumnus of the University, Ayodele Dada, who made history by being the first to graduate with a perfect score of 5.00 Cumulative Grade Point Average (C.G.P.A.), from the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences, in the 2014/2015 academic session, has been selected to benefit from the Knight-Hennessy Scholars programme of Stanford University for 2019. He is presently pursuing a Ph.D. in Psychology at Stanford University, California, USA.
- Solomon Oyakhire, another alumnus from the Department of Chemical Engineering was part of the 2018 cohort of the Knight-Hennessy scholarship programme.

So as you leave the University today, do remember that it is your responsibility to propagate the good image of the University and contribute your quota to the continued progress of the Institution. I enjoin you all to commence the clearance process for the collection of your certificates.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you all for your kind attention. I wish you all God's blessings and at the end of



today's proceedings, safe journey back to your various destinations.

Thank you.

God bless the University of Lagos,

God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

**Professor Oluwatoyin T. Ogundipe, FAS,**

**Vice-Chancellor, University of Lagos**



