

***HONOUR OUR VIRTUES, STAND FIRM IN
WISDOM***



**Text of the address by Prof. Wahab Olasupo EGBEWOLE, SAN
Vice-Chancellor, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria on the occasion of Matriculation
Ceremony for the Newly Admitted Students on Monday, April 3, 2023**

Courtesies,

I feel excited to address you all today as bonafide students of our great University. This event is symbolic and historical being the very first since my assumption of office as the Vice-Chancellor. You are therefore special in many ways to me as we journey through in the next three, four, five or six years of your programme as the case may be. As you are already aware, this is a University that stands tall among equals and, prides itself with good virtues, outstanding students in all facets. Without mincing words, you must have fought a good battle to be here. Your admission into this University is a testimony of your doggedness and desire for the best in spite of all odds. To contextualise this, it may interest you to note that a total of 56,263 suitably qualified candidates applied to be where you are today and only 13,274 could secure placement. The implication is that 5 other candidates competed for your space. It is therefore significant for you to recognize and appreciate this uncommon favour which Almighty God bestowed upon you, not necessarily for being the best. The wonder of God's favour and such opportunity is that He does not abandon His creation, He will sustain you but more importantly is that, He has an expectation of you. So does your parents, this society and yourself about the total person you will become in few years' time. The graduation year may appear too far but, in reality, so close.

I have therefore deliberately chosen to address you on the need to sustain our virtues as an institution and by extension, your family virtues and make the world know what you stand for. In the end, you should be proud of yourself standing tall in wisdom among peers. The motto of this University is ***Probitas Doctrina*** from latin words usually translated as "Character and learning". The degree of this great institution is only awarded based on being worthy in character and learning. It suffices to note that here character is everything! Character is about your moral, ethical actions and reactions. It is the framework upon which your acquisition of certificates will not amount to miserable exercise. Permit me to place a little more emphasis on the issue of Character (*Probitas*) and Doctrina (*Learning*). *Probitas* speaks about modesty, humility, decency, uprightness, integrity, honour and, incorruptibility while Doctrina is about teaching, instruction and knowledge translated simply "for what is a man, how so ever rich, how so powerful, without teaching?" The combination of the two words implies that you will need more than knowledge,

teaching or riches to go far in life. I urge you today to explore the natural power of humility, uprightness, decency and integrity in your academic sojourn and life in particular.

Good Character is the irreducible value that we expect from all of you, individually and corporately. Decency is our watchword in all you do on this campus and as our ambassador everywhere you go. Be decent in dressing, don't be loud where quietness is required, find out about registered associations/clubs, never take what is not yours, consider a positive alternative to resolving issues and essentially, understand that everyone deserves a chance. Rather than ending up in Students Disciplinary Committee, you will do well by joining the league of those making us proud with various scholarships, sports, debate and quiz competitions. It is my believe that you already have access to the Students Information and Regulations Handbook, The Dress Code Pamphlet and Codes of Conduct during Examination. I am confident that you will make good use of this opportunity to be a member of this great community of intellectuals and distinguished citizens.

This University agenda, in line with global reality, is to create exceptionally intelligent and smart individuals who in turn will conquer territories and project our values everywhere. We are already making efforts to create smart campus with no barrier to access to information, services and other requirements that could make your experience worthwhile and efforts well spent. This, as you can see, is evident in me joining you via this platform today, on an occasion such as this. Very soon, you will be our witnesses on the transformational agenda on digitalization and full automation of our processes. A smart campus is our dream, it is do-able and I seek your cooperation in this light.

For value addition, given today's concern for competitiveness, we are mindful of producing graduates with adequate training with ability to recognize commercial opportunities, initiate business ventures, create wealth and develop self-reliance stamina. Vocational skills are as important as university degrees in the face of rising unemployment and requisite skills to survive in the labour market. We have a functional Technical and Entrepreneurship Centre to help actualize your dream in today's digital economy. The Centre is equipped to prepare you with hard and soft business and digital skills with specific technical and hands-on knowledge that can shape your future engagements.

Before I conclude this short address, let me share a short story with you. It is about a man called Amedeo Avogadro. He lived between August 9, 1776 and July 9, 1856. He hailed from the small village of Turin in Italy. In today's world of science, Avogadro is known as an important early figure in atomic theory. Known for his research on gas volume, pressure and temperature, he formulated the gas law which states that all gases, at the same temperature and pressure, have the same number of molecules per volume. Avogadro, later became Professor of Physics and made lasting impact in the fields of Mathematics (the very first chair of mathematical physics at the University of Turin), Physics and Chemistry and also, put the city of Turin conspicuously on the world map as city of an inventor and great scientist. The story did not end there, unknown to many, following his family footsteps, Avogadro studied law and actually graduated in Jurisprudence in 1792 and doctorate in Ecclesiastical Law in 1796. He also became a Senator in the Piedmont Region of Northern Italy. Here you see Avogadro in the world of Law, Science & innovation and, Governance. The world is full of limitless possibilities for people who can think beyond their certificates.

In the word of Jim Rohn, "formal education will make you a living; self-education will make you a fortune" hence, the greatest form of disability in life is not knowing your ability or essence of existence. Your critical thinking and ability to solve problem is the winning edge in life. You must be determined to be a total student and the way to go is not to just pass through the University but to allow the University to also pass through you.

For me to congratulate you is on the day of your graduation, I charge you to mark the words of Mark Twain: 'Don't let schooling interfere with your education' The proof of going to school is your certificate, but the proof of your education is your changed character of integrity, decency, uprightness, good conduct always and ability to solve problems through innovation and creativity. By that you would have honoured our virtues of being better by far and, standing firm in wisdom.

I welcome you, once again to this University and wish you success in all ramifications. I look forward to seeing you on the graduation day with smiles, vibes and jubilations.

God bless you, all.

