



BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO



Vice Chancellor's Speech
**PROFESSOR SAGIR
ADAMU ABBAS, FMAN**
VICE CHANCELLOR, BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO



DATE
Saturday, 15th February, 2025



TIME
9:00am prompt



VENUE
Convocation Arena, BUK New Campus

SPEECH OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR SAGIR ADAMU ABBAS, FMAN, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 39TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY OF BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO HELD AT THE CONVOCATION ARENA ON SATURDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY, 2025

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 Hon. Minister of State for Education, Professor Suwaiba Said Ahmad, His Excellency, Engr. Abba Kabir Yusuf, the Executive Governor of Kano State, The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council of Bayero University, Kano, His Excellency, Dr. Nasir Yusuf Gawuna, Members of BUK Governing Council, Principal Officers of Bayero University, Kano, Members of the University Senate Here Present, Visiting Vice Chancellors and Registrars, Royal Fathers Here Present, 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 Governing Council, Senate, Management, staff, and students of Bayero University, Kano (BUK), I warmly welcome you all to the grand finale of our 39th Convocation Ceremony. Today is a moment of immense joy and pride as we celebrate the academic achievements of our students and honor distinguished individuals who have made remarkable contributions to education, research, and national development.

Federal Government's Landmark Reforms in Higher Education

Mr. Visitor, permit me to begin by commending the Federal Government, under the leadership of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, for introducing three transformative reforms that directly impact federal universities and the future of higher education in Nigeria.

1. Establishment of the Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFund):

This initiative provides interest-free loans to indigent students, expanding access to higher education and reducing the financial burden on families. By increasing university enrollment, it fosters long-term human capital development, ensuring a more skilled and educated workforce.

2. Removal of Federal Universities from the Integrated Personnel and Payroll Information System (IPPIS): This decision restores university autonomy in staff recruitment and payroll management. It eliminates salary payment delays and irregularities, ensuring smoother administrative operations. More importantly, this exemption facilitates international collaboration and the hiring of global experts, strengthening our institutions' academic standing.

3. Exemption of University Research Grants and Endowments from the Treasury Single Account (TSA): This reform ensures faster access to research funds, enabling timely execution of critical projects. It encourages external funding, international research grants, and endowments, fostering a more robust research culture. Ultimately, it enhances Nigeria's research competitiveness on the global stage.

These progressive policies will improve financial accessibility, institutional independence, and research capacity, positioning federal universities like BUK for greater academic and research excellence.

Federal Government's Recognition of BUK's Excellence

We also extend our profound appreciation to the Federal Government for recognizing the intellectual strength and expertise within Bayero University, Kano, by appointing three distinguished scholars to key leadership positions in the education sector:

- Prof. Suwaiba Said Ahmed – Honourable Minister of State for Education (Your humble self)
- Prof. Salisu Shehu – Executive Secretary, Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC)
- Prof. Sadiya Sani Daura – Director General, National Teachers' Institute (NTI)

These appointments are a testament to BUK's significant contributions to national development, particularly in education and research. We are confident that their vast knowledge, experience, and commitment to academic excellence will drive meaningful reforms, policy innovations, and capacity building within Nigeria's education system.

We deeply appreciate the Federal Government for entrusting these eminent scholars with leadership roles and reaffirm our unwavering support for their success in advancing education in Nigeria.

Appreciation to the Governor of Kano State

On behalf of Bayero University, Kano (BUK), I extend our deepest gratitude to His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Kano State, for his unwavering support and commitment to the advancement of education in our great University

Today marks a historic milestone as BUK finally receives the Right of Occupancy (R of O) for its New Campus—a journey that has taken over 40 years. This singular achievement will significantly enhance the university's expansion and development, creating a more conducive environment for learning, research, and innovation for generations to come.

We also express our profound appreciation to His Excellency for recognizing and honoring 35 distinguished Kano State indigenes, many of whom are esteemed members of the BUK community, including my humble self. This recognition reflects the Governor's dedication to celebrating academic and professional excellence.

Furthermore, we are sincerely grateful for the generous donation of ₦50 million towards the successful hosting of this convocation ceremony. Such an investment in education strengthens our university's ability to organize events that inspire and motivate our students and staff.

Most importantly, we commend His Excellency's remarkable commitment to student welfare, particularly the payment of registration fees for about 7,000 Kano State students at BUK in the last session. This noble intervention has eased the financial burden on many families, ensuring that these students can continue their education without hindrance.

Your Excellency, these transformative initiatives reaffirm your passion for education and human capital development. BUK remains deeply grateful for your continuous support and looks forward to strengthening our collaboration in advancing the cause of higher education in Kano State and Nigeria at large.

Graduating Students and Academic Achievements

Our Commitment to Excellence

Bayero University, Kano, is firmly committed to excellence in education, research, and community service. Over the years, we have pursued a strategic vision to:

1. Transition from a teaching-focused to a research-driven university.
2. Transform from predominantly arts/humanities to science-based university.
3. Become an ICT-driven institution.
4. Align with global best practices in higher education.

In line with this vision, we have recorded remarkable achievements. In February 2024, Bayero University was ranked the 3rd best public university in Nigeria by Times Higher Education (THE). In the latest 2025 World University Assessment, BUK was ranked the 4th best public university in Nigeria, behind Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; the University of Ibadan; and the University of Lagos. Notably, BUK was also recognized as the **Best University in Nigeria in Terms of International Outlook**, surpassing all 274 universities in the country.

As is tradition, this convocation spans four days, conferring degrees across 18 faculties. This year, we are honored to confer **honorary degrees** upon two distinguished Nigerians: **Colonel Sani Bello (Rtd.)** and **Alhaji A.A. Rano**, in recognition of their remarkable contributions to society. Additionally, three retired professors — **Professor Garba Dahuwa Azare, Professor Julius Afolabi Falola, and Professor Musa Muhammad Borodo** — will be awarded **Emeritus Professorships** in acknowledgment of their exceptional service to academia.

A significant highlight of this convocation is the Convocation Lecture, themed **“Innovation and Entrepreneurship: A Pathway to National Development”**, which was delivered yesterday by **Khalil Sulaiman Halilu**, Executive Vice Chairman/CEO, National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI). The lecture was chaired by **Chief Uche Geoffrey Nnaji**, Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology.

This convocation marks a significant milestone for our students and the university as a whole. Over the past few days, we have conferred **8,769 Bachelor's degrees** across **18 Faculties and the School of Continuing Education**. Today, we celebrate an additional **3,400 graduands** receiving higher degrees and postgraduate diplomas. Below is a breakdown of this achievement:

School	PhD	MBA/MSc/MA	PGD	
Dangote Business School	-	295	-	295
College of Postgraduate Studies	275	2,295	535	3105
TOTAL	275	2,590	535	3400

Additionally, we are proud to announce that **176 students** have graduated with **First-Class Honours**, a testament to their exceptional dedication to academic excellence.

Academic Achievements of Bayero University, Kano

Distinguished guests, colleagues, and students, it is with great pride that I highlight some of the remarkable academic strides Bayero University, Kano has made in recent years. Our commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and community service continues to position BUK as a leading institution in Nigeria and beyond.

1. Expansion of Postgraduate Programs

In response to the growing demand for advanced studies, BUK has introduced 83 new postgraduate programs across various disciplines. This expansion reflects our dedication to producing high-caliber professionals and researchers who will contribute to national and global development.

2. Implementation of the Core Curriculum Minimum Academic Standards (CCMAS)

BUK has been at the forefront of implementing the CCMAS, ensuring that our programs align with national and international best practices. This proactive approach demonstrates our commitment to quality education and curriculum innovation.

3. Digital Transformation and E-Learning

The university has made significant progress in leveraging technology for learning and research. We have fully embraced digital transformation, providing online learning platforms and integrating e-learning tools to enhance the teaching and learning experience.

To further strengthen this initiative, BUK has established the Centre for Competence in Digital Education (C-CoDE), which serves as a hub for training faculty and students in digital teaching methodologies and cutting-edge educational technologies.

4. Infrastructural Development and Expansion

To accommodate our growing academic programs and student population, we have embarked on major infrastructural projects, which include:

- Construction of new faculty buildings to house emerging disciplines and enhance the learning environment.
- Upgrading laboratory facilities with state-of-the-art equipment to support cutting-edge research.
- Establishment of new student hostels to improve accommodation capacity and enhance the campus experience.
- Expansion of the university library, integrating modern digital resources and state-of-the-art reading facilities to support research and lifelong learning.

5. Community Engagement and Corporate Social Responsibility

BUK remains committed to its role as a driver of societal development. Through our skill acquisition programs, we empower underprivileged communities with vocational training, helping them achieve economic independence. Additionally, our extension services in agriculture have significantly improved farming techniques among local farmers, contributing to food security and sustainable livelihoods. These achievements reflect BUK's unwavering commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and community impact. As we look ahead, we remain dedicated to building a world-class institution that fosters knowledge, research, and societal transformation.

Certificates and Transcript Issuance

As part of our commitment to efficiency and student welfare, **graduating students will receive their certificates immediately after this ceremony.** This long-standing tradition ensures that our students can proceed with their careers and further studies without unnecessary delays. Furthermore, for the first time in the university's history, we are implementing **immediate transcript issuance for all graduating students**, eliminating bureaucratic bottlenecks that have hindered progress for many of our alumni. This initiative will provide significant relief to our students and position Bayero University as a model for best practices in student services.

Pioneering Innovation and Research

Bayero University, Kano, continues to be a hub for groundbreaking research and development. Some key research breakthroughs include:

- **\$6.9 million grant** from the World Bank for the **Africa Centre of Excellence in Population Health and Policy (ACEPHAP)**.
- **\$8 million grants** to ACEPHAP from various donors (WHO, Bill & Melinda Gates, Welcome Trust, and Concept Foundation)
- **5.9 million grant** from the World Bank and AFD for the Africa Centre of Excellence in Dryland Agriculture (CDA)
- **\$1.13 million grants** to CDA from various donor.
- **\$1.3 million from MacArthur Foundation** for governance research at Mambayya House.
- **N968 million in National Research Fund (NRF) grants** and **N240 million in Institutional-Based Research funding from TETFund**.

Research Centers and units of the University have made various research breakthroughs in **climate change adaptation, biomedical research, renewable energy innovations, and the development of AI-driven research tools** to support innovation in healthcare, agriculture, and environmental sustainability.

Bayero University is enhancing its partnerships with both the public sector and industry to drive technology-focused research and facilitate knowledge transfer between academia and the private sector. These efforts are already yielding significant results, as highlighted in a **recent report by Technopolis, France**. Commissioned by the World Bank to evaluate the development impact of the 52 Africa Centres of Excellence, the report, released two days ago, **ranked BUK's Centre for Dryland Agriculture (CDA) at the top with a perfect score of 5/5**.

One notable highlight of this year's Convocation is our growing collaboration with the **National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI)**. Our partnership with NASENI is a strategic initiative to position Bayero University as a national leader in scientific research, technological innovation, and industrial development. This collaboration includes:

- Sustainable and Emerging Technologies Institute (SETI). This is a project that will occupy 30 hectares of land at BUK New Campus. It involves construction of the institute and equipping it with state-of-the-art skill acquisition facilities, various innovation hubs (including AI Hub) and power supply system.
- Agri-preneurship training hub: this is a project that will occupy 10 hectares of land at BUK Old Campus. It will equip modern Greenhouse, soilless farming and tissue culture facilities. These works have commenced in earnest in all the Sites.

Breakthroughs in Climate Change Mitigation: Our researchers have developed climate adaptation strategies to enhance agricultural productivity in arid regions.

Biomedical Research Innovations: Our scientists have been at the forefront of medical research, including the development of alternative treatment methodologies for chronic illnesses.

Engineering and Technological Advancements: BUK Engineers have made significant contributions to renewable energy research, including the design of solar-powered irrigation systems for sustainable agriculture.

These groundbreaking research initiatives not only contribute to national development, but also reinforce BUK's position as a leader in innovation and academic excellence.

Commitment to Student and Staff Welfare

At BUK, we continue to prioritize student and staff well-being through an array of initiatives:

- **Expansion of on-campus job schemes:** Providing more students with employment opportunities to gain work experience while earning an income.
- **Enhanced security infrastructure:** Deploying additional security personnel, installing more CCTV cameras, and increasing solar-powered street lighting across campus.
- **Strengthening skills acquisition and entrepreneurship development programs:** Establishing specialized vocational training centers to equip students with practical skills for self-reliance beyond graduation.
- **Improvement of staff welfare programs:** Enhancing career development opportunities, healthcare services, and incentive programs for faculty and non-teaching staff.
- **Upgrading student hostels and campus facilities:** Renovating existing accommodations, expanding library resources, and modernizing ICT infrastructure for an improved learning environment.
- **Sustaining the free bus shuttle service:** Easing mobility for students and staff to ensure a seamless campus experience.

Challenges Facing Bayero University, Kano

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, as we celebrate our achievements today, it is also important to recognize the challenges that continue to hinder our pursuit of academic excellence, research, and innovation. Addressing these challenges is essential for sustaining our growth and improving the quality of education we provide.

1. High Cost of Electricity

One of the most pressing challenges facing Bayero University, Kano, is the rising cost of electricity, which consumes over one-third of our total income each month. This is financially unsustainable, as it diverts critical resources away from essential academic programs, research initiatives, and infrastructure development.

We call on the Federal Government to formulate a clear policy that supports universities through:

- Reduced electricity tariffs for educational institutions.
- Investment in renewable energy solutions to provide a sustainable and cost-effective alternative.

Implementing these measures will significantly ease financial burdens on universities and ensure uninterrupted academic and research activities.

2. Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) for the New Campus

In November 2024, the Kano State Government graciously granted Bayero University the Right of Occupancy (R of O) for our new campus, an achievement we deeply appreciate. However, the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) remains a crucial next step.

Without a C of O, the university remains vulnerable to land encroachment by unauthorized individuals. We therefore appeal to the Kano State Government to expedite the issuance of the C of O, as this will:

- Legally secure the university's land and end encroachment.
- Allow BUK to proceed with critical infrastructure development, as we have already secured funding to fence the new campus.

Finalizing this process will enable us to expand and develop the university to better serve students, researchers, and the broader community.

3. Funding for Teaching and Research

A university's core mission is teaching, research, and community service. However, inadequate funding for research grants, laboratory facilities, and teaching resources has limited our ability to fully deliver on this mandate.

We urge the Federal Government to:

- Increase financial support for research and teaching in universities.
- Provide adequate funding for laboratory facilities, digital learning tools, and academic resources.
- Encourage stronger partnerships with the private sector to support research and innovation.

A well-funded university is not just an academic institution—it is a driver of national development, innovation, and economic progress. Investing in research and education is investing in Nigeria's future.

The Way Forward

Despite these challenges, Bayero University, Kano, remains committed to its vision of academic excellence, research advancement, and community service. However, overcoming these obstacles requires a collective effort from the government, private sector, and key stakeholders in education.

We remain hopeful that with the right policies and support, these challenges will be addressed effectively, allowing BUK to continue playing its transformative role in education, research, and national development.

Closing Remarks

To our esteemed graduands, today marks the beginning of a new chapter in your lives. As you step into the world, I urge you to uphold the values of **excellence, integrity, and service** that Bayero University has instilled in you. Be ambassadors of knowledge, innovation, and positive change.

To the **parents, guardians, and families** of our graduands, your sacrifices and unwavering support have played a vital role in shaping these graduates into the bright minds we celebrate today. Congratulations to you all.

I also extend my deepest appreciation to the **Governing Council, the University Senate, Management, the Convocation Committee, academic and non-teaching staff** for their hard work in making this convocation a success.

May Almighty Allah continue to bless Bayero University, Kano, and guide us toward even greater achievements.

Thank you all for your presence and support.

Signed:

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

