



BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO

38th



Convocation Ceremony

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



Saturday
2ND MARCH, 2024
9.00am



Convocation Arena,
BUK New Campus

DAY 5

SPEECH OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR SAGIR ADAMU ABBAS, FMAN, AT THE 38TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO HELD AT THE CONVOCATION ARENA ON SATURDAY, 2ND MARCH, 2024

His Excellency, The Visitor, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, ably represented by HME Prof. Tahir Mamman
His Excellency, Engr. Abba Kabir Yusuf, the Executive Governor of Kano State,
The Chancellor of Bayero University, Kano, His Royal Highness, Alhaji (Dr) Shehu Ibrahim Sulu-Gambari, CFR,
His Highness, the Emir of Kano, Alhaji Aminu Ado Bayero,
Your Highnesses, Other Emirs Here Present,
Principal Officers of the University,
Members of the University Senate Here Present,
Visiting Vice Chancellors and Registrars,
Parents, Guardians and Other Well-Wishers,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Graduands and Other Students,
Gentlemen of the Press,
Good Morning,

On behalf of the Senate, the Management, staff and students of Bayero University, Kano, I welcome you all to the grand finale of the 38th Convocation Ceremony of this great University. Thank you all for honouring our invitation. We are, indeed, profoundly overwhelmed by the presence of many political, religious, secular and traditional leaders as well as statesmen, activists, academics and numerous friends and well-wishers.

We are especially honoured by the presence of His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Kano State, Engr. Abba Kabir Yusuf. He has been very supportive of the University within the short period of his assumption of duty. His generous assistance to over 6,000 indigent students of Kano State is worthy of commendation.

The Emir of Kano, His Highness, Alhaji Aminu Ado Bayero, an Alma Mater of the University, has always demonstrated his support and affection for the University.

The Visitor, Sir, this staggered convocation began on Tuesday. During the first three days, Bayero University, Kano awarded Bachelor's degrees to **11,284** qualified candidates from 18 Faculties and the School of Continuing Education. The summary is as follows:

S/No.	Day	38th – 2020/2021
1	Tuesday	3,797
2	Wednesday	3,739
3	Thursday	3,748
	Grand Total	11,284

Today, the final day of the award of degrees, we shall confer a total of **5,432** higher degrees and postgraduate diplomas on graduands who have successfully completed their postgraduate studies in this University, and who have been found worthy both in character and in learning. The summary is as follows:

S/N	School	38 th – 2020/2021		
		PhD	MBA/MSc/MA	PGD
1	Dangote Business School	-	289	47
2	School of Postgraduate Studies	317	3,481	1,298
	Totals	317	3,770	1,345

Distinguished guests, One Hundred and Eighty (**180**) of the first degree graduands graduated with **First Class**; Three Hundred and Seventeen (**317**) of the higher degree graduands will receive **PhD**; Three Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy (**3,770**) will receive **Master's Degree**; while Postgraduate Diploma will be conferred on One Thousand Three Hundred and Forty-Five (**1,345**) candidates.

The Visitor, Sir, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, over the last couple of years, Bayero University has been issuing certificates to all graduands immediately after convocation ceremonies. This has been sustained. Already those who attended the convocation for the undergraduate degrees have collected their certificates. Each of the graduands was given due recognition during the ceremonies.

I congratulate the graduands who are being rewarded today for successfully completing their studies. I urge you to be worthy ambassadors of this University wherever you may be. Make a positive difference in your respective communities, places of work and wherever you find yourselves.

This 38th Convocation will witness the conferment of honorary degrees, as approved by the Senate, to two distinguished Nigerians: Deputy President of the Senate, Senator Barau Jibrin, CON and the President of African Development Bank, Dr Akinwumi Adesina, CON.

As it has been the tradition of this university, Convocation Lecture was held yesterday, which was delivered by Alhaji Aliko Dangote, GCON. The theme of the lecture was “**The Role of the Private Sector in Building a Sustainable Knowledge Economy in Nigeria**”.

Yet again, a number of projects were commissioned yesterday. The following were commissioned by the His Excellency, the Deputy President of the Senate, Senator Barau Jibrin:

- School of Postgraduate Studies
- Centre for Information Technology (CIT)

The following projects will be commission by the Governor of Kano State, His Excellency, Engr. Abba Kabir Yusuf on Tuesday, 5th of March, 2024:

- Office of the Provost, College of Natural and Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Dean's Office, Faculty of Basic Medical Science
- Dean's Office Faculty of Pharmaceutical Science

While the Honourable Minister of Education, Prof. Tahir Mamman, OON, SAN, commissioned the following projects:

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- Centre for Reading Research & Development
 - Centre for Teaching & Learning
 - Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
 - Micro Teaching Laboratory

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

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

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

To this end, the University Management and the Senate are working tirelessly to attain our anticipated objectives.

ACHIEVEMENTS

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

I am delighted also to inform you that in the latest 2024 World University Assessment by the Times Higher Education of United Kingdom, BUK was ranked the **5th Best University in Nigeria**, trailing Covenant University, the University of Ibadan, the University of Lagos and Federal University of Technology, Akure as 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th respectively. In addition to emerging 5th best university in Nigeria, BUK is also the **Best University in the North-West, North-East, South-East and South-South zones**. Bayero University was ranked **the second best university in Nigeria in terms of international outlook**, coming after Covenant University. We will not relent in our determination to improve the visibility of the university on the global scene by consistently being visible on the university website as well as publish research work in reputable journals and engage in more collaboration with individuals and industries at the international level. Indeed, we will continue to ensure quality and standards as well as improved facilities for enhanced teaching and research.

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

Bayero University, Kano has, again, been ranked as the **3rd Best Value University for International Students** in Nigeria. BUK also emerged amongst the top 1,000 in the world. According to the 2023-2024 report released in November 2023, the South-Korea based universities database assessor, *Study Abroad Aide*, noted that over 8,000 tertiary institutions from about 70 countries were assessed. The report further explained that BUK's effort to make education accessible should not be unnoticed, as that informed the assessment.

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

Following the recent review of Central Registration Fees of students by the management of the university for the 2022/2023 academic session, due to high cost of living, we thought it wise to approach government officials, corporate bodies, wealthy individuals and philanthropists to come to the aid of students of the university in the payment of the new registration fees. Our effort yielded positive results. First and foremost, the Kano State Government, under the leadership of His Excellency, Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf, agreed and paid the registration fees of over **6,000** students of Kano State. That was an extraordinary gesture. May Allah reward the Governor bountifully. Other Governors that paid for their students were those of Jigawa and Kaduna states. May Almighty Allah reward them abundantly. The following individuals who were contacted by the management of the university also paid for hundreds and thousands of students in the university. They included the following:

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

May Almighty Allah reward them all abundantly for coming to the rescue of the students.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am delighted to inform you that Senator Barau Jibrin, the Deputy President of the Senate, magnanimously donated **500** solar streetlights to Bayero University, Kano. This is in addition to numerous projects among others including the two edepieces school of Postgraduate Studies and Centre for Information Technology (CIT) commissioned

yesterday. Let me use this opportunity to, once again, express my heartfelt appreciation to Senator Barau Jibrin on behalf of the Senate, the Management and Bayero University community as a whole. We look forward to more interventions from our distinguished representatives.

I am also delighted to announce that the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development donated a Veterinary Clinic and Primary Animal Health Service Centre to the university. The clinics were commissioned on Tuesday, 25th July, 2023. The two clinics, no doubt, will assist the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in the provision of an environment conducive to teaching and learning. The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine is the 18th faculty of the university.

Bayero University has continued to make giant strides in terms of collaboration with international donors. Not long ago, the university won a grant of **\$10 million** – through the College of Health Sciences – for the improvement and care of patients with sickle cell anaemia. The grant would assist tremendously in the research and improvement of sickle cell disease because Nigeria has the largest number of sickle cell disease in the world with about 50%, and over 50,000 – out of the 150,000 cases worldwide – living in Kano State. The grant was made possible by Professor Michael Debaun from Vanderbilt University Medical Centre, a global health institute, who paid a courtesy call in my office on Tuesday, 29th August, 2023. The American scholar, Professor Michael Debaun, described Bayero University as the best place for the collaboration.

On November 30th, 2023, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) handed over the two giant edifices situated on this campus a few metres from the Ibrahim Gambari Square (Roundabout) to the university. One of the facilities, a four-storey building, accommodates four departments and the Dean's Office. The other building, which is an accommodation facility, contains **190** rooms, state-of-the-art laundry, a kitchen and a gymnasium. The Presidency commissioned the facilities on 29th January this year.

SOME INROADS BY BUK STAFF & STUDENTS

Dr Adamu Dalhatu Competitively Selected for Cancer Research in Collaboration with Harvard University

Dr Adamu Dalhatu was selected through a competitive process to participate in the Nigeria Cancer Research Training programme in collaboration with Harvard University, sponsored by Global Cancer Disparities Initiatives. He was chosen as part of highly skilled Cohort of Investigators.

Dr Mustapha Ahmed Yusuf Becomes first Researcher in West Africa to introduce Maggot Debridement Therapy to Cure Chronic Ailments

Dr Mustapha Ahmed Yusuf is a Medical Entomologist and a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Parasitology, Bayero University Kano. He is the head of the Maggot Debridement Therapy (MDT) Unit at Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital

(AKTH), where he uses maggots to treat chronic wounds. He is the first to introduce MDT in Nigeria and West Africa, and has published many papers and presented at conferences on this topic. He earned his PhD in Medical Entomology from Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Iran, in 2020, with a focus on maggots for wound healing and infection control. He has successfully treated many patients with diabetic ulcers, osteomyelitis, and necrotizing fasciitis using MDT at AKTH.

Professor Mansurah A. Abdulaziz Gets International Recognition... Becomes first woman in Northern Nigeria to bag Science by Women Africa Fellowship Award

Mansurah A. Abdulaziz is the first female Professor of Biochemistry at Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria, in 2021. As an expert in medicinal plants research, she has worked with traditional medicine practitioners, pharmacists and medical doctors in various capacities, most specifically, in establishing the efficacies of remedies used for the treatment of diseases like diabetes, cancer and hypertension. In 2020, she was awarded **the Science by Women (Fundacion Mujerespor Africa) fellowship** (first winner from northern Nigeria) sponsored by the Spanish Government, at the Institute of Neurosciences, University Miguel Hernandez, Alicante, Spain, where she studied the molecular mechanisms of therapy resistance in triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) cells under the tutelage of Prof Angela Nieto, a pioneer and world-renowned leader in this field.

Professor Jibrin Mohammed Jibrin is the first Nigerian to Head Food for West Africa Network

Professor Jibrin M. Jibrin is the Director, Centre for Dryland Agriculture (CDA). He is the first Nigerian elected as the President of Food for West Africa Network (FOOD4WA). He succeeded Professor Tona Kokou of Togo, the Centre Leader of the Africa Centre of Excellence in Poultry Science (CERSA) of the University of Lome, Togo.

The Food for West Africa is the network of Agriculture based Africa Centres of Excellence from 7 centres in Africa whose activities focus on agriculture, food security and nutrition.

Professor Hadiza Galadanci Honoured With Heroine of Health 2023

The Director of Bayero University's Africa Centre of Excellence in Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP), Professor Hadiza Shehu Galadanci was honoured with a prestigious Heroine of Health 2023 award for her exceptional and selfless contributions to the development of health at the national and global levels.

The Heroines of Health Awards were established by Women in Global Health, a nongovernmental, nonpartisan organization in 2017 as a powerful platform to amplify the exceptional contribution to the health sector by women.

Professor Hadiza Galadanci was also recognized worldwide as one of the few individuals changing the world in terms of her contributions in reducing maternal and child mortality rates, combating gender disparities in health and for playing a pivotal role in shaping policies relating to critical maternal health challenges worldwide by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

BUK Student Wins Global Award, Gets \$14,000 Research Grant

A PhD student of Centre for Dryland Agriculture (CDA), Rehema Mrutu has won a global award for contributing to a sustainable future and will receive \$14,000 research grant.

Rehema Mrutu is a Tanzanian national pursuing a PhD in Natural Resource Management and Climate Change at the Centre for Dryland Agriculture at Bayero University Kano, Nigeria with research placement at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in the US.

She was competitively selected as a winning candidate at the Climate, Food and Farming Global Research Alliance Development (CLIFF-GRADS) award announced at the COP28 in Dubai.

BUK Students Invent Solar-Wind Hybrid Electricity, Water Purification Machine – Get International Awards, Scholarship for Start-up Business

Three students of Bayero University, Kano from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Messrs Nuruddeen Muhammed Issa, Lamba Henry Danwawo and Fortune Voke Riagbayire have invented a solar-wind hybrid, smoke-free cooking stove and other technological innovations.

The students, in addition, participated at various national and international competitions and exhibitions which made them win several awards and scholarships from Germany and other organizations.

Level 200 Student Emerges Winner at 2023 National Quiz Competition

A level 200 student of the Department of Accounting, Lukman Olarongbe Olamilekun, emerged as the overall best at the 2023 National Quiz Competition organized by the Chartered Institute of Taxation Nigeria (CITN).

BUK Law Student Wins Young Historian National Competition

A level 500 Law student of BUK, Abdulmalik Abubakar Isa, emerged as the overall winner of the 2023 Young Historian National Competition. The completion, which was organized by an Abuja-based non-governmental organization, Restored Heart Foundation, was designed to make Nigerian youths acquaint themselves with national and African history.

About 3,000 students participated in the competition. The organizers trimmed down the number to 100 and subsequently to 30 with five each from the six geopolitical zones of the country. Finally, the best six were selected. The grand finale took place at Nile University, Abuja on Sunday, 1st October, 2023 during which Abdulmalik Abubakar Isa emerged as the winner. He was crowned as **“The Keeper of African History 2023”**.

The Visitor, sir, with regard to the announcement by the Federal Government on removing all Federal Universities out of the Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS), I say thousand thanks! That was a welcome development. Federal universities had agitated for this for many years because of the peculiarities of the university system. We are anxiously awaiting the confirmation of this policy, as we have not received any written communication to that effect, especially the release of guidelines on how to run the university out of the Treasury Single Account (TSA). Federal universities, it should be noted, are not income generating institutions; they provide services. Therefore, the registration fees students pay are

like service charges channelled towards providing essential services like transportation, water, electricity, students handbook, examination materials, clinic, security and other sundry necessities.

I would like to be use this opportunity to thank the Government under the leadership of President Bola Ahmed Tunubu and the Minister of Education for all their efforts in making sure the withheld salary of staff of the Universities are paid and for 35% salary increase that the government has pledged. These are indications of government good intentions to come to the rescue of Federal Universities.

CHALLENGES

(1) Security

The Visitor, distinguished guests, security is one of the major challenges of the University, especially in New Campus where there is no parameter fencing with almost 50,000 staff and students in its register. Certainly, we cannot afford to toil with the lives of our staff and students. Despite the various challenges, the management has taken the following measures with a view to improving the security of lives and property on our campuses:

- a) Because of lack of parameter fencing we employed the services of the military to provide security in the night in the students hostel and staff quarters
- b) We have employed the services of Nigeria Hunters and Forestry Security Services. We have provided them with all the necessary kits to do their job. Their presence on the New Campus is beginning to yield positive results.
- c) We have increased the number of outsourced security to guard new facilities or replace retired or deceased security personnel.
- d) We have increased the number of Civil Defence personnel, especially at the solar plants.
- e) We have secured and mounted over 500 solar streetlights. We have applied for 1,000 more.
- f) The greatest security challenge on the New Campus is the lack of perimeter fencing. During the last convocation ceremony the Visitor promised to assist in that regard. In 2023, the Federal Government captured the university in the Federal Budget by providing small amount of money to start the fencing. However, in 2024 provision for fencing in the university was removed in the budget. We are appealing to the Federal Government to please to bring back the monetary provision for fencing the University for Security Reason.

The university management will not relent in its effort to provide security in our campuses.

(2) Solar Plants

In September 2019, the former Vice-President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, through the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), commissioned the **3.5MW** solar mini-grid power plant at the New Campus of Bayero University, Kano. At that point in time, Bayero University was the second project to be commissioned under Phase 1 of the Energizing Education Programme (EEP) that would deliver clean and sustainable energy to nine federal universities and one

university teaching hospital in the next four years, using solar hybrid and/or gas-fired captive power plants. Rural Electrification Agency (REA) is the implementing agency of the Federal Government charged with the electrification of underserved communities.

On 3rd December, 2020, the solar mini-grid (project), which was constructed by METKA West Africa Company, was formally handed over to Bayero University, Kano by the REA. The handover marked the end of the one-year operation and maintenance activities of the project, which delivered uninterrupted power supply to the University community. Indeed, throughout the one-year supervision period after the commissioning in 2019, the University never experienced any major challenge in the operation of the plant. All that happened during the period of COVID-19 lockdown as well as the industrial action embarked upon by academic staff.

However, on resumption of academic activities in 2021, we started having challenges with the solar plant. Later, we realized that the solar did not have the capacity to carry the entire university. The Governing Council noted that the solar power plant of the University required expansion. In early 2023 two of the converters' of the solar plant developed problem since then, the solar has not been functioning. We made all efforts to address the problem but we have not been successful. We are, therefore, appealing to the Visitor to assist the university in reviving the solar system, which will go a long way towards addressing the energy crisis, we have been going through in the last three years.

(3) High Cost of Providing Electricity

The University spent over 100 million naira monthly to provide electricity in its campuses. On this note, I'm calling on the Federal Government to find lasting solution to this problem because high cost of electricity is taking away large chunk of the University resources which could be used in research and development.

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

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

Your Excellencies, Your Highnesses, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, Bayero University has achieved a lot over the years because of the tremendous support and goodwill the management has been receiving from within and from outside the University. To all those who

have assisted us in one way or another, we are grateful, and we say thank you very much. One of the forces driving BUK forward is the commitment of its members of staff. I, therefore, wish to commend the academic, technical, administrative and other staff of the university for their dedication to duty and unalloyed support to the management. I also wish to commend the students for their understanding and commitment to their studies. We are going through difficult times, no doubt, but the students and all the staff unions have remained calm and supportive of the management in addressing the challenges facing all of us. I thank you all.

Our external well-wishers are too numerous to mention. Permit me to mention a few: Alhaji Aliko Dangote, who singlehandedly built Dangote Business School for the University; the late Sheikh Isyaka Rabi'u and his son Alhaji Abdussamad Isyaka Rabi'u have also done so much for the University. Alhaji Aminu Dantata, Senator Bello Hayatu Gwarzo, Senator Barau Jibrin, Hon. Aminu Suleiman Goro, Hon. Suleiman Kawu Sumaila, Hon. Garba Ibrahim Mohammed and Hon. Abubakar Kabir Bichi have all contributed a great deal to the development of Bayero University, Kano.

A few governmental and non-governmental agencies and organisations within and outside Nigeria have also assisted the University. The NUC has continued to provide leadership, guidance and transformation of the Nigerian University System. TETFund deserves commendation for its role in revitalizing both physical and infrastructural facilities in our universities. We are also grateful to John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for their support over the years. The French Embassy has assisted the University copiously. We are equally grateful to the World Bank for its grant to our Centre for Dryland Agriculture (CDA) and ACEPHAP. We must equally acknowledge the intervention of the CBN for its Centre of Excellence, which was commissioned a few weeks ago, and the on-going installation of two more elevators at the Abubakar Rasheed Senate Building. The Ministers of Agriculture and Water Resources, Works and Housing, Communication and Digital Economy have all contributed to providing physical and infrastructural projects for the University. The NNPC, the Bank of Industry, the governors of Kano, Jigawa, Yobe, Katsina and Kaduna states also deserve special mention.

Finally, I thank you all for sparing your time to join us on this momentous occasion.

Thank you and God bless.

Signed:

Professor Sagir Adamu Abbas, FMAN

Vice Chancellor

Saturday, 2nd March, 2024

