

THE END IS BETTER



**Convocation Address of the Vice Chancellor
Professor Wahab Olasupo EGBEWOLE, SAN
On the occasion of 37th and 38th Convocation
Ceremonies on Friday, October 20, 2023 (Day I)**

Protocols

I stand before you today with profound gratitude and immense honour as we convene for this convocation ceremony, which holds a special place in my heart. This occasion marks not only a celebration of academic achievements but also the first convocation since I assumed the role of Vice Chancellor at the University of Ilorin.

The role of a Vice Chancellor is not just one of leadership but also one of service. My commitment to fostering an environment of academic excellence, innovation, and inclusivity is unwavering. I am here to support our faculty in their pursuit of knowledge and research and to ensure that our students receive the finest education. Together, we shall strive to uphold the principles and values that this institution holds dear. As I reflect on this convocation, I am reminded of this institution's rich history and traditions. For years, it has been a beacon of knowledge, a hub of critical thinking, and a cradle for future leaders. It is an honour and a responsibility to now be at the helm of this institution, guiding it into the future.

First and foremost, I wish to convey my heartfelt appreciation to the Visitor of the University, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, *GCFR* and the Honorable Minister of Education, Professor Tahir Maman, *SAN*. I appreciate our Chancellor, the Emir of Katsina, His Royal Highness, Alhaji (Dr) Abdulmumini Kabir Usman, *CFR*. Special appreciation goes to the Governor of Kwara State, Mallam Abdulrahman Abdulrasaq; and the Emir of Ilorin, HRH Alhaji (Dr) Ibrahim Sulu Gambari, *CFR*; other Royal Highnesses; and my Lords-Spiritual and temporal – for being supportive at all times.

Permit me to also appreciate the Convocation Lecturer for the combined 37th and 38th convocation ceremonies of our great University in person of **Professor, Toyin Falola**, a distinguished Professor of History at the Department of History,

University of Texas, Austin, United States of America. The title of this year's Convocation lecture was **Modernity, Modernization and Values**. The lecture was not only enlightening but also thought-provoking, and it left a lasting impression on me.

Your choice for this combined convocation and the topic of the lecture are divinely orchestrated decisions which has added colours in many ways to this year ceremonies. I do not want to do a recap of your lecture but no doubt, the thoughts and views expressed are thought-provoking and shall be used in re-evaluating our ideas of modernization and values. I especially appreciated how you highlighted the importance of values in the face of rapid modernization. Your emphasis on the need to preserve our core ethical and moral principles while adapting to the changing world resonated with me on a personal note and to us as an institution. I thank you most sincerely for honouring our invitation to deliver the lecture.

My appreciation also goes to Vice-Chancellors from other Universities across the nation and our eminent guests and personalities who have found time to felicitate with us on this joyous occasion. I must not fail to recognize the Ag. Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission, Mr. Chris Mayaiki, the Registrar and Chief Executive of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), Prof. Ishaq Oloyede and Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono.

I must again use this opportunity to thank members of the Governing Council of the University, Principal Officers comprising the Deputy Vice-Chancellors, the Registrar, the Bursar, and the University Librarian. I also appreciate the Provost, College of Health Sciences, Deans of Faculties, Directors of Centres, Heads of Departments, all our distinguished professors, academic and non-teaching staff,

as well as our esteemed students, distinguished guests, esteemed graduands, proud parents, respected alumni, and members of the University community.

I extend my warmest congratulations to all the graduands who have worked tirelessly to reach this significant milestone in their lives. Today marks the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. As we celebrate your achievements, I want to remind you that this is not just an end, but the beginning of a new chapter in your lives. You are part of a generation that has the power to shape the future and make a positive impact on society. You have been equipped with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to navigate the complexities of the world and create positive change.

The world is facing significant challenges, from climate change to social inequality, and it is up to you to be the agents of change. I challenge you to think critically, think without a box, be open-minded, and collaborate with others to find solutions to these complex issues. Your education at the University of Ilorin has prepared you for this, and I have no doubt that you will rise to the challenges.

To the parents and guardians, I extend my deepest gratitude for your unwavering support and sacrifices. Your presence here today is a testament to the love and dedication you have shown towards your children's education. As they embark on this new chapter, continue to be their pillars of strength and encouragement.

To our esteemed alumni, I celebrate your achievements and the legacies you have left behind. Your accomplishments serve as an inspiration and a testament to the quality of education provided by the great University of Ilorin. I urge you to continue to support and mentor our graduands, for your guidance and experience will be invaluable as they navigate the challenges of the world beyond the university walls.

I am proud to announce that our university has achieved remarkable milestones in terms of ranking, both nationally and internationally. This is a testament to the

hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff, and students. In a demonstration of our strong determination of becoming the best in Nigeria, our university has moved up the ranking ladder of leading ivory towers in Nigeria and for the 10th consecutive year, we again topped the list of most sought-after University in the country for the 2023 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME).

The University continued to enjoy the support of TETFUND as an intervention fund of ₦954,732,123.00 was allocated to the University by TETFUND for year 2023 to cover eleven (11) specific areas. Equally, the University received TETFund award of Five Hundred Million (₦500,000,000.00) hostel accommodation for our students and Two Hundred Million (₦200,000,000.00) for Zonal Interventions. The University is using the funds to execute different projects.

Research and innovation are the lifeblood of our institution. The university produced 4 patents in 2021/2022 academic session and currently has a total of 36 patents with the Federal Government of Nigeria through the National Office of Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NATOP), Abuja. With this, University of Ilorin is one of the highest contributing institutions to patency in Nigeria. The number of our patents in the various disciplines are: Medical 5, Agriculture 5, Engineering 16, Food 1, Information Technology 4, Petrochemical 3, Defence 1, Energy 1. The various patents are currently being positioned for commercialization.

The remarkable achievements of our students are a source of pride for me as I recognize their outstanding talents, dedication, and hard work. The achievements of our students serve as a testament to the quality of education and opportunities that our institution provides. In the spirit of fostering an environment of learning, innovation and growth, our students have excelled in a myriad of fields, setting a standard of excellence and commendation.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, let me now present to you the summary of the successful students graduating from the University of Ilorin in 2020/2021 academic session. A total of 14,477 students will be convoking for the 37th Convocation Ceremonies. In the First Degree/Diploma category, we have 211 First Class, 4,143 Second Class (Upper Division), 6,570 Second Class (Lower Division), 1,742 Third Class and 30 Pass. The 37th Convocation Ceremonies also include 151 MBBS graduands, 73 Nursing graduands, 18 Optometry graduands, 43 Veterinary Medicine graduands, and 12 graduands with Distinction and 27 graduands with Pass in Pharmacy. In summary, the University will be graduating 13,020 for First Degrees/Diplomas.

Furthermore, the total number of Higher Degrees to be awarded at the 37th Convocation Ceremonies is 1,457. Out of this figure, there are 75 Postgraduate Diplomas, 976 Masters from various Faculties, 88 Professional Masters's Degrees, and 318 PhDs. The breakdown of the First Degrees/Diplomas and Higher Degrees graduating students at the 37th Convocation Ceremonies is presented in the table on the last page.

As I remarked in my press briefing on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, education sector in this country, particularly, higher education, has suffered avoidable setbacks in the recent past leading to brain drain and I urge the governments at all levels that a state of emergency be declared to rescue the system. Our institutions need more hands to deliver on its mandates and funds for serious academic works, researches and collaborations for desired outputs. We wish to assure Mr. President that we will not rest on our oars for advancement and cutting-edge researches aimed at development and community engagement.

We are on the cusp of a new era, one filled with opportunities and challenges that will shape the future of education and our society. I firmly believe that our

institution is well-prepared to face these challenges, and I have every confidence in the potential of our graduates to make a positive impact in their respective fields. Today is not only a day of reflection and celebration but also a day of renewal and fresh beginnings. Thus, confirming that **THE END IS BETTER**. Together, we will continue the legacy of academic excellence and prepare our students to be the leaders, innovators, and problem-solvers of tomorrow.

Thank you and let us commence this convocation ceremony with a sense of pride and optimism for the future.

FIRST DEGREE/DIPLOMAS 2020/2021 ACADEMIC SESSION

FACULTY	1st Class	2 nd Class Honours (2.1)	2 nd Class Honours (2.2)	3 rd Class Honours	Pass	MB;BS	Nursing	Pharmacy Distin. Pass		Optometry	Vet. Med.	Total
Agriculture	57	603	454	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1174
Arts	10	343	442	167	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	965
B. M. S	14	149	120	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300
Clinical Sci.	-	-	-	-	-	151	73	-	-	-	-	224
C. I. S	14	173	280	58	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	527
Education	25	1027	1619	398	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	3082
I O E	3	477	1491	362	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2333
Engr&Tech	26	276	318	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	665
Envir. Scis.	6	95	117	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	251
Law	1	69	82	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	160
Life Scis.	18	284	368	165	8	-	-	-	-	18	-	861
Mgt. Scis.	11	316	520	134	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	984
Pharm. Scis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	27	-	-	39
Phy. Scis.	24	189	315	206	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	735
Social Scis.	2	142	444	89	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	677
Vet. Med.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	43
Total	211	4143	6570	1742	30	151	73	12	27	18	43	13020