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Reliable data crucial for national growth, academic research - Egbewole

By Tajudeen Babamale

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN, has explained the critical role of data in academic research and national development, urging institutions, policymakers, and stakeholders to invest more in data gathering, management, and utilisation.

Prof. Egbewole stated this last Monday (October 27, 2025) when he received a delegation from Afrobarometer on a courtesy visit to his office ahead of the team's engagement with members of the University community in its continental outreach activities.

(Contd. on page 3)



■ Prof. Egbewole

Be vigilant, Alfanla urges Unilorites

By Abubakar Imam



■ Mr Alfanla

The Registrar of the University of Ilorin, Mr Mansur Adeleke Alfanla, has appealed to members of the University community, particularly students, to always be vigilant and careful with the kind of company they keep, especially outside the campus.

Mr Alfanla made this appeal last Monday (October 27, 2025) in a telephone chat with *UNILORIN Bulletin*.

The Registrar said that students, particularly those who live outside the campus, must be careful by ensuring that they do not mingle with people of questionable characters.

(Contd. on page 3)

UNILORIN 40th Convocation Ceremonies, hugely successful-Fawole

By Abubakar Imam

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Management Services) of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Adegboyega Adisa Fawole, has said that the just concluded 40th Convocation Ceremonies "were hugely successful," based on the assessments of internal and external stakeholders.

The ceremonies were held between Friday, October 17 and Sunday, October 26, 2025.

Prof. Fawole made this remark in a chat with *UNILORIN Bulletin* last Wednesday (October 29, 2025) after a post-mortem meeting of the Ceremonials Committee held at the Council Chamber. (Contd. on page 4)



■ Prof. Fawole

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VC AT THE 7TH UNIVERSITY OF L'AQUILA CONFERENCE ON EURO-AFRICAN PARTNERSHIP

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN, was one of the distinguished guests at the 7th University of L'Aquila Conference on Euro-African Partnership last Wednesday (October 29, 2025).

Prof. Egbewole was specially invited to the Conference along with the Vice Chancellor of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) Kumasi, Ghana, Prof. Rita Akosua Dickson.

Themed 'Euro-African Academic and Scientific

Cooperation: A Sign of Hope', the Conference was part of the collaborative academic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between UNILORIN and the University of L'Aquila, Italy.

The Rector of the University of L'Aquila, Italy, Prof. Fabio Graziosi, said, in the invitation letter to Prof. Egbewole, that the Conference is of particular strategic interest to enhance the workability of the MoU.



■ A cross section of participants at the Conference



■ The Vice Chancellor with two UNILORIN alumni, Esther and Sulaiman now studying at the University of L'Aquila



■ L – R: The Rector of the University of L'Aquila, Prof. Fabio Graziosi; Sulaiman, Prof. Egbewole, Esther, and the Deputy Rector, University of L'Aquila, Prof. Bruno Rubino



■ Prof. Egbewole (right) with the Rector of Università Degli Studi Di Teramo, Prof. Christian Corsi



■ Prof. Egbewole (middle) flanked by two other UNILORIN alumni



Reliable data crucial for national growth, academic research – Egbewole

(Contd. from front page)

The Vice Chancellor, who was represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Moji Taibat Bakare-Odunola, noted that Nigeria's ability to plan effectively and achieve sustainable development depends largely on the availability and proper use of reliable data, adding that, database generation supports research, enhances innovation, and aids policymakers in formulating targeted and impactful solutions.

The Vice Chancellor commended the Afrobarometer Initiative for its commitment to evidence-based research and its emphasis on public opinion as a tool for addressing societal challenges. He assured the team of the University's readiness to collaborate with Afrobarometer in promoting data-driven research and improving access to information that can influence policy and societal progress.

Speaking earlier, the Afrobarometer Capacity Building Manager, Dr Kamal Yakubu, described Nigeria as a vast and vibrant country with enormous potential for data-driven research and evidence-based policymaking. He noted that the rich body of secondary data already available in Nigeria could be effectively used to triangulate and strengthen primary data sources, thereby improving the quality and reliability of academic research.

Dr Yakubu, however, stated that the Afrobarometer outreach programme is designed to engage with universities across Africa, with the aim of introducing the Afrobarometer platform, building research capacity, and encouraging the use of data in academic and policy-related work.

In his remarks, the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Israel Ogunlade, explained that the partnership between the University and Afrobarometer was initiated through the efforts of a Senior

Lecturer in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management, Dr Mercy F. Salami, who came across the pan-African research organisation during an international conference she attended.

Prof. Ogunlade said that Dr Salami discovered that Afrobarometer generates reliable data sets similar to those produced by global institutions such as the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations (UN). However, it was observed that much of the data produced by Afrobarometer was not being adequately utilised by Nigerian researchers and institutions.

He noted that the Afrobarometer team decided to extend their outreach to the University of Ilorin to introduce their data resources, demonstrate how they can be accessed, and train both staff and students on how to analyse and apply the data for academic and policy-oriented research.

Be vigilant, Alfania urges Unilorites

(Contd. from front page)

He added that while going anywhere they must ensure that they board only properly labelled commercial vehicles and must ensure that they get the registration numbers of such vehicles recorded and sent to a trusted friend.

He particularly advised them to ensure that they do not accept free rides from unknown motorists and if they must do, such vehicles should be those without tinted glasses.

Mr Alfania also advised the students to keep the side windows of

such vehicles wound down so that they can easily raise alarm at any time the driver or any other passenger on board decide to play games.

On the ongoing transportation challenges on campus, Mr Alfania said that it would soon be a thing of the past.

He explained that the management is not unaware of the challenges as he assured the University Community that the management is working round the clock to find lasting solutions to the challenges.

Mr Alfania said that the

management had already secured the services of mass transit buses (soludero) owned by the Kwara State Government to help in conveying students from the new park into the school area.

He implored other transport companies, community development organisations and well-to-do individuals to partner with the University authorities towards eradicating the challenge.

Mr Alfania explained that with over 50,000 students and staff anyone who invests in transport services in the University would surely be doing a profitable business.

UNILORIN 40th Convocation Ceremonies, hugely successful-Fawole

(Contd. from front page)

The Deputy Vice Chancellor, who is also the Chairman of the Ceremonials Committee, explained that the events were quite colourful as they also recorded the attendance of a large number of dignitaries and other individuals from far and near.

He explained that each of the programmes lined up for the ceremonies were held as planned as he said that no significant unusual incidence was reported.

Prof. Fawole thanked the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN, and members of his management team for their support. He also thanked the entire members of the Ceremonials Committee for delivering commendable programmes.

The Chairman said that each of

the sub-committees had submitted its reports and that the leadership of the Main Committee had also met with the University management team to review the entire ceremonies.

While he said that he was happy that members of the Committee worked as a team as there was no form of dichotomy among them, Prof. Fawole said that the summary of his experiences and the observations of the Principal Officers and other stakeholders is the need for improvement in every aspect of the Committee's operations to level up with the growing number of participants and reputation of the University.

Prof. Fawole explained that the internet facilities and connectivity around the venue and the entire University will need to be improved upon for people within and outside the

University to follow the events as they proceed.

He also said that the Committee had realised the need to engage and deploy more experts who would help in adequate traffic management and control during subsequent ceremonies.

Prof. Fawole also said that the University will have to communicate more with graduands and their parents on dispositions expected of them before, during and after each segment of the annual ceremonies.

The Chairman assured members of the University community and other stakeholders that his Committee would leverage its experience to organise more befitting future editions.

UNILORIN @ 50: Buhari to chair Alumni Day event

By Abubakar Imam

The Chairman of the Senate Committee on Aviation, Senator Abdulfatai Omotayo Buhari, will on Wednesday, November 26, 2025 chair the Alumni Day of the upcoming Golden Jubilee celebration of the University of Ilorin.

This was disclosed by the Chairman of the Alumni Day Sub-Committee of the Anniversary, Prof. Waheed Babatunde Yahya, in a chat with *UNILORIN Bulletin* in his Office last Thursday (October 29, 2025).

He said that apart from Senator Buhari, who graduated from the institution's Department of Business Administration in 1985 and has been representing Oyo North Senatorial District at the Senate since 2015, another distinguished alumnus of the University who served as Governor of Kwara State from 2011 to 2019, Alhaji Abdulfatai Ahmed, would be one of the Guest Speakers at the event.

Other Guest Speakers are Dr Nimota Nihilola Akanbi, OON, a former Nigerian Ambassador to Netherlands and Dr Ademola Dada, a former Medical Director of the Federal Medical Centre, Ebute-Mete, Lagos. Both Dr Akanbi and Dr Dada are also alumni of the Faculty of Education and the College of Health Sciences, respectively.

Prof. Yahya, who is also an



■ Senator Buhari

alumnus of the University, said that the event, which would be held at the University Auditorium, is expected to bring together alumni of the University and their friends from all over the country and beyond.

The Sub-Committee Chairman said that the Alumni Day was specifically set aside for products of the University to fraternise and compare notes on the progress they have recorded since their graduation.

Prof. Yahya, who is also the Director of the University Advancement Centre, said that the programme would also avail the alumni the opportunity to

assess the level of progress attained by the University either since their graduation or their last visit to their alma mater.

Speaking further, Prof. Yahya said that over 50 distinguished alumni and friends of the University have been penciled down for various honours at the event.

He explained that this set of carefully selected honourees are those who contributed meaningfully in laying a solid foundation for the University and those who also made one significant contribution or the other to the progress of the University in the last five decades.

The Chairman, who teaches at the Department of Statistics, also said that the list of the honourees include past Vice Chancellors and Registrars, some of the foundation staff members and a number of alumni who have been representing the University very well in their various professions and the society at large.

Prof. Yahya enjoined all the alumni of the University from far and near to ensure that they are part of the anniversary by their physical attendance at each of the events, particularly the Alumni Day and also by offering material and financial support to the University towards making the anniversary very colourful and successful.

Balogun, UNILORIN ex-Registrar, seeks better cooperation among academic, non-teaching staff

By Abubakar Imam

The third Registrar of the University of Ilorin, Mr Murtala Tunde Balogun, has called for greater cooperation among the academic and non-teaching staff members of Nigerian universities in order to facilitate better management of the institutions.

Mr Balogun, who served as Registrar and Secretary to the University Governing Council between 1998 and 2003, made this plea last Monday (October 27, 2025) while featuring on 'Countdown to UNILORIN @ 50', a special personality interview programme of UNILORIN 89.3 FM, which is dedicated to the celebration of the upcoming anniversary.

The former Registrar said that no university or institution of higher learning will achieve its essence in the absence of effective synergy between the two groups of staff.

Mr Balogun, who recalled several challenging episodes during his days in office to justify his position, said that if there was no cooperation between the two groups the challenges encountered by the University could have threatened its survival.

He noted that students and other stakeholders are bound to suffer when teachers and administrators do not work together in the interests of the University.

Speaking on other issues, Mr Balogun encouraged stakeholders to ensure that universities are properly funded for them to achieve their corporate objectives.



■ Mr Balogun

While saying that poor funding is inimical to proper running of universities, the renowned administrator said that the tendency of turning universities to glorified secondary schools should be resisted as he said that it could lead to attenuation of the essence of university education.

Mr Balogun, who is a member of the pioneer staff of the University, said that he was always delighted that the University has grown to become one of the most respected and admired institutions of higher learning in Nigeria.

The former Registrar said that the Golden Jubilee of the University deserves to be celebrated, pointing out that doing so is a way of thanking God for His mercies.

He added that those who know the history of the University and how it started would agree with him that the journey of the University so far needed to be

celebrated.

Mr Balogun, who is also the pioneer Registrar of the Federal Polytechnic, Offa, enjoined the authorities of the University to ensure that entrepreneurs are swiftly engaged to make meaningful use of its expansive landmass for agricultural and other economic uses.

The former Registrar also said that he was happy that most of those that were recruited during his time as Registrar of the University are now holding important positions in the institution and helping to raise its flag higher.

On what he wanted the future of the University to look like, Mr Balogun, who is now in his early 80s, expressed the hope that the University will become more internationalised as it advances in age.

Mr Balogun said that a University that is only peopled by its products and their colleagues from nearby institutions as teachers and administrators does not deserve to be called a University because a good University must be universal in its student enrolment, staff recruitment and general orientations.

While affirming the fact that the University of Ilorin has always been known for peace, the former Registrar advised its leadership to ensure that no effort is spared at ensuring that the peace of the University is maintained.

Relocation of UNILORIN Park aligns with varsity's masterplan, says Akanmu

By Abubakar Abdulquaddri and Bashir Dawodu

The Dean of Student Affairs, University of Ilorin, Dr Alex Akanmu, has explained that the relocation of the University Park to its new site aligns with the institution's masterplan and addresses security concerns.

Dr Akanmu stated this last Tuesday (October 29, 2025) while speaking with UNILORIN Bulletin in his office.

The Dean noted that the initial location didn't fit the plan, saying that the move ensures staff and students have access to registered vehicles with enhanced security guarantees.

Dr Akanmu explained that the recent congestion recorded at the park



■ Dr Akanmu

was due to fresh students coming to campus with large number of luggage, causing a surge in the demand for vehicles. He advised students to adapt to the new system.

He also urged students, especially freshers, to adhere to the University's rules and regulations to enable them to complete their academic programmes smoothly and on time.

The don, who is also the Chairman, University of Ilorin Branch of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), commended the Federal Government for introducing the Nigeria Education Loans Fund (NELFUND), noting its significant impact on University of Ilorin students. He assured that efforts will continue to ensure that freshers also benefit from the scheme.

The Dean appealed to well-to-do Nigerians to partner with the University by building more private hostels in order to foster a better learning environment.

American don tasks UNILORIN Chem. Eng. students on skills for professional relevance

By Abubakar Imam

A Professor of Chemical Engineering at the famous Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), United States of America, Tom Kinney, has emphasised the importance of openness and curiosity among Engineering students, particularly those of the Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Ilorin, in order for them to achieve lifelong relevance.

Prof. Kinney gave this advice penultimate Wednesday (October 22, 2025) while presenting a virtual seminar, titled "Getting It Right: Transitions From Chemical Engineering to the Industry" to students and staff members of the Department. The seminar was facilitated by a Senior Lecturer at the Department, Dr Mary Ajala.

The American don said that the students needed to be open and inquisitive so that they can expose themselves to diverse experiences and for them to be able to network widely to achieve consistent relevance.

The renowned scholar advised Unilorites to step outside their comfort zones, pursue internships, and take advantage of available learning opportunities.

He also implored them to deliberately bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and industrial practice as he described Chemical Engineers as the "connecting tissue" between Chemists and Mechanical Engineers in problem-solving processes.



■ Prof. Kinney (left) with Dr Ajala after the presentation penultimate Wednesday

Prof. Kinney equally highlighted the importance of transparent communication, sharing assumptions, calculations, and research as he said that success in industry requires both technical and interpersonal skills.

Speaking on misconceptions that needed to be overcome early in their career, Prof. Kinney explained that industry operations differ significantly from classroom experiences as he pointed out that precision and accountability are critical because errors are costly.

He reminded them that stakeholders would always value clear and decisive outcomes over complex theoretical explanations as he urged young engineers to focus on action, sound judgment and delivering results effectively.

Prof. Kinney equally advised

participants to define expectations by understanding what their roles require and what they, in turn, expect from the organisation.

He said that by meeting and exceeding these expectations, professionals can distinguish themselves and achieve long-term success.

While responding to a question, Prof. Kinney encouraged participants to ensure that they effectively merge "confidence with substance and perseverance".

In his remarks, the Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Ilorin, Dr E. O. Ajala encouraged students to strengthen professional networks and foster collaborations between MIT and her Department.

He also expressed gratitude to the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN, for his continuous support to the University's Chemical Engineering programme and for granting permission for her and her colleagues to participate in the MIT-ETT Fellowship.

Also speaking, an Associate Professor at the Department of Chemical Engineering, Dr George Adeniyi, commended Dr Mary Ajala for her initiative. He also thanked Prof. Kinney for his time and valuable contributions.

The seminar was attended by students and lecturers of the Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Ilorin.

Two UNILORIN dons bag NIFST Fellowship

By Mustafa Abubakar

Two distinguished academics from the Department of Home Economics and Food Science, University of Ilorin, Prof. Mutiat Adebanye Balogun and Prof. Fausat Lola Kolawole, have been conferred with the Fellowship of the Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology (NIFST).

The investiture, which was performed by the President of NIFST, Dr Bola Osinowo, took place during the 49th Annual Conference and General Meeting of the Institute held between October 20 and 24, 2025, at the Peace Hotel, Ilorin.

The two dons were among seven distinguished professionals across Nigeria conferred with the prestigious Fellowship, in recognition

of their outstanding contributions to Food Science, research, and professional development.

Their elevation to the Fellowship of NIFST represents a significant recognition of their scholarly achievements and commitment to advancing the frontiers of Food Science and Technology in Nigeria.

In his

remarks, the Dean of Agriculture, Prof. Israel Ogunlade, congratulated the new Fellows on the well-deserved honour as he, described it as a testament to their



■ Prof. Balogun (left) and Prof. Kolawole (right) after the investiture

excellence, leadership, and service to humanity.

Adedimeji hails UNILORIN dominance in Nigerian varsities' media space

By Abubakar Imam

In an apparent acknowledgment of the increasingly exciting service delivery of the Director and staff members of the Directorate of Corporate Affairs, University of Ilorin, the Vice Chancellor of African School of Economics (The Pan-African University of Excellence (ASE), Abuja, Prof. Mahfauz Adebola Adedimeji, has commended the pioneering and fascinating efforts of the University in the running and maintenance of successful educational media outfits in Nigeria.

Prof. Adedimeji, who is also the pioneer Vice Chancellor of the Ahman Pategi University, Patigi, gave this commendation in an article titled "50 Facts That Make UNILORIN Fantastic @ 50", which he dedicated to the celebration of the institution's Golden Jubilee.

The Vice Chancellor pointed out that "in the media domain, UNILORIN is the first Nigerian University to establish a weekly newsletter that has run consistently for more than one and a half decades".

He also explained that the University is the first to establish a campus radio station, *UNILORIN 89.3 FM*, that operates 24 hours a day and seven days a week. The station, which is currently headed by a seasoned broadcaster, Mr Idris Akintola Ibrahim (Aloma), was established in 2009.

Prof. Adedimeji also said that the University of Ilorin remains one of the few universities with an online Television Channel, which is called *UNILORIN TV*.

The distinguished Professor of English equally said that the University emerged as the institution with the highest engagement on the social media, a performance, which he said, culminated in an award in that category granted by the



■ Prof. Adedimeji

Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) at an event held in Abuja earlier in the year.

Prof. Adedimeji, a distinguished alumnus of the University who was also among those recently inaugurated as UNILORIN Ambassadors, recalled that the University was also the first Nigerian University that won the prestigious New Telegraph's Outstanding University Award in 2023 under the Vice Chancellorship of Prof. Wahab Egbewole, SAN.

The Directorate of Information (which became Directorate of Corporate Affairs in 2011), which incorporates all the four media outfits, was established in 1999 by the administration of the 6th Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Shuaibu Oba AbdulRaheem, OFR, and strengthened by subsequent administrations headed by Prof. Shamusudeen O. O. Amali, OON; Prof. Is'haq Olanrewaju Oloyede, CON; Prof. AbdulGaniyu Ambali, OON; Prof. Sulyman Age Abdulkareem, FNSE; and the incumbent, Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN.

The award-winning Directorate, whose operations and organisational structures have been consistently



■ Mr Akogun

commended by stakeholders and understudied by several universities and institutions of higher learning across Nigeria, was initially headed by the then Mr (now Prof.) Isiaka Zubair Aliagan, who piloted its affairs from 1999 to 2008. Prof. Aliagan, prior to his engagement by the University, served as Editor of the Kwara State Government-owned *The Herald* newspaper after several years of services in the flagship of the Nigerian press, *The Guardian*.

Prof. Adedimeji, a renowned wordsmith and outstanding author, who, as at the time, was also a lecturer at the University's Department of English, headed the professional Directorate between 2008 and 2012 while its current head, who is also its first substantive Director, is a seasoned journalist and consummate Public Relations practitioner, Mr Kunle Akogun. Mr Akogun has competently headed the Unit since 2012, which has made him to work with the institution's four successive Vice Chancellors, Prof. Oloyede, Prof. Ambali, Prof. Abdulkareem and the incumbent, Prof. Egbewole.

Okoro to deliver 292nd Inaugural Lecture, Nov. 6

The Vice Chancellor, University of Ilorin, Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN, invites members of the University community and the general public to the Two hundred and ninety-second (292nd) Inaugural Lecture of the University, scheduled as follows:

Lecturer: Professor Hussein Kehinde Okoro B. Sc. Industrial Chem. (Ilorin), Cert., Computer (Ilorin), M. Sc. (Ilorin), Ph. D (Cape Town, South Africa), PGDE (Ilorin), Dip. HRM (Ilorin), FICCON, FCSN, CCHEM, MSACI (SA), MSE TAC (USA), MACS (NIG), MAFRICALIS

Department: Industrial Chemistry,

Faculty: Physical Sciences,

Topic: "Leveraging the Expertise of Chemists in Environmental Management: A Focus on Analytical, Environmental, and Materials Fields"

Date: Thursday, 6th November, 2025

Time: 5.00 p.m.

Venue: University Auditorium, Main Campus, University of Ilorin

Chairman: Professor Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN Vice Chancellor, University of Ilorin

Mr Mansur Adeleke Alfanla
Registrar



Prof. Okoro



Ambali harps on mentorship among academics

By Abubakar Imam and
Mustafa Abubakar

The immediate past Deputy Vice Chancellor (Management Services), Prof. Suleiman Folorunsho Ambali, has stressed the need for quality mentorship in academic settings.

Prof. Ambali, who is also the University Project Manager for Ranking Implementation, gave this advice recently while delivering a lecture, titled “Cross-Generational Mentorship: Bridging Traditional Academic Values with Contemporary Realities,” at the 7th edition of the commencement ceremony of the Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Ilorin at the New Science Lecture Theatre (NSLT). The event was also used to celebrate a total of 41 higher-degree graduates, comprising 13 Ph.D. holders and 28 Master degree recently produced by the Faculty.

The former Deputy Vice Chancellor stated that while the academic environment continues to evolve rapidly, traditional scholarly values such as rigour, ethical conduct, discipline, patience, and methodological thoroughness remain indispensable.

According to him, true academic progress does not emerge from generational competition but from a strategic fusion of strengths of the old and the young.

Prof. Ambali, who teaches at the Department of Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology, noted that senior academics possess deep institutional memory, resilience, and disciplinary mastery, while younger scholars bring digital fluency, global academic exposure, collaborative research habits, advanced data tools, and innovative



■ **Prof. Ambali**

teaching methodologies.

He stressed that knowledge in academia flows in both directions: senior faculty members guide younger colleagues in ethical research, career progression, and institutional culture, while younger academics help older colleagues adopt digital tools, embrace open science practices, and apply contemporary pedagogical approaches.

Prof. Ambali identified pride, fear, and assumptions, rather than lack of willingness, as the biggest obstacles to effective mentorship.

“Older academics may fear appearing outdated; younger ones may fear looking inexperienced or incompetent,” he added.

He emphasised the need for humility and safe mentoring environments where senior scholars can comfortably learn from younger colleagues and junior staff can ask questions without intimidation.

Prof. Ambali, who is also a former Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, stressed that mentorship must be valued

institutionally, not left as a silent act of goodwill as he advocated cross-generational research teams, routine thematic mentorship circles, protection of mentorship time, recognition of mentorship in academic evaluations, and open acknowledgement of mutual learning.

The Guest Lecturer also explained that while modern knowledge systems embrace open science, data sharing, and rapid dissemination, these innovations must coexist with academic integrity, accuracy, and ethical responsibility, particularly in the Life Sciences, where poor or rushed research poses risks to public health, agriculture, biodiversity, and the environment.

Prof. Ambali called on universities to honour their scholarly heritage while embracing the future, fostering curiosity over defensiveness, and building institutional systems that reward humility, collaboration, and life-long learning.

Speaking earlier, the Dean of the Faculty, Prof. R. O. Arise, expressed appreciation to Prof. Ambali for accepting the invitation without hesitation despite his demanding schedule.

The Dean described the programme as a celebration of perseverance, intentional mentorship, independent research, and scholarly excellence.

Prof. Arise also congratulated the higher degree graduands, urging them to continue the culture of mentorship and excellence as they progress in their careers.

The event was attended by distinguished scholars, Heads of Departments, Professors, academic staff, technical and administrative staff, and students of the Faculty of Life Sciences, among others.



Researcher of the year, Dr Fahm (8th right) receiving his award from the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Egbewole (middle)

My recognition, a call to deepen inquiry, UNILORIN Researcher of the Year

By Mustafa Abubakar

The University of Ilorin 2025 Researcher of the Year, Dr AbdulGafar Fahm, has described his recognition as a call to deepen inquiry into how faith, ethics, and technology intersect in an increasingly digital world.

Dr Fahm, who disclosed this last Monday (October 27, 2025) in a chat with *UNILORIN Bulletin*, said he would continue to explore the intersection of Islamic ethics and digital transformation, focused on how Muslim societies in Nigeria navigate the moral, educational, and epistemological challenges of the digital age.

Dr Fahm, who teaches at the Department of Religions, said, "It was deeply humbling and gratifying. This award affirms years of patient scholarship, collaboration, and curiosity, reminding me that knowledge is both personal devotion and public service. The research is often a solitary endeavour, but such recognition by one's institution is an energising reminder that the pursuit of knowledge contributes meaningfully to our collective academic mission," he said.

He said that his groundbreaking research explores the intersection of Islamic ethics and digital transformation, focusing on how Muslim societies in Nigeria are responding to the moral, epistemological, and educational implications of technology. His work examines how online platforms are reshaping Islamic learning, religious authority, and ethical reasoning in the digital age.

"I have been exploring how classical principles such as *adab* (ethical conduct), *niyyah* (intention), and *maslahah* (public good) can guide responsible engagement in the digital space," he explained.

He revealed that the recognition reflects a culmination of his academic contributions between 2021 and 2025, including high-impact publications in Q1

journals, leadership roles in collaborative projects, research grants secured, and the mentoring of graduate students.

"These efforts, both academic and administrative, were evaluated as part of the process that led to this recognition," he said, adding that meaningful research outcomes go beyond citations to touching lives and institutions.

Dr Fahm said his motivation to study the ethical dimensions of digital life in Islam was inspired by observing how technology is rapidly transforming knowledge acquisition and religious discourse.

"As an Islamic ethicist, I became interested in how classical values could inform digital practice. The online world is not morally neutral. It requires frameworks rooted in spiritual discipline and communal good," he explained.

On the delicate balance between tradition and modernity in research, Dr Fahm stressed that integration, not opposition, is key.

He said, "I grounded my research in the Qur'an, Hadith, and classical Islamic thoughts, but I also employ interdisciplinary tools such as digital ethnography, discourse analysis, and data-driven social research to interpret contemporary realities. Tradition provides the moral compass; modern methodology provides the analytical lens."

Dr Fahm identified limited funding for humanities research, poor access to digitised manuscripts, and the challenge of situating Islamic Studies within global academic debates as major constraints confronting researchers in the field.

"The discipline must evolve to address fast-changing socio-ethical realities that classical frameworks did not anticipate," he said, noting that continuous dialogue between Islamic scholarship and modern realities is crucial.

Dr Fahm commended the University of Ilorin for sustaining an environment that promotes research excellence.

"The University provides growing digital infrastructure, facilitates grants, and nurtures a vibrant community of scholars. Its emphasis on productivity, ethical excellence, and mentorship has been instrumental in my academic journey," he said.

He also revealed that he is actively involved in international research collaborations linking Nigerian and European institutions.

"I am engaged in projects on Digital Pathways and Islamic Learning, examining Yoruba-Muslim communities, and I collaborate with colleagues in Germany and the UK on issues of religion, morality, and technology," he said.

Dr Fahm, who currently serves as a LUCAS-LAHRI Virtual Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Leeds, United Kingdom, disclosed that, on ensuring his research transcends the academic environment, there is the need for impact-driven scholarship.

He said, "I engage policymakers, educators, and faith-based organisations. My research aims to inform ethical digital literacy programmes, contribute to peacebuilding, and guide youth engagement with technology. Scholarship should not end in journals; it should inspire responsible citizenship and social transformation."

Looking to the future, Dr Fahm disclosed that his next line of inquiry will focus on how class, gender, and access shape digital religious engagement, building on his ongoing efforts to develop an Islamic framework for digital ethics suited to Africa's knowledge landscape. Offering advice to emerging researchers.

He advised researchers to "be intellectually curious, methodologically rigorous, and ethically grounded. Let your research serve humanity. Remember that humility is the hallmark of true scholarship as research is service to knowledge, to community, and to God."



■ **Dr Bankole(7th right) receiving the award from the Vice Chancellor, Prof Egbewole(middle), while others look on**

Our innovation champions climate-smart maize revolution, says Bankole, Innovator of the Year

By Mustafa Abubakar

The University of Ilorin Innovator of the Year(2025), Dr Folusho Bankole, has disclosed that behind her recognition is the development of three climate-smart maize varieties that promise to change the fortunes of farmers battling drought and the notorious parasitic weed, *Striga hermonthica*.

Speaking with *UNILORIN Bulletin* last Monday (October 27, 2025) after the award penultimate Thursday (October 24, 2025), Dr Bankole described the honour as a collective victory, celebrating not just personal efforts but teamwork, divine grace, and institutional support.

She said, "This award is profoundly meaningful to me, and I see it not as an individual achievement but as a collective effort. It reflects God's grace, the dedication of my research team, the support of my family, the guidance of my mentors, and the enabling environment created by the leadership of the University, from the Vice Chancellor to the Faculty and the Department."

Dr Bankole, who teaches at the Department of Agronomy, said that the award-winning innovation, which began with the development, registration, and release of ILOMAZ 1, 2, and 3, marks a breakthrough in Crop Science, adding that the new maize varieties, tailored for

Nigeria's Guinea Savanna, are high-yielding, drought-tolerant, and resilient against *Striga*, one of the deadliest weeds plaguing African maize farms.

According to her, the project was borne out of a commitment to tackle food insecurity and climate challenges threatening farmers' livelihoods.

"We wanted to provide a robust, scientific solution to low yields caused by drought and *Striga*," she explained.

She said that the innovation emerged from a rigorous, multi-stage process, including multi-location trials, participatory field testing with farmers, and independent evaluation by the National Varietal Release Committee before final certification.

The innovator noted that the journey was not smooth, stressing that from insecurity in field sites to herds of cattle trampling experimental plots as the team had to navigate setbacks that tested their resolve.

"These challenges only strengthened our resilience and determination," she recalled.

According to her, beyond the laboratory, the work is already transforming lives, as farmers in Kwara, Niger, Osun, and Oyo States have recorded higher yields and better incomes after adopting the new varieties.

She said, "This innovation aligns perfectly with UNILORIN's mission to generate research that impacts

communities. It also advances the UN Sustainable Development Goals on Zero Hunger, No Poverty, and Good Health," she said.

Dr Bankole believed the potential for commercialisation is immense, adding that with its proven yield advantage, the ILOMAZ varieties could deliver returns of over 100% for seed companies and farmers in some regions.

She called for a stronger innovation ecosystem within universities, built on mentorship, funding, entrepreneurship training, and industry partnerships.

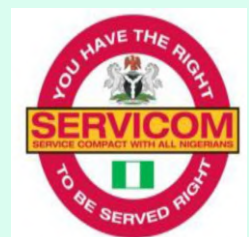
"Innovation thrives where ideas are nurtured, risks are supported, and collaboration is encouraged," she noted.

Reflecting on what fuels her creativity, she pointed to collaboration and curiosity, noting that, "I stay creative through learning and networking with colleagues in universities, research institutes, and industries. I am always asking new questions and seeking better solutions."

To aspiring innovators, she advised, "Start where you are, use what you have, and work on problems you care about. Embrace teamwork and learn from setbacks. The University of Ilorin provides a fertile ground for innovation, make the most of it. Your persistence can lead to discoveries that change the world." she said.

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Let's make UNILORIN greater, Fawole pleads with stakeholders

By Abubakar Imam

As the University of Ilorin prepares for its Golden Jubilee, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Management Services) of the University, Prof. Adegboyega Adisa Fawole, has appealed to staff, students and other stakeholders, particularly alumni of the University, to pull their resources together towards making the University greater.

Prof. Fawole gave this advice recently in a chat with *UNILORIN Bulletin* in his office.

The renowned medical scholar, who was delighted with the upcoming 50th anniversary of the University, said that the milestone deserves to be celebrated with pomp and pageantry particularly by its alumni.

He was particularly happy that the University is renowned for peace, saying that the enduring peace pervading the University environment is a big mark.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor, who is a 1984 medical alumnus of the University, said that the institution has given its alumni so much and that it is now their turn to reciprocate.

He said that the University, like other institutions, requires the support of every internal and external stakeholder to be able to discharge its responsibilities to



■ Prof. Fawole

the fullest, noting that the University has recorded transformation in all phases.

Prof. Fawole, who is also the Chairman of the Ceremonials Committee of the University, said that while staff are expected to put in their maximum best in service delivery that would enhance the achievements of the corporate objectives of the University, that students must also be law-abiding and face their studies squarely.

He, therefore, charged all to offer their contributions towards the successful celebration of the University and its impacts for the benefit of the present and future generations of students.

Assessing the progress of the University so far, Prof. Fawole, who

commended the administrative ingenuity of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN, said that the University has expanded tremendously in infrastructural facilities and positive reputations over the years.

He added that the University is moving fast in every aspect as he said that it is also doing well in students and staff welfare.

Prof. Fawole, who previously held the position of Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research, Technology and Innovation) commended the staff of the University for the good roles they are playing in nurturing students, saying that staff have turned themselves to parents just to ensure that youth restiveness is curbed in the University.

On a personal note, Prof. Fawole said that he felt honoured that his career is interwoven with the history of the University, recalling that he had been a part and parcel of the University right from its formative years when he relocated to the GRA Staff Quarters of the University along with his father, Prof. Moses Oyeleke Fawole, on becoming a staff of the then young University in 1977.

Prof. Fawole said that it is glorious sitting in the same office once occupied by his father as he promised to continue to do his best towards elevating the University to higher pedestals.

Pepsi donates drinks to UNILORIN @ 50 Committee

By Temitope Omoniye

The Golden Jubilee celebration of the University of Ilorin has got a refreshing boost, thanks to a generous donation from Pepsi. The beverage brewing giant donated 300 packs of assorted drinks to support the upcoming activities leading up the University's 50th anniversary.

The presentation was made penultimate Saturday (October 25, 2025) by Mr Michael Adekunle Ekomitan, the Divisional Sales Manager for Seven-Up Bottling Company Ltd in Ilorin, who represented the company. Mr Ekomitan is also an alumnus of the Department of Geography, University of Ilorin.

Receiving the donation on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Wahab Egbewole, SAN, the Chairman of the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee, Prof. Olugbenga Ayodeji Mokuolu, expressed the University's gratitude to the company.

Prof. Mokuolu, who was joined by the Secretary of the Committee, Mrs Taiwo Afolayan, and a Deputy Registrar,



■ L-R: Mrs Afolayan, Mr Ekomitan, Prof. Mokuolu, Mrs Ologe, and Mr Kuranga during the presentation

Mrs Rita Abimbola Ologe, and a Principal Assistant Registrar, Mr Abdulkadir Yinka Kuranga, pointed out that the support from corporate organisations like Pepsi is invaluable in ensuring a successful and memorable celebration.

The Planning Committee Chairman said that the Committee can be reached by email (50thanniversary@unilorin.edu.ng) and phone number (08037137407/08033352540) to receive more donations.

1,023 UNILORIN graduands inducted into TRCN

By Mustafa Abubakar

A total of 1,023 graduates of the Faculty of Education, University of Ilorin, have been formally inducted into the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN) as certified professional teachers.

The induction ceremony, held at the Education Lecture Theatre (EDLT), formed part of activities marking the University's 40th Convocation Ceremonies. It signified the formal transition of the graduands into the teaching profession.

Delivering the goodwill message of the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN) while inducting the students into the profession, the Registrar/Chief Executive, TRCN, Dr Ronke Soyombo, commended the University of Ilorin for its unwavering commitment to teacher professionalisation and educational quality assurance.

Represented by the Director, Human Resource Management, Mr Ugo-Ali Lawrence, the Registrar praised the Faculty for consistently producing well-trained graduates who excel in the TRCN Professional Qualifying Examination (PQE), noting that the Faculty's 93 percent success rate reflects its dedication to excellence and sound pedagogy.

Dr Soyombo stressed that the induction ceremony remains a critical institutionalised process that ushers education graduates into the teaching profession and prepares them for real-life challenges. He further explained that teaching is a specialised calling that demands professionalism, continuous learning, and adherence to ethical standards.

She enumerated the numerous



incentives attached to TRCN certification, which include enhanced entry-level salary, housing and rural allowances, extended retirement benefits, and international job opportunities through the Council's global recognition framework.

The Registrar called on the inductees to be ambassadors of integrity and discipline, stating that "a teacher's influence must be seen not only in the classroom but in the moral tone of the society."

In his address, the Dean of the Faculty of Education, Prof. Olukunmi Lanre Olaitan, commended the inductees for their perseverance, academic excellence, and commitment throughout their training years.

He described the induction as a defining moment in their professional lives, one that affirms their competence, ethics, and readiness to serve humanity through knowledge.

The Dean emphasised that the Faculty remains steadfast in its mission to produce teachers who are intellectually sound, morally upright, technologically informed, and globally competitive.

He urged the new professionals to view teaching as a sacred trust, a calling that demands empathy, humility, innovation, and continuous self-improvement.

The Dean appreciated the Vice

Chancellor and the University Management for their consistent support and encouragement toward the Faculty's academic and professional programmes.

Prof. Olaitan also expressed gratitude to the TRCN for maintaining an enduring partnership that strengthens the professionalisation of teaching in Nigeria as he noted that all the inductees were drawn from all nine Departments of the Faculty.

Also speaking, the Chairman of the TRCN Induction Committee, Dr Murtala Tukur, expressed appreciation to the University Management and the TRCN leadership for their consistent collaboration in organising the professional induction ceremony.

Dr Tukur described the exercise as the culmination of years of hard work, discipline, and mentorship, and a reflection of the Faculty's enduring commitment to producing competent, ethical, and globally competitive teachers.

As the graduates took their oaths and received their certificates, they joined a distinguished community of educators committed to transforming classrooms, communities, and the nation at large. The ceremony reaffirmed the University's leading role in advancing teacher education and professional development in Nigeria.

Egbewole congratulates new NUJ Correspondents Chapel exco ...hails Garba on impactful tenure

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN, has congratulated members of the newly elected Executive Committee of the Correspondents Chapel of Kwara State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), led by Mr Biola Azeez, the State Editor of the Nigerian Tribune newspaper.

In a congratulatory message to the new NUJ leaders, Prof. Egbewole also lauded the immediate past Chairman, Mr Abdulhakeem Garba of Channels Television for successfully handing over to a successor.

A statement made available to news men in Ilorin last Saturday (November 1, 2025) by the University's Director of Corporate Affairs, Mr Kunle



Mr Azeez

Akogun, expressed the Vice Chancellor's delight over the outcome of the election, saying that the peaceful conduct of the election and the absence of any rancour in its aftermath have shown the Correspondents

Chapel as truly the flagship crop of journalists in Kwara State.

Prof. Egbewole also said that this development has further raised the public rating of the Correspondents Chapel, whose members constitute the crux of the membership of the elite Unilorin Accredited Press Corps (UAPC).

While wishing the new exco members a successful and impactful tenure of office, the Vice Chancellor urged the new NUJ officials to endeavour to build on the exemplary achievements of the AbdulHakeem Garba-led executive.

In particular, Prof. Egbewole urged the new Chairman, Azeez, to run an inclusive administration by carrying every member of the Union along to justify the confidence reposed in him

UNILORIN Counsellor advocates safer, Inclusive campus community

By Idayat Hassan

A Counsellor at the Counselling and Human Development Centre, University of Ilorin, Mrs Sherifat Tinueke Oniye, has urged students of the institution to champion a culture whereby every individual feels physically safe and emotionally included in order to foster a truly thriving academic community.

Mrs Oniye gave this advice last Monday (October 27, 2025) while speaking on "Meet the Counselor", a weekly counselling programme of *UNILORIN 89.3 FM*. The programme was anchored by Mrs Idayat Hassan.

She explained that safety and inclusion are two pillars of a healthy student experience, describing safety as the "floor" and inclusion as the "ceiling" necessary for students to reach their highest potential.

Addressing the need for a robust support system, the counsellor outlined the network of help available to students, including the University Security Unit, the University Health Centre, the Dean of Student Affairs' office, and the Counselling and Human Development Centre for psychological and emotional support.

"Seeking help is a sign of strength and self-awareness, not weakness," Mrs Oniye noted as she reassured students who might feel



■ Mrs Oniye

stigmatised about seeking counselling. "You see a doctor for a physical cough, you see a counsellor for emotional or mental distress", she said.

On the value of fostering inclusion, Mrs Oniye pointed out that subtle acts like microaggressions can be as damaging as overt threats. She advised students to be builders of an inclusive community by actively reaching out to those who seem different or isolated.

During an interactive session with listeners, Mrs Oniye addressed pressing student concerns, offering practical guidance. Responding to an anonymous student who reported feeling embarrassed by a lecturer's tribal jokes, she validated the student's feelings, classifying such acts as microaggressions.

"Your education and dignity are paramount," Mrs Oniye stated, advising the student to either calmly address the issue privately with the lecturer or formally report it to the Head of Department or the Dean of Student Affairs' office.

On fostering personal connections, she counselled an introverted student to seek out low-pressure, interest-based groups and reassured them that introversion is a strength. "Belonging starts with one or two genuine connections, not a crowd," she noted.

When asked about the University's active role in promoting inclusion, Mrs Oniye highlighted ongoing initiatives such as seminars on cultural awareness, the celebration of cultural weeks, and workshops on 'Intercultural Communication' organised by the Counselling Centre.

The counsellor charged every student to become a proactive "builder" of the campus community as she also urged them to enhance safety by being vigilant and promoting inclusion through simple and kind gestures.

"Reach out to one person who seems different from you or who is sitting alone. Smile, ask for his or her name, and listen. That single act of kindness can change someone's entire university experience," Mrs Oniye counselled.

Egbewole hails veteran photojournalist, Okunola, on SWAN award

By Abubakar Imam

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN, has congratulated a veteran photojournalist, Mr Kayode Okunola, on the presentation of a Merit Award to him by the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN).

Mr Okunola was conferred with the award on Friday, October 31, 2025 at an event in Abuja marking the 60th anniversary of SWAN.

Prof. Egbewole, in a statement issued by the University's Director of Corporate Affairs, Mr Kunle Akogun, said that the award is well-deserved, considering Mr



■ Mr Okunola

Okunola's exciting professionalism and exemplary hard work.

The Vice Chancellor said that

Mr Okunola has worked and competently covered events across the State for more than three eventful decades, making him a sort of walking library of the state.

The Vice Chancellor thanked the honouree for his love and support for the University, recalling that the University of Ilorin has benefitted greatly from his sharp lenses, which had helped in boosting the University's alluring image.

Prof. Egbewole, who is also the Secretary-General of the Association of West African Universities (AWAU), wished Mr Okunola a more successful and rewarding career.



Cleric urges graduands to embrace humility

By Isaac Lewu

The Chaplain of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Chaplaincy, University of Ilorin, Rev. Fr. Celestine Emah, has charged fresh graduates of the institution to embrace humility in their next phase of life, just as the University authorities demonstrated by coming together to thank God for a successful 40th Convocation ceremony.

Rev. Fr. Emah gave this advice penultimate Sunday (October 26, 2025) during a Thanksgiving Mass to round off the 40th Convocation Ceremonies of the University.

Delivering his homily, titled "Humility of Life," the Chaplain emphasised that humility remains a foundation for sustained success, noting that every achievement, no matter how great, should be attributed to divine grace and guidance.

He explained that success without humility often leads to pride and downfall, urging the newly graduated students to remain grounded, grateful, and God-fearing as they journey into new chapters of life.

He added that their graduation marks the beginning of another stage in life where challenges will test the faith



■ Rev. Fr. Emah

and values as he said that through humility one can remain steadfast, respectful, and open to learning.

Rev. Fr. Emah commended the University management for their collective expression of gratitude to God for the success of the 40th Convocation Ceremonies, describing it as a sign of wisdom and spiritual awareness.

He said that the attitude of thanksgiving demonstrates leadership

rooted in faith and integrity. He further prayed for continuous divine blessings upon the University, its management, and the entire Unilorin community, stressing that the culture of gratitude would continue to attract favour and divine direction to the institution.

Speaking at the event, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN, appreciated the Chaplain and the entire Chaplaincy community for their unrelenting support towards the University's programmes and spiritual wellbeing.

The Vice Chancellor, who was represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Management Services) and Chairman, Ceremonials Committee, Prof. Adegboyega Adisa Fawole, thanked God for the peaceful and successful conduct of the 40th Convocation ceremonies, noting that the University has continued to record growth, unity, and excellence through divine grace.

Also in attendance were Deans of various Faculties, Directors, Deputy Directors, academic and non-teaching staff, students and other members of the University community.





UIMLC celebrates Maolud Nabiyy with special students

..... USS wins overall quiz competition

By Mustafa Abubakar

The University of Ilorin Muslim Ladies' Circle (UIMLC) has celebrated this year's Maolud Nabiyy with the students of the Kwara State School for Special Needs, Apata-Yakuba, Ilorin, in an atmosphere filled with joy, gratitude, and compassion.

The event, which was held on Sunday (October 19, 2025), featured Qur'an recitation, quiz competition, and motivational talks. At the end of it, the University of Ilorin Secondary School(USS) emerged as overall winner.

In her welcome address, the Amirah of the Muslim Ladies' Circle, Prof. Saudat Sallah Abdulbaqi, expressed gratitude to Almighty Allah for making the annual celebration a reality and appreciated members of the Circle for their commitment and sacrifices.

"This Maolud is not just a celebration; it is a reminder of the Prophet's noble character and the need for us to reflect his values of gratitude, patience, and compassion in our daily lives," she said.

Prof. Abdulbaqi, who is also the Dean of the Faculty of Communication and Information Sciences, also appreciated the management and staff of the School for Special Needs for their dedication to the care and development of the children, promising that the Circle would continue to offer support based on identified needs.

Delivering the lecture, titled "Shukr(Gratitude) and Its Role in

Personal and Social Peace: An Islamic Perspective," the Guest Speaker, Dr Najeed Olayinka Abbas of Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin, emphasised that gratitude (Shukr) occupies a central place in Islam as the foundation of personal peace and social harmony.

He observed that "a grateful heart is a peaceful heart," explaining that expressing gratitude to Allah and to fellow human beings strengthens faith, contentment, and community bonds.

He urged Muslims to always be thankful for Allah's blessings and to demonstrate gratitude through humility, kindness, and service to humanity.

In her remarks, a former Amirah of the Circle, Prof. Nike Yetunde Sidiqat Ijaiya, who expressed gratitude to God for the success of the event, prayed for continued protection and prosperity for all participants.

Prof. Ijaiya said, "This year's programme was even better than the last. May Allah make these children successful, fulfill their good dreams, and make them useful to themselves, their parents, and society."

In her message, Dr Fadhilat Rejuaro, who is also a past Amirah of the Circle, thanked Allah for sustaining the initiative and praised the foresight of the founding members who established the relationship with the School for Special Needs.

"It feels like yesterday when we first visited this school. Today, it has become an annual tradition that continues to grow in purpose and impact. We pray

that Allah will reward all those who have supported this cause," Dr Rejuaro recalled.

Earlier, the Coordinator of the Mini-Campus Chapter of the UIMLC, Hajia Muibat Oluseyi Yusuf, explained that the outreach was designed to strengthen the bond between the University community and the less privileged.

Hajia Yusuf said, "This programme reflects the true meaning of Maolud: to share love, gratitude, and compassion with others. By bringing the celebration here, we are not just remembering the Prophet's birth but we are also practicing his teachings of mercy and kindness."

While appreciating the organisation, the Vice Principal of the School for Special Needs, Mrs Rashida Jubril, commended the University of Ilorin Muslim Ladies' Circle for their sincerity of purpose and continued engagement.

Mrs Jubril said, "Many groups visit us, but your visits bring genuine happiness to the faces of our children. You come not for show, but with pure intentions to make them smile. May Allah reward you abundantly and bless your families."

The celebration, an annual outreach of the University Muslims Ladies Circle, serves as a platform for spiritual growth, community bonding, and the practical expression of gratitude and compassion, in line with the teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Adedimeji outlines anti-poverty strategies, tasks Nigerians on work ethics

By Mustafa Abubakar

The Vice Chancellor of the African School of Economics (The Pan-African University of Excellence (ASE), Abuja, Prof. Mahfouz Adedimeji, has called on Nigerian youths to take proactive steps to protect themselves from poverty amid current economic challenges.

Prof. Adedimeji stated this last Sunday (October 26, 2025), while delivering a lecture, 'Overcoming Economic Crisis and Multidimensional Poverty: Exploring Pathways to Prosperity', at the October edition of the lecture series organised by the University of Ilorin Muslim Graduates Association (UNILOMGA). The lecture was part of activities marking the 50th anniversary of the University.

He explained that since ancient times, human needs have revolved around food, clothing and shelter, all of which are economic in nature. Meeting these basic needs, he said, would help solve many of the challenges confronting millions of Nigerians.

Prof. Adedimeji noted that this understanding has shaped the curriculum at his university, where



■ Prof. Adedimeji

economic literacy is integrated into every field of study as a foundational element of training, a model he described as innovative in higher education.

Defining multidimensional poverty as the lack of education, poor health, low living standards and inadequate access to basic services, the Vice Chancellor stressed that escaping poverty requires capacity development through education, skills acquisition, and the creation of marketable products or income-generating services.

He also identified minimising expenditure and maximising income as time-tested strategies for navigating a

crisis-prone economy, while advising young people to embrace volunteering as a means of gaining valuable experience and future opportunities.

Prof. Adedimeji further distinguished between economic crisis, instability, independence, and freedom, attributing multidimensional poverty in Africa to factors such as economic imbalances, social inequality, political instability and environmental challenges. He cited World Bank data showing that poverty in rural Nigeria stands at about 75 per cent.

The Vice Chancellor lauded the Federal Government's ongoing reforms under President Bola Tinubu, noting early signs of improvement, including the appreciation of the naira and an increase in real GDP growth from 3.0 per cent in 2024 to 4.23 per cent in 2025.

"Nigeria's pathway to prosperity lies in diversifying the economy, improving education and healthcare, strengthening social safety nets, expanding infrastructure, and ensuring good governance and accountability," Prof. Adedimeji said.

He also encouraged Nigerians to uphold sound work ethics and nurture faith, trust, patience and hope.

Mokuolu hails Alabi's professionalism, hard work

By Abubakar Imam

The Chairman of the University of Ilorin Golden Jubilee Planning Committee, Prof. Olugbenga Ayodeji Mokuolu, has commended the professionalism and hardwork of a Deputy Director (Protocol) in the Directorate of Corporate Affairs, Mr Olusegun Alabi.

Prof. Mokuolu gave this commendation last Thursday (October 29, 2025) while speaking at a meeting of the Committee held at the Conference Room of the Academic Planning Unit.

The renowned medical scholar explained that the performances of Mr Alabi throughout the 40th Convocation Ceremonies of the University were simply exciting and outstanding.

Prof. Mokuolu remarked that the flawless way Mr Alabi discharged his responsibilities, particularly



■ Prof. Mokuolu

regaling the audience with significant episodes in the annals of the University with ease is making him a walking custodian of the history of the University.



■ Mr Alabi

The Chairman urged him to continue to work hard, saying that if he continues to excel he would sooner than later become indispensable in the services of the University.

We 'll support UNILORIN @ 50th anniversary- Adeleke

By Adewole Muizdeen

The Chairman of the Unilorin Alumni Association, University of Ilorin Branch, Prof. Babatunde Lateef Adeleke, has pledged the alumni's support for the University's 50th anniversary celebration.

Prof. Adeleke made this pledge last Thursday, (October 30, 2025) while featuring on "Countdown to Unilorin @50, a special personality interview programme of UNILORIN 89.3 FM. The programme was jointly anchored by the Station Manager, Mr Idris Alooma and Mr Oyakhire Ikhuemein.

The Alumni Chairman praised the University's growth and achievements over the past five decades, noting that Unilorin has "really come of age" as he expressed the alumni's happiness to be part of the celebration.

He attributed the University's success to its infrastructure, research activities, and motivated workforce, saying that the University of Ilorin has established itself as a leading institution



■ Prof. Adeleke

of higher learning in Nigeria.

As a proud alumnus of the University, Prof. Adeleke recalled his days as a student on the mini-campus, where he had close interactions with his lecturers, and developed a strong work ethic. "My lecturers then did a lot because there was very little room for laxity. We had to be on our toes," he said.

Prof. Adeleke also reflected on his personal and professional development, which he attributed to the University. "If you remove Unilorin from my life, I'm back to somebody with just a school certificate," he said.

In a significant show of support, the Unilorin Alumni Association has pledged to align with all the University's programmes, make financial contributions, mobilise support, and unveil a career counseling unit as part of its contributions to the 50th anniversary celebration. "We are ready to support the University in all ramifications," Prof. Adeleke stated.

The Chairman noted that the 50-year journey is a testament to Unilorin's commitment to academic excellence, research, and mentoring. As the University marks this milestone, it is clear that its impact on its students and the wider community will continue to be felt for generations to come. He concluded that the 50th anniversary celebration promises to be a grand affair, with a series of events planned to mark

NAAT 'll ensure UNILORIN graduates are exceptional- Awolola

By Muizdeen Adewole

The Chairman of the National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT), University of Ilorin Branch, Mr Paul Olufemi Awolola, has emphasised the commitment of academic technologists to ensuring excellence in grooming students.

Speaking on a special interview programme on UNILORIN FM last Tuesday, (October 28, 2025), which was anchored by the Head of the Station, Mr Idris Akintola Ibrahim (Alooma), the Chairman assured the University that



■ Awolola

NAAT would ensure that there is no reason

for any graduate to be "half-baked", highlighting the dedication of technologists to providing quality training at the University of Ilorin.

The NAAT Chairman praised the progress of the University over the years, noting that since his employment in 2003, the institution has consistently moved forward, achieving significant development without stagnation.

He emphasised the importance of acknowledging and appreciating environments that foster peace and tranquility, allowing technologists to effectively carry out their duties.

UNILORIN don, Mustapha, passes on

By Mustafa Abubakar

The death has been announced of a Professor at the Department of Zoology, University of Ilorin, Prof. Mashood Keke Mustapha.

Prof. Mustapha passed on last Thursday (October 30, 2025) at the University of Ilorin Teaching

Hospital (UITH), Oke-Oyi, after a brief illness.

The Janazah prayer and burial were performed last Friday (October 31, 2025) at the Muslim Cemetery, Oko Olowo, along New Jebba Road, Ilorin.



■ Late Prof. Mustapha



UNILORIN WEEKLY FINANCIAL DIGEST

FUND SOURCES AND UTILIZATION REPORT FROM 23rd to 30th OCTOBER 2025

RECEIPTS:	AMOUNT
Income from Fitness Centre	2,000.00
Sundry & Other Fees Student Charges	112,000.00
Sundry Other Incomes	100,200.00
Staff I D Cards	2,000.00
Convocation Souvenir	77,300.00
Convocation Undergraduate Charges	1,905,100.00
Contractors Registration Fees	22,000.00
Income from Verification /Screening	530,000.00
CCSCA Clearance Charges	182,200.00
CODL Clearance Charges	200,800.00
CODL Form Processing Charges	76,000.00
Capitation NHIS	15,950.00
Remedial School Charges	3,619,200.00
Remedial Acceptance Payment	349,600.00
Remedial Application Form	364,800.00
Refund (Salary)	200,000.00
Others	3,000.00
Undergraduate Hostel Accommodation	38,438,721
Undergraduate Change Course	81,600.00
Undergraduate School Charges	686,168,036.00
Undergraduate Transcript Payment	729,600.00
Undergraduate Post UTME	50,400.00
Undergraduate Clearance Charges	35,858,400.00
Postgraduate School Charges	19,434,210.00
Postgraduate School Transcript Payment	90,000.00
Postgraduate Acceptance Payment	281,400.00
Postgraduate Verification of Results	607,000.00
Ilorin Business School Application Form	50,400.00
Ilorin Business School Verification of Results	80,800.00
Institute of Education Acceptance Payment	25,200.00
Institute of Education School Charges	105,540.40
Institute of Education Application Form	30,400.00
Institute of Education Hostel Accommodation	1,171,600.00
JUPEB Application Form	1,839,600.00
JUPEB Acceptance Payment	1,738,800.00
JUPEB School Charges	11,742,800.00
Total Receipt for the Period	806,286,657.40
PAYMENTS	
PAYMENT TO CONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS:	
Bal Engineering Ltd Consultancy Fees (CBNTETFUND)	712,081.25
The Guardian Newspapers Advert Support	516,000.00
Oak Integrated Services Farm Operations	4,700,603.00
Shaybis Nigeria Limited Consultancy Fees (CBNTETFUND)	1,082,972.57
Vicni Engineering Services Ltd Construction and Furnishing of Lecture Theatre	37,564,228.42
Oasis Tech Global Services Supply and Installation of Solar System	8,675,250.00
OTHER PAYMENTS:	
Various Various i.e DTA, IMPREST, REFUND e.t.c	75,825,516.13
Purchase Advance Various	5,772,850.00
Staff Training Learned Conferences Overseas (CBNTETFUND)	8,971,248.25
Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company Challenge Electricity Bill	62,833,847.36
Total TSA Charges Various	108,360.00
Total payment for the period	206,762,956.98

Signed

Abiodun Lawal (FCNA)

Bursar



S/N	NAME	DEPARTMENT	BIRTHDAY
1	AMBALI HAUWA MOTUNRAYO	VETERINARY MEDICINE	02-Nov
2	ARIKEWUYO HALIMA OLUWASEYI	HEALTH SERVICES	02-Nov
3	IJAIYA HAKEEM OLASUNKANMI	PRIVATE & PROPERTY LAW	02-Nov
4	SALIU RASAQ	SECURITY DIVISION	02-Nov
5	ADETA-BABAMALE RASHEEDAT ADENIKE	REGISTRY	02-Nov
6	TIAMIYU AKEEM	TECHNICAL & ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTRE	02-Nov
7	MUSTAPHA USMAN KOLA	MECHANICAL ENGINEERING	03-Nov
8	AFOLABI OLUGBENGA ONAOLAPO	PATHOLOGY	03-Nov
9	JUBRIL AUDU MOHAMMED	SECURITY DIVISION	03-Nov
10	AKANG AUSTINE BENARD	REGISTRY	03-Nov
11	KATIBI OLUDOLAPO SHERIFAT	PAEDIATRICS & CHILD HEALTH	03-Nov
12	SANUSI MUHAMMED	CENTRAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES	03-Nov
13	OJO ISAAC MAYOWA	PROCUREMENT & MAINTENANCE SUPORT	03-Nov
14	MAHMOUD-MUKADAM ABDUR-RASHEED	ARABIC	03-Nov
15	IBRAHIM SULYMAN OLAITAN	LIBRARY	03-Nov
16	OLOWO YUSUF KUDIRAT	REGISTRY	04-Nov
17	ABDULSALAM ABDULRASAK	WORKS: WORKS/MAINT. OFFICE	04-Nov
18	ALEGE FOLORUNSHO BELLO	REGISTRY	04-Nov
19	DARE AKINTADE OYEDELE	MEDICAL RADIOGRAPHY	05-Nov
20	IYANDA MURTALA OLAYODE	AGRIC. & BIOSYSTEMS ENGINEERING	05-Nov
21	ADEBAYO KAYODE AKINSOJI	SECURITY DIVISION	05-Nov
22	ABOLARIN ROSELINE OLUWASEYI	REGISTRY	05-Nov
23	MUHAMMAD-LAWAL ABDUL-AZEEZ	AGRIC. ECONOMICS & FARM MANAGEMENT	05-Nov
24	AKANGBE AYOTOMISINOLUWA ADEMOLA	CRIMINOLOGY & SECURITY STUDIES	05-Nov
25	OSANG FELIX OWAN	UNILORIN SUGAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE	05-Nov
26	BABARINDE FUNMILOLA JUSTINA	TRAINING RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT	05-Nov
27	OLORUKOOBA HALIMA OMOLARA	NURSING SCIENCE	05-Nov
28	DAUDA ABDULRAFIU	ACCOUNTING	05-Nov
29	OKORO HUSSEIN KEHINDE	INDUSTRIAL CHEMISTRY	06-Nov
30	IBIKUNLE MONSURAT BIMPE	VICE-CHANCELLOR'S LODGE	06-Nov
31	ALIYU FOLUKE RASHIDAT	ENGLISH	06-Nov
32	OLANREWaju TEMITOPE MARIM	PROCUREMENT & MAINTENANCE SUPORT	06-Nov
33	SANNI OLABISI MUSLIYU	BURSARY	06-Nov
34	IMAM AMINU	ANATOMY	06-Nov
35	KOLA-ADEROJU ABDULMALIK OLAYINKA	GEOLOGY & MINERAL SCIENCE	06-Nov
36	OLUYOMI RUTH BUKOLA	REGISTRY	06-Nov
37	OGUNNIRAN VICTORIA OLUDUNNI	ARTS EDUCATION	06-Nov
38	OLORUKOOBA ZAINAB TITI	REGISTRY	06-Nov
39	POPOOLA TAJUDEEN OLALEKAN	MECHANICAL ENGINEERING	07-Nov
40	SANNI RALIAT KIKELOMO	REGISTRY	07-Nov
41	SHITU TESLIM	MICROBIOLOGY	07-Nov
42	OYEWUMI KAYODE JOHN	PHYSICS	07-Nov
43	NWABOTU IFEANYI ANTHONY	NETWORK OPERATING CENTRE	07-Nov
44	AKINSOLA SAMSON IBUKUN	PHYSICS	07-Nov
45	ABDULWAHAB YUSUF ADEBAYO	REGISTRY	07-Nov
46	AHMED-ZAKARIYAH RAHMAT BUKOLA	REGISTRY	07-Nov
47	OMIDIJI OLAYEMI JUMOKE	REGISTRY	07-Nov
48	AGBOOLA SEGUN OLATUNDE	DIRECTORATE OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS	08-Nov
49	ALAO ADEBANJO JAMES	HEALTH SERVICES	08-Nov
50	BIOBAKU KHALID TALHA	VETERINARY PHARMACOLOGY & TOXICOLOGY	08-Nov
51	YAHYA SHAYKH AHMAD	RELIGIONS	08-Nov
52	SALAUDEEN MASHOOD ABIOLA	SECURITY DIVISION	08-Nov
53	SALIHU HABEEB ABDULRAUF	CRIMINOLOGY & SECURITY STUDIES	08-Nov
54	KADIRI ADEKUNLE	UNILORIN SUGAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE	08-Nov
55	BAMIDELE GEORGINA IBUKUNOLU	MICROBIOLOGY	08-Nov
56	PETER-OBATOLU MARVELOUS TOSIN	GEOPHYSICS	08-Nov
57	JIMOH MARIAM OLUWATOSIN	MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTRY	08-Nov



- Former Governor of Lagos State and immediate past Minister of Works, Housing and Power, Mr. Babatunde Fashola, SAN, has urged the graduating students of universities across the nation to shun all forms of unexplained wealth and work hard to ensure greatness in life.

("Fashola urges universities' graduating students to shun unexplained wealth", *Thisday*, Thursday, October 23, 2025, p.6)

While delivering his address at the 40th Convocation of the University of Ilorin, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has pledged his administration's commitment to transforming tertiary education through increased investment in research innovation and skill development.

("Unilorin 40th Convocation: Tinubu reiterates FG's commitment to transforming tertiary education", *New Telegraph* Friday, October 24, 2025, p.30).

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has commissioned newly completed projects at the University of Ilorin, as part of activities marking the institution's 40th Convocation Ceremonies.

("Tinubu inaugurates seven projects at Unilorin" *The Nation*, Monday, October 27, 2025, p.5;

"Tinubu inaugurates 7 new projects at Unilorin, *New Telegraph*, Monday, October 27, 2025, p.30;

"Tinubu Commissions 7 new projects at Unilorin", *Blueprint*, Monday, October 27, 2025, p.12;

"Tinubu commissions new projects at UNILORIN, says they are his vision", <https://thenucheng.com>;

"Tinubu commissions 7 new projects at Unilorin", <https://blueprint.ng>;

"Tinubu unveils seven projects at Unilorin", <https://punchng.com>;

"Unilorin: President Tinubu commissions seven new projects", <https://chiucereporter.com>;

"40th Convocation: Tinubu inaugurates projects at Unilorin", <https://decency.home.blog>;

"Tinubu commissions seven new projects at Unilorin", <https://midlandpost.ng>;

"Tinubu commissions seven new projects at Unilorin", <https://dailypost.ng>;

"Tinubu commissions 7 new projects at Unilorin", <https://leadership.ng>;

"Tinubu commissions seven new projects at Unilorin", <https://rectitudenewsng.wordpress.com>;

"Tinubu Commissions Seven New Projects at Unilorin",

<https://Newtelegraph.ng.com>; "Tinubu commissions new projects at Unilorin", *Nigerian Pilot*, Tuesday, October 28, 2025, p.25; "Tinubu commissions seven new projects at UNILORIN, *Nigerian Tribune*, Thursday, October 30, 2025, p.17)

- During the just concluded 40th convocation ceremonies of the University of Ilorin, a graduate of its College of Health Sciences, Dr. Kopada Ameena Abiola, rewrote the script of academic brilliance by walking away with 24 awards and prizes.

("She covers her head not her brain: The story of Kopada Abiola, wonder of Unilorin", *Nigerian Tribune*, Friday, October 31, 2025, p.10)

A former Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Shuaibu Oba Abdulraheem, has celebrated his 78th birthday.

("Celebrating D. O. Abdulraheem ex-VC Unilorin, at 78", <https://blueprint.ng>)

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Wahab Olasupo Egbewole, SAN, has congratulated veteran photojournalist, Mr Kayode Okunola, on his conferment with a Merit Award by the Sports Winner Association of Nigeria (SWAN).

("Egbewole Hails Veteran Photojournalist, Okunola on SWAN Award",

<https://www.dailytopic.com.ng>; "Egbewole Hails Veteran photojournalist, Okunola, on SWAN award", <https://rectitudenewsng.wordpress.com>)

➤ A former Vice Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, who is also the Registrar of the Joint Admissions and Matriculations Board (JAMB), Prof. Emeritus Is'haq Olanrewaju Oloyede, CON, FNAL, has been congratulated on his conferment with the title of Professor Emeritus by the University of Ilorin.

("Islamic Welfare Foundation (Nigeria)", *The Nation*, Tuesday, October 28, 2025, p.30)

A lecturer at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Ilorin, Dr Ismail Odetokun, has been mentioned among nine other Nigerian university lecturers who were appointed Fellows of the Nigerian Young Academy.

("Nigerian Young Academy names 10 varsity lecturers as new fellows", *New Telegraph*, Friday, October 31, 2025, p.30)

Open Ph.D. Thesis Defence

S/N	NAME	FACULTY/DEPARTMENT	TITLE	DATE&TIME	VENUE
1	DOUGLAS, Ohejitahi Abu	Engineering and Technology/Electrical and Electronics Engineering	Development of a Fast Predictive Functional Controller for Microcontrollers	3 rd November, 2025	Conference Room (Department of Electrical Engineering)

THE ALMA MATER

50 facts that make UNILORIN fantastic at 50

(Contd. from back page)

Besides, UNILORIN produced the Vice President of the Association of African Universities (AAU) in Prof. Shamsudeen Amali, the seventh Vice Chancellor (23). It is the first Nigerian university to produce the President of the Association of Vice Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (AVCNU) and AAU at the same time as recorded in Prof. Emeritus Is-haq Oloyede, CON, the eighth Vice-Chancellor (24). It is also the first Nigerian university to be ranked among the best 20 universities in Africa in 2011 (25) and the only one to be consistently ranked best in Nigeria for many years by international ranking agencies (26). It is equally the first to introduce Computer-Based Test for screening students in the Nigerian university system in 2008 (27) and the university with the first Student Union to utilise e-voting as a way engendering electoral integrity and transparency, first experimented in 2012 and perfected 2013 under the Vice Chancellorship of Prof. Abdulganiyu Ambali, OON (28).

In the media domain, UNILORIN is the first Nigerian university to establish a weekly newsletter that has run consistently for more than one and a half decades (Unilorin Bulletin) (29); the first to establish a campus radio station that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week (UNILORIN 89.3 FM) (30); one of the few with an online Television Channel (UNILORIN TV) (31); one with the highest engagement on the social media culminating in an award in that category in 2025 (32); and the first Nigerian university to win the New Telegraph's outstanding university award in 2023 under the Vice Chancellorship of

Prof. Wahab Egbewole, SAN (33).

Better by far, Best by standard

In academic excellence, the University takes the lead being the only university that won three out of 17 slots in Nigerian Universities Doctoral Thesis Award Scheme (NUDTAS) awards in 2008/2009, a feat repeated in 2010, 2011 and 2012 joint editions (34). The University equally filed the highest number of patents – 20 – in 2024 (35); it has been a consistent high performer in winning National Research Council (NRF) grants (36) and is acknowledged to have the highest research output in Scopus-indexed journals in Sub-Sahara Africa (37). It is the first university in Nigeria to have a Centre for Peace and Strategic Studies (38), the first to have Laboratory to Product Centre (LABTOP), established under the Vice Chancellorship of Prof. Sulyman Abdulkareem (39), as well as many innovative centres. It has the highest number of PhDs in any Law Faculty in Nigeria (40) and it is the most prolific at producing Senior Advocates of Nigeria (41), producing the first SAN Vice Chancellor in Northern Nigeria in Prof. Wahab Egbewole, the current Vice Chancellor (42).

Moreover, the University is a bastion of sporting excellence, the first to host the West African University Games in the 21st century (43), holding the Guinness World Record of the Longest Mathematics Lesson of 31 hours, 42 minutes and 57 seconds achieved by a student in 2025 (44). It holds another Guinness world record as fastest five skin fade haircuts by anyone in the world through another student in 2024 (45) and it is the first Nigerian university ever to host the official Guinness World Record verification exercise (46). It has

contributed many successful athletes and footballers to the country.

At large, UNILORIN is a university with one of the highest institutional collaborators with active MOUs with over 100 institutions (47), its Teaching Hospital is the largest in Northern Nigeria (48) where the first open heart surgery in Sub-Sahara Africa was performed and successful separation of conjoined twins was done (49). It produced a public officer who grossed the highest newspaper editorials in the Nigerian university system in contemporary history as was done for Prof. Emeritus Oloyede when he attained 70 (50).

So many are the fascinating facts about UNILORIN that mentioning 50 is just acknowledging a negligible fraction. Happy golden anniversary to the better by far University!

Prof. Adedimeji is a Distinguished Ambassador of the University of Ilorin and Vice Chancellor of the African School of Economics (The Pan-African University of Excellence), Abuja.



THE **ALMA****MATER**

with

Prof. M. A. ADEDIMEJI

@UniversityOfIlorinNigeria



@unilorinngr

50 facts that make UNILORIN fantastic at 50

When the Federal Military Government decided to establish the University of Ilorin in 1975, the government was mainly concerned about enhancing the capacity of Nigerians in sync with the vision behind the Third National Development Plan. Nothing would have suggested then that the university seedling would blossom some 50 years after to a formidable oak in the global university ecosystem, a model for other universities.

As many colours make a rainbow a delightful spectacle, there are many facts that make the University of Ilorin tick, all etching it in gold. As the University marks its golden jubilee with events and activities, including the conferment of distinguished ambassadorial awards on its 50 alumni and its 40th convocation ceremonies, a sneak peek into facts that make the University a fantastic phenomenon is desirable. What 50 facts make the better by far university phenomenal at 50?

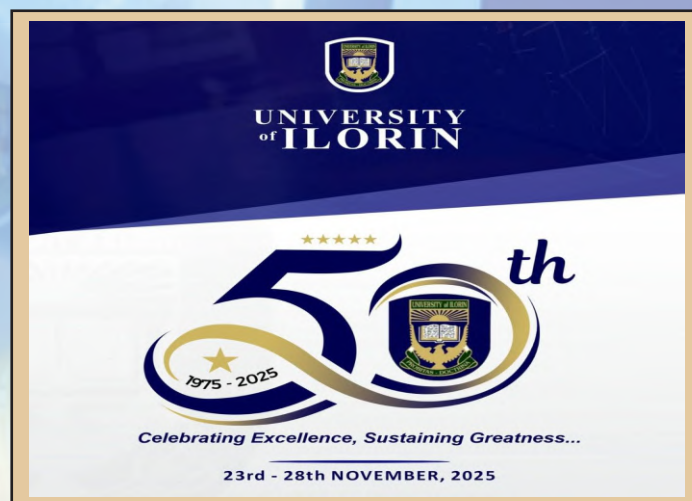
Blasts from the Past

Beginning with historical facts, it is appropriate to note that the University of Ilorin started as a College of the University of Ibadan, the first University in Nigeria, which also began as a College of the University of London at inception in 1948 (1).

The first Principal of the University College, Ilorin, was Prof. Takena Tamuno, who was appointed in September 1975 after which he served briefly till December 1975 when he became the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ibadan (2). The second principal and first Vice Chancellor of the University was Prof. Akin Akinkugbe, former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Ibadan, who later became Vice Chancellor of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria (3). The University started from a chalet at No 5, Forest Road, GRA, Ilorin, where the administrative work of the institution commenced in March, 1976 (4). Other pioneer principal officers were the Registrar, Mr Olu Daramola; the Bursar, Mr. I. A. Oyawoye; and the Librarian, Mr B. A. Oni-Orisan with Engr R. A. Imohiosen being the Director of Works (5).

A section of the Kwara State College of Technology was given by the new Military Governor, Brig. Gen. General Innih, to serve as the temporary site in 1976 (6) while the University became an autonomous institution in 1977 (7). With a land mass of 15,000 hectares, the University is not only the largest in Nigeria but also “the largest university permanent site in all of Africa”, according to Akinkugbe in his 2010 autobiography, Footprints & Footnotes (p.126) (8). The University started with 200 students who resumed on October 23, 1976 (9). It began as an international university as two pioneer students were foreigners, paving the way for the emergence of the University as one with the highest enrolment of international students in Nigeria years later as acknowledged by the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) (10).

The acclaimed better by far University started with three Faculties under the distinguished Deanships of Prof. O. Awobuluyi of Arts, Prof. J. O. O. Abiri of Education and Prof. M. O. Olofinboba of Science (11). The 200 pioneer students were 61, 108, and 31 respectively in the Faculties of Arts, Education and Science (12). While postgraduate studies started at the University in 1978 with two students in the Faculty of Science, the Postgraduate School was only established on November 8, 1983



(13). The University Library was opened in 1976 and restructured in 1977 with its initial holdings being 7,314 books, 594 journals made up of 1,500 volumes and 63 government publications (14). The current main University Library was built on the Permanent Site in 1990 (15).

Current Crosscurrents

At 50, the University of Ilorin has 16 Faculties which are Agriculture, Arts, Basic Clinical Sciences, Basic Medical Sciences, Clinical Sciences, Communication and Information Sciences, Education, Engineering and Technology, Environmental Sciences, Law, Life Sciences, Management Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine (16). With over 100 academic Departments in the given Faculties, the University offers the widest range of academic programmes in Nigeria (17). It is the only public university in Nigeria that has recorded two decades of uninterrupted academic calendar, a development that can be traced to the year 2000 under the Vice Chancellorship of Prof. Oba Abdulraheem (18). The University has been the most sought after in Nigeria for more than a decade (19).

Meanwhile, other facts include the leadership roles of the University in spearheading the establishment of associations like the Association of West Africa Universities (AWAU), Consortium of Six African Universities (U6+) and Consortium of Eight Universities in Kwara State (KU8+), among others (20); being the first Nigerian University to emerge the overall winner of National Tertiary Admission Performance Merit (NATAP-M) awards of JAMB in 2024 and 2025 under the Vice Chancellorship of Prof. Wahab Egbewole, SAN (21); and emerging as a most prolific producer of Vice Chancellors, the only Nigerian university to produce three Vice Chancellors in a year, which happened in 2024 when it produced the Vice Chancellors of the African School of Economics (The Pan-African University of Excellence), Abuja; Kwara State University of Education, Ilorin; and University of Applied Science, Engineering and Technology, The Gambia (22).

(Contd.on page 21)